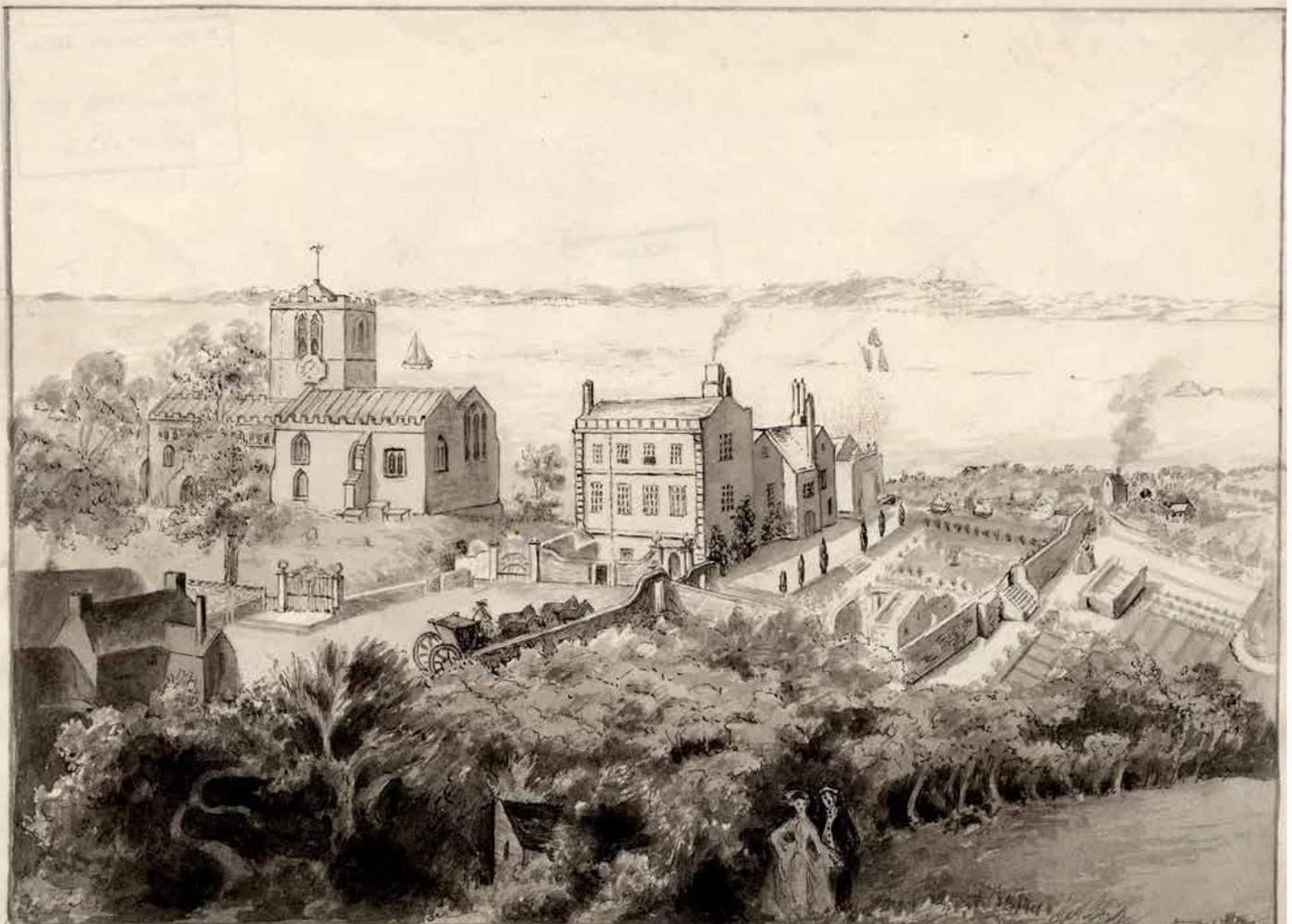




WHGT BULLETIN

ISSUE 69 SUMMER 2015



Hawarden Church and Rectory, South Prospect by Thomas Boydell 1756 (Ref:PR/F/123)

Gardens at Hawarden Old Rectory

According to Richard Willett the Flintshire rectory in 1750 was fairly small (Willett, Richard, *A memoir of Hawarden parish, Flintshire, containing notices of the princes. 1822.* p152). Thomas Boydell's painting 1756 (above) shows 'Hawarden Church and Rectory, South Prospect' sited above the River Dee with terraced gardens to the east of the house. A long wide terrace runs along the side of the house edged with a pair of cypress trees either side of the central steps and a sculpture or ornament at each end. Central steps lead down a small sloping bank to the terrace below. Here is a formal ornamental garden with a sculpture in the centre of a lawn surrounded by small trees or box hedging.

Another flight of steps leads to a lower terrace with a productive garden and espaliers against the garden wall. Alongside the main approach to the house there seems to be an entrance to an orchard. In the foreground a couple are enjoying the privacy given by a shelter belt, screening them from the house, on the south side of

the garden. To the north of the ornamental garden three couples are on a viewing terrace overlooking the River Dee a few steps above the long terrace. At this time the house had a small forecourt at the south entrance front. You can see how various rectors had made extensions to enlarge the property.

The Hawarden Old Rectory has a surprisingly long history. A list of the rectors, from William de Montalt in 1180 to the present day, is carved in stone inside the church of St. Deiniol, Hawarden. After 1200 St. Deiniol's Church became independent from the Monastery of St Werberg in Chester, ratified by the Popes Honorius and Clement. The church at this time benefited from a glebe of 107 acres, with a glebe-house. The Living was called 'Hawarden Peculiar.' This meant that all the tithes and the episcopal rights, apart from ordination and confirmation, were vested in the Rector who had his ecclesiastical court on the Tuesday preceding Holy Thursday.

The first record of the rectory with a tithe barn, domestic

buildings and gardens is found in a Terrier of 1663. The rectory is described as '3 bays of new buildings and one of old half-timbered building'. No half timbered building survives but a vertical join, with sandstone quoins on the first floor at the centre of the east front, is thought to date from this early Restoration building. The garden is unknown at this date.

In 1651 John Glynne purchased the Hawarden estate, the former seat of the Ravenscroft family. However, the Glynnes didn't move into the 16th century half-timbered Broadlane Hall at Hawarden until about 1723. Sir John Glynne, the 6th Baronet, rebuilt the old house between 1752-7 and this was converted into Hawarden Castle in 1809/10. The rectory was always part of the Hawarden estate with the patronage of the Living vested in the Lord of the Manor.

According to W Bell Jones *A History of the Parish of Hawarden Vol I, 1943*, (Bell Jones was churchwarden, parish clerk and postmaster of Hawarden), Rector John Fletcher (1728-41) added new pipes in 1732 and undertook repairs to the rectory. At Fletcher's death the garden was listed in a detailed inventory.

Rector Williams (1741-70) succeeded Fletcher and added the east bow windows on the garden side, providing a wider view of the garden. Williams also added a new kitchen and a private gateway to the church, through the churchyard wall, by the rectory porch.

The drainage and the 1778 Enclosure Act of Saltney Marsh improved the value of the land around Hawarden, making a valuable contribution to the income of the parish and increasing the stipend of the rector.

Bell Jones records further improvements to the rectory carried out by Rector Sir Stephen Glynne (1770-1780), brother of Sir John Glynne. Sir Stephen added a new dining room, designed by his friend the Hon. Booth Grey, brother to the Earl of Stamford and Warrington and commissioned Mr. Emes 'at a cost of £97-2s-81/2d for laying the garden and Bownton & Co for shrubs.'

William Emes (1730–1803), a Derbyshire landscape designer, was considered amongst the foremost of professional 'Improvers' in the middle and later years of the 18th century. His style was similar to that of Capability Brown although there is no evidence that he was ever a pupil of Brown. In 1756 Emes, aged 27, was the head gardener to Sir Nathaniel Curzon at Kedleston Hall, Derbyshire. Emes created the upper lake and began the alterations to the formal garden. When Robert Adam assumed responsibility for the Kedleston grounds in 1760 Emes moved to Bowbridge House at Mackworth where he began his own practice.

Emes was particularly active in the Midlands (his work survives at Arley Hall (Cheshire), Betley Court (Staffordshire), Dudmaston Hall (Shropshire), Hawkstone Park (Shropshire), Sandon Park (Staffordshire), Tixall Hall (Staffordshire), Halston Hall (Shropshire) and Aston Hall near Oswestry).

In 1776 Francis Noel Clarke Mundy, a poet and magistrate, published 500 copies of a long poem '*Needwood*

Forest' with shorter poems by Brooke Boothby, Erasmus Darwin and Anna Seward. Needwood Forest was a major element of the Midlands landscape and had been a crown forest from 1399. The poetry advocated the protection of the forest from enclosures. Seward in a letter (1796) to Lady Eleanor Butler, one of the 'Ladies of Llangollen', wrote a commentary on Mundy's poem '*a landscape worthy the pencil Claude*'.

Emes features in this poem:

*Emes, who yon desert wild explor'd,
And to it's name the scene restor'd;
Whose art is nature's law maintain'd,
Whose order negligence restrain'd,
Here, fir'd by native beauty, trac'd
The foot-steps of the Goddess, Taste:
Won from her coy retreats she came,
And led him up these paths to fame.*

Mundy in a footnote claimed that Needwood Forest had shaped the aesthetic tastes of William Emes and the landscapes he designed, particularly Beaudesert, the estate of Henry Paget, First Earl of Uxbridge, on the southern edge of Cannock Chase. Emes also landscaped the family's other seat at Plas Newydd on Anglesey and is thought to have designed Markeaton Park for Mundy. Emes added many woodlands, trees and shrubs in his schemes. At the Old Hawarden Rectory the gardens were enlarged to nearly 6 acres, incorporating a 2 acre glebe field into the garden on the North side of the house which was developed into plantations and shrubberies.

Emes used tree planting to convey a sense of a larger parkland landscape where he could introduce sinuous pathways. He also used tree belts to screen the service areas and the icehouse. The icehouse, sited by the boundary wall with Cross Tree Lane on the east side of the garden, almost certainly dates from the Emes improvements. Emes further improved the garden by lowering a deep hollow lane at the eastern extremity of the old enclosure and the whole garden was encompassed and concealed by a high stone wall.

At the sudden death of Sir John Glynne in 1773, all work at the rectory came to an end. Although Sir Stephen planted nectarines and peaches on the South wall of the rectory in 1774, he never lived there. (Willett, *A memoir of Hawarden parish, Flintshire, 1822* p 51). When Sir Stephen succeeded to the title and estate in 1776 he commissioned Emes to produce a plan for alterations and improvements to the park at Broadlane Hall. The Emes drawing of 1777 was never implemented as Sir Stephen died in a hunting accident in 1780. During the remainder of Sir Stephen's incumbency the rectory was rented by Mrs Lloyd, widow of Gwion Lloyd of Gwersyllt.

In *Tours in Wales Vol I 1778*, Thomas Pennant writes: '*The parsonage is new, and suitable to the revenue. The garden is very prettily layed out, upon a high and commanding ground.*'

The Reverend Randolph Crewe (1780-1813) and Frances (daughter of Sir John Glynne) moved into the Rectory on

their marriage. Randolph secured a reliable water supply. A first attempt failed but in 1814 a well 81 feet deep was successful. Until this time the rectory had depended on a well in the village.

The next rector was the Hon. and Rev. George Neville Grenville, son of Richard Griffin, 2nd Lord Braybrooke, born George Neville at Stanlake, Berkshire and ordained a deacon in 1813. He was brother-in-law to Sir Stephen who had married Mary Neville in 1806.

George Neville created two chapelries at Buckley and Broughton, carried out major work at St Deiniol's Church, Hawarden and added *a splendid suit of rooms* (Willett, A memoir of Hawarden parish, Flintshire, 1822 p 152), perhaps in anticipation of his marriage. The rectory now benefited from the tithes from enclosures on both Saltney Marshes and Broughton mountain.

George Neville described the house at this time:

"The elevation of the Rectory House is a plain irregular building, enlarged at several times without any attention to uniformity, the comfort and convenience of the interior having been alone considered. A paved terrace of 124 feet extends the whole length of the east front and terminates at one end by steps leading up to a green house which faces the south and communicates with the family apartment. The entrance is on the west side where the porch has a bedroom over it, and is sufficiently spacious to admit carriages under it. The approach is necessarily narrow on account of the proximity of the house to the Churchyard....The gardens comprehend nearly 6 acres and are surrounded by a deep stone wall, which from their varied and elevated position is completely concealed. There are two formal parterres of flowers within the enclosure and few places can boast of so much varied scenery within so small a space of ground."

George added the large storied entrance porch on the west side of the house, acting as a Porte Cochere, in 1814. This still remains. George also added a new hall, staircase and a large library.

A contemporary source recorded that after the improvements and alterations of 1814, *'the Rectory House at Hawarden.....may now vie with any Rectory House of the present age'*.

In 1816 George married Lady Charlotte Legge, daughter of George Legge, third Earl of Dartmouth. Charlotte made a lithograph of the garden (see next page) enjoyed by the family which shows a more informal style of garden design reflecting the Emes landscaping. This is also seen in the watercolor (below) by Mary Parker.

In 1825 George Neville inherited Butleigh Court, a Somerset estate, from his uncle Thomas Grenville, when he added the surname of Grenville. He was appointed Chaplain to the King in 1833 and went on to become Dean of Windsor in 1846.

Accounts of 1830-2 of T. Weaver who acted as both gardener and bailiff show that the garden continued to be productive, with yellow Antwerp raspberry plants, sea kale and potatoes.

A detailed inventory in 1834 was made of the garden equipment when the Grenvilles left Hawarden:

'2 Spike Ladders; 3 Wheel Barrows & Hand Barrow; 3 Spades; 5 Iron Rakes; 3 Hay Rakes; 2 Grass Rakes; 4 Turnip Hoes & 3 Dutch Hoes; Wire Reddle; 6 watering cans; 3 saws; 2 Hammers; 2 Pair Grass Edging Shears; 6 Ice Hooks; Seed Drawers; Grinding Stone...Crow Bar & Mattock; 4 Scythes; 2 Shovels 2 Rakes & 2 Small Cans; 2 Rat Traps; 3 Hand Glasses; Garden Seat; 3 Stone Rollers; 7 Mugs; 9 Chairs & 2 Stools; 32 Poles; 63 Poles; 23 Doz[en] Carnation Stakes; 29 Wire Baskets & Uprights; 2 Flower Pot Stands; 7 Warm Tubs; 8 Cucumber Frames.'

The garden remained relatively unchanged until 1925 when the property ceased to be a rectory.

Henry Glynne, second son of Sir Stephen Richard Glynne, Baronet of Hawarden Castle, and brother-in-law of W.E. Gladstone (four times Prime Minister) who married Catherine Glynne became the next rector (1834 -1872).



Watercolour by M Parker 1825 (PR/F/125) The Neville children are playing in the garden. Twins, Georgianna and Cicely are in the wheelbarrow. Mary Parker (d 1864), later Lady Leighton, of Sweeney Hall, Oswestry, was an amateur artist, friend and visitor of Lady Charlotte Neville..



Hawarden Rectory, lithograph by Lady Charlotte Neville, 1832. (PR/763). The gentleman in a top hat depicted standing on the bridge from the first floor of the Rectory, left of the picture, may be Rector George Neville and the children may be their daughters, Frances Catherine and the twins, Georgiana and Cicely.

Catherine spent much of her time at the rectory with her favourite brother and his wife Lavinia, to whom she was particularly attached. Catherine wrote of her pleasure on Henry's marriage: *'Long may the Rectory remain the little earthly paradise that it now seems to be'...*

Henry's life was tragic. He was widowed young, lost three of his four daughters and died after being struck by lightning in 1872. William Gladstone and his father rescued the estate when the Glynne's were faced with bankruptcy. When the Glynne male line came to an end Gladstone's son inherited Hawarden Castle.

Stephen Gladstone, the second son of the Prime Minister, succeeded Henry as Rector of Hawarden (1872-1904). Stephen's sister, Mary Gladstone, the second daughter of the Prime Minister, at the age of 38, married the curate of Hawarden, the Rev. Harry Drew, 10 years her junior, in 1886. When Drew became the next rector the library was used as a parish room and the couple only lived in part of the house. However, the gardens continued to host parish fêtes and social events. Drew enjoyed working in the gardens in which *'he found a perpetual source of refreshment and delight.'* (Russell, G.W.E. *Harry Drew, A Memorial Sketch. Oxford. 1911. p. 106*).

After Drew's sudden death, Rev. Frank Selwyn Macauley Bennett became rector (1910-1920), succeeded by the Rev. Charles Frederick Lyttelton, (1920-1929). Post-war, the rectory and its grounds were considered too large and in 1925 Lyttelton moved the rectory to The Sundial, Hawarden. The Old Rectory became the Knutsford Test School for prospective mature Ordinands. A new wing was added to the South end of the rectory and a tennis court was laid in the garden.

During WWII the rectory was requisitioned as a shelter for blind and infirm evacuees and then reverted back to being a training school until 1955 when it was purchased by Flintshire County Council as a Library and Record Office. Recent history has not been kind to the Hawarden Old Rectory gardens. The six acres of garden is now much reduced by housing development and the walled garden is now a car park. This is now a lost Emes landscape. The lawns near the building have been maintained but the shrubberies and woodlands are impenetrable with brambles. This landscape is not listed, although it is the setting of the Old Rectory, a Grade II listed building. The future of the remaining garden is uncertain as there are no plans to save it.

Emes undertook a major 24 year programme of work at Chirk Castle and was involved with the landscaping of Erddig over 22 years. Emes made drawings for Llanrhaeadr Hall, and Iscoyed Park as well as Broadlane Hall. In Anglesey he is connected with Plas Newydd, Baron Hill, and may have advised Thomas Williams at Llanidan who created new parkland and gardens between 1783 and 1816; Emes is also worked at Bryngwyn Hall and Powis Castle near Welshpool; at Gregynog, Newtown; at Rhiwlas, Montgomeryshire; and at Margam Park and Penrice in Glamorganshire.

Glynis Shaw

All images are courtesy of the Flintshire Record Office. Many thanks for the help of the RO staff and also TW Pritchard for information on the Old Hawarden Rectory.

See also A brief History of the Old Rectory, Hawarden by E. Newman. <http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/PDFFiles/Records-and-Archives/Brief-History-of-Old-Rectory-Part-1-ENGLISH.pdf>

The large pool and bog garden at Llanllyr © Caroline Palmer



The AGM June 6th 2015

The 2015 AGM was hosted by the Ceredigion Branch at The Old Hall, University of Wales Trinity Saint David, Lampeter.

Jean Reader, Chairman and Jennie Macve, Secretary were re-elected. Joy Neal, Vice-chairman and Hugh Gardner, Treasurer, stepped down from these offices and were warmly thanked for their contribution to the Trust. Hugh Gardner was elected as the new Vice-chairman and Maldwyn Rees the new Treasurer.

John Savidge was thanked for his long service as a retiring Trustee. Ros Laidlaw, Glynis Shaw and Joy Neal were elected and re-elected as Trustees joining Karen Armstrong, Alan Fay, Helena Gerrish, Judith Holland, Sue Reeves and Anthony Tavernor.

Branch Representative Trustees are: Jonathan Reeves Brecon & Radnor; Caroline Palmer, Ceredigion; Advolly Richmond, Clwyd; Olive Horsfall, Gwynedd; Marilyn Anderson, Monmouth & Gwent; Elaine Davey, South & Mid Glamorgan; Ann Gardner, West Glamorgan.

Following the AGM Elizabeth Banks DL, CMLI, one of WHGT's newest Council members, gave an interesting and informative talk on 'The Exotic Trees at Hergest Croft Gardens'.

The slide presentation began with Elizabeth's favourite pine trees. Many rare and amazing tree are found in the 70 acres of Hergest Croft gardens, including 85 *Champion Trees*, ranging from the ancient apple trees in the orchard to those in the maple grove begun in 1985, and one of the largest *Davidia involucreata* (dove tree, handkerchief tree). This is a relatively frost free landscape developed with choice planting over 4 generations.

Images of Park Wood showed a beautiful valley hidden in an ancient oak wood, with giant rhododendrons and exotic trees creating a wonderful Himalayan scene.

Members were advised that this is a particularly good time of year to visit when many of the flowering shrubs are at their best.

Following an excellent lunch members were able to see and handle some of the fine illustrated 17th and 18th century herbals in the Roderic Bowen library.

This was followed by a garden visit to Llanllyr, Talsam, kindly hosted and introduced by Mrs Loveday Gee.

Llanllyr was once the site of a Cistercian Nunnery, a cell of Strata Florida, founded in 1180 by Lord Rhys. The restored slate roofed stone and cob wall of the kitchen garden may have originally been the wall of the Nunnery garden. Standing in a protective niche is a Celtic stone of the 8th or 9th century with a Latin inscription commemorating the gift of land to an Irish Saint, a disciple of St David who introduced bee keeping to Ireland.

At the Dissolution in 1535 Llanllyr became a mansion which was eventually demolished and a new house completed in 1848 with an extension added in 1874.

Mrs Gee began restoring what was left of the nineteenth century layout in 1986 and has also added new gardens with much variety and personal interest. An Italianate sunken water garden follows the line of a medieval culvert and had some lovely stonework on the bridge and unusual serpentine sides. The natural fishpond was lovely with pale yellow water lilies and edged with many blue and white water irises. We were lucky to enjoy this garden and afternoon tea in the sun.

On Sunday a dozen members enjoyed guided walks of Hafod as guests of the Hafod Trust.

The Ceredigion branch should be congratulated for organising a most enjoyable AGM. Special thanks go to Colin Eldridge, Ros Laidlaw, and Caroline Palmer.

Women's Institute in Britain began in a Welsh Garden

The British Women's Institute (WI) movement began in 1915 in a garden in Llanfair Pwllgwyngyll, Anglesey, (or Llanfair PG), Anglesey.

The WI was originally founded in 1897 by Alice Hoodless, in Ontario, after her young son had died from drinking contaminated milk. Alice campaigned to raise awareness of the dangers in the home and for the teaching of domestic science in schools and colleges. After Alice addressed a meeting for the wives of members of the Farmers' Institute the movement gained the support of the Ontario government and quickly spread throughout Canada. Soon WIs were formed in Belgium, Poland and the USA.

In Britain the WI was begun in 1915 during the First World War to encourage countrywomen to increase the food supply under the auspices of the Agricultural Organisation Society (AOS).

AOS Secretary, John Nugent Harris, invited Mrs Alfred Watt, known as Madge, from the WI headquarters in Canada to London to start WI's in the South of England. Initial efforts failed. However, in September 1915, Madge was invited by Bangor University College to address the North Wales branch of the AOS, chaired by local landowner Colonel Stapleton-Cotton.

The Colonel and his wife Jane were so impressed by Madge's talk that they asked her to address the women of Llanfair PG the very next day. The women met in the summerhouse at Graig in the garden of Mrs WE Jones. The report in the North Wales Chronicle for 18 June 1915 reads:

A well attended meeting, presided over by Col Stapleton Cotton, was held at Graig, by permission of Mrs WE Jones, on Wednesday. The lecturer was Mrs Watt, a lady from British Columbia, who gave an interesting account of the work done in that portion of the Empire, by means of the Women's Institute. It was proposed by Mrs Wilson, seconded by Miss Watts, Aber Braint, that a society of this description be established in the village. The motion was passed unanimously.

In September 1915 the WI was officially founded. 'The food supply of the country' was the special subject for discussion. Mrs Stapleton Cotton became the first President. A committee was formed and monthly meetings of an educational and social character were held on the first Tuesday in each month at 2 pm in the room kindly lent by Mrs W E Jones.

Encouraged by this enthusiastic response Madge Watt went on to form further WIs. The first were also in Wales at Cefn, and Trefnant, both in Denbighshire, in October 1915. In England a WI was formed at Singleton, Sussex, some months later. Col Stapleton-Cotton supported the new WI and he and his dog are believed to be the only males, in the early days, to ever to attend a WI meeting.

Five years later (1920) the Marquess of Anglesey generously donated land for a meeting place. The site was



The summerhouse in the garden at Graig

next to the former Telford Toll house where they could use the kitchen and the women bought an officers' mess from the Kinmel Bay army camp for £140.

A grant of £25,000 has now been obtained through the regeneration project Menter Mon to refurbish the Telford Toll gate, a Grade II listed building and the corrugated iron WI meeting hall. A permanent exhibition will feature the history of the WI as well as that of the Telford toll gates on Anglesey.

By 1919 there were 1,405 WIs across the UK. Madge Watt formed a WI at Sandringham and Queen Mary became its President. Since its foundation in 1915 the organisation's aims have broadened and the WI is now the largest voluntary women's organisation in the UK. The WI celebrates its centenary in 2015 with a membership of 212,000 in around 6,600 WIs.

It is remarkable that this very successful organisation began in an Anglesey garden!

To celebrate the centenary the WI has a garden project to improve their communities which began in 2012. If anyone knows of a WI garden project in Wales please send details to the editor for the next issue.



WI meeting, Llanfairpwll c.1920. One of the first WI meetings at the Toll gate



Llanfairpwll Toll gate and the former officer's mess is to be restored as a museum.

Trench Garden

Corporal Herbert Cowley, botanist and gardener, wounded by shrapnel, returned from the trenches in 1915 to the editing desk at *The Garden* magazine. Formerly an orchid specialist at Kew Gardens, he was luckier than the 37 colleagues from Kew who were lost in the war.

Whilst in France on the Western Front Cowley wrote a letter for *The Garden* on March 28 1915 concerning a need for a "seeds for soldiers" scheme,

"The suggestion re. quick-growing seeds is excellent. Delightful instances are now to be seen of dug-outs, covered with verdant green turf, garden plots divided by red brick and clinker paths suggestive of an Italian Garden design. Some plots are now bright with Cowslips, Lesser Celandine and fresh green leaves of the Cuckoo-Pint, wild flowers obviously lifted from meadows and ditches nearby. Yet the roar of heavy guns and the roll of rifle fire is incessant. Verily the Briton is a born gardener." (The Garden, 10.04.1915.)

The army organised the growing of vegetables for food at the Front and the Garden Museum has a medal awarded for the best vegetables grown on the Western front.

Bodelwyddan Castle

The Clwyd branch has objected to a recent planning application for replica WWI practice trenches in the Grade II parkland at Bodelwyddan Castle.

This involves digging up the parkland alongside the remains of the authentic practice trenches, now a scheduled monument. The surviving earthworks, still partly seen today, are one of the best WWI trench examples in Wales. The extensive complex of practice trenches are most clearly seen in an aerial image.

The proposed tourist development will impact a peaceful area of parkland visible from the gardens. A replica communications trench is planned between two parkland trees, including a magnificent mature Hungary Oak.

Bodelwyddan Castle is almost adjacent to Kinmel Park, which was the largest military training camp in Wales which also had practice trenches.

Hundreds of parks and historic designed landscapes were transformed during the war by temporary uses such as training camps or food production, or by abandonment.

Tywi Gateway Project

The Carmarthen branch was successful in their application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for Round 1 funding to explore ways in which the Bishop's Palace Park at Abergwili could be rescued and revitalised from its current state of neglect. The County Museum occupies part of the grounds; other parts are in the possession of the Church in Wales.

This exciting new project is called the Tywi Gateway project. £136,000 has been awarded to develop our ideas for this site. We now have the funding in place to commission specialist reports and to engage a project officer to take our application to the next, delivery, phase.

We will apply for funding to conserve and revitalise the Bishop's Park, the Walled Kitchen Garden, portions of the Great Meadow and the Bishop's Pond at the former Bishop's Palace at Abergwili. This is a joint project with Carmarthenshire County Council, together with the support of the Museum and the Church in Wales.

During 2015 a number of management plans will be developed. These will include looking at the ecology and protected species, management and maintenance, a landscape design, an interpretation plan, understanding the archaeology of the site, and managing and converting the existing buildings into an Education and Resource Centre and a Café.

If successful at Round 2, we will have the funding to create a public park for everyone to enjoy, and we hope that it will also lead to an increase in visitors to the Museum. The plan (see below) will be developed through consul-

tation with the local community and local interest groups. The planting in the park will be re-vitalised and the trees thinned out in places to allow views out over the ha ha into the Great Meadow. New plantings will be made to increase the diversity of the trees and shrubs and create colour and all year interest. We will be looking at bringing in species that enrich the habitat, and provide food and nesting sites.

The walled garden will be brought back into cultivation, using old and new methods. This will be a community garden and an opportunity for the village to get involved, and for young people to learn about how to grow things and where their food comes from.

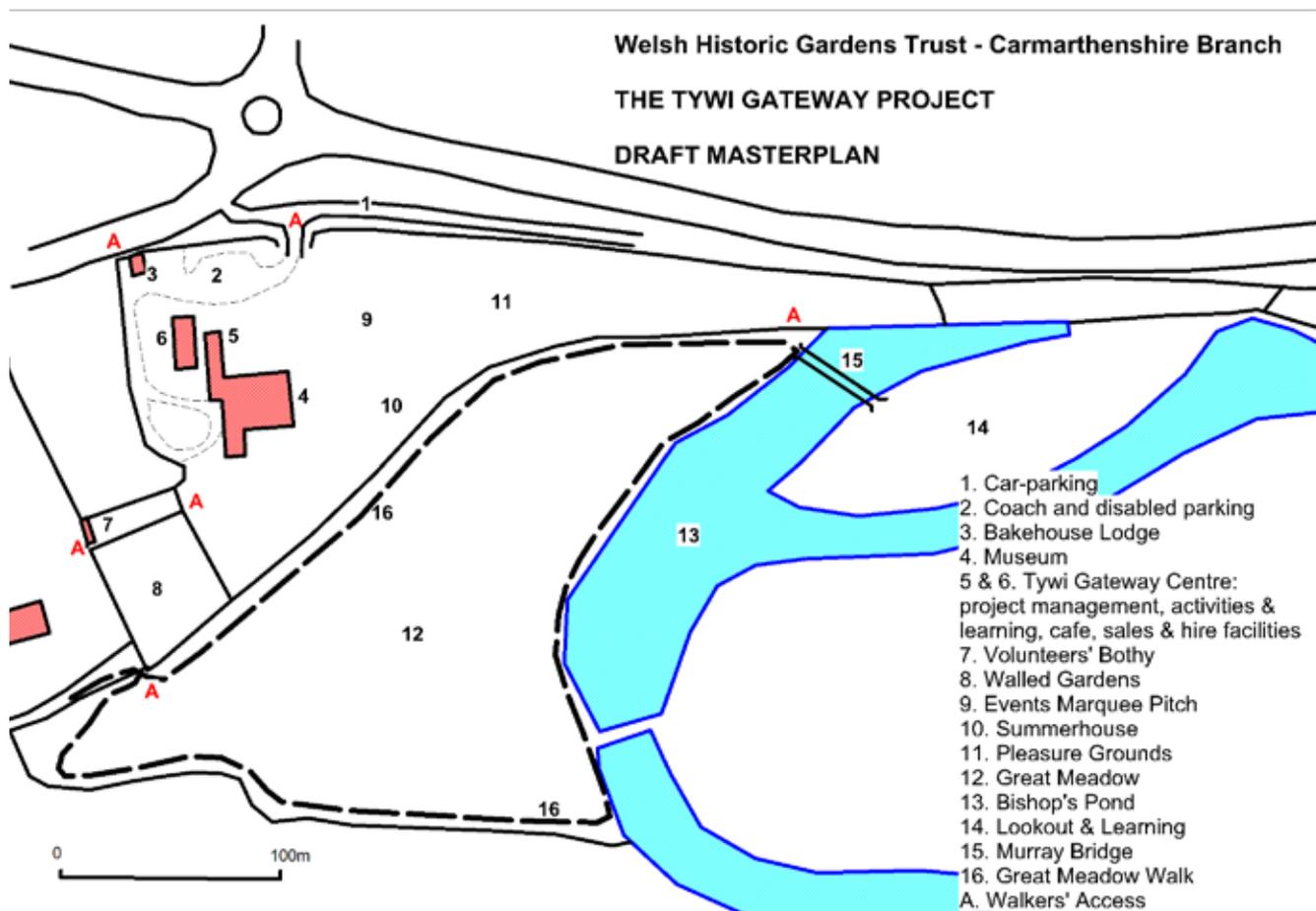
The lodge and the cottage ornée will be restored and put back into use, and the outbuildings, around the Museum, will be transformed into a café, exhibition space and education centre.

The Great Meadow will become a wild life meadow and a walk will be created around it. The pond will provide an opportunity for school children, in small supervised groups, to learn about the pond as a wildlife habitat.

The lawns will also provide a pitch for a marquee where events can be held under cover.

These are our initial ideas and a starting point from which we can take this exciting project forward. We need you to bring your ideas to us, so that together we can create a place for everyone to enjoy.

If you would like to get involved please contact the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust at whgtcarms@gmail.com



Bodnant Far End

This is a beautiful newly opened area of Bodnant. The 10 acre Far End Garden at Bodnant, originally known as the wild garden, was opened to the public for the first time at the end of March.

The River Hiraethlyn courses through what the founder of the garden, Henry Pochin, envisaged as the Wild Garden and which he planted with both exotic and native trees.

The Far End Garden includes the beautiful water gardens of the Upper Dell, upstream of the famous Waterfall Bridge in the valley bottom. Visitors can now enjoy new experiences with waterside walks alongside the Otter

Pond and Skating Lake with a boathouse and arboretum.

The Otter Pond takes its name from an occasion when the Denbigh Hunt chased an otter across the Bodnant estate. The otter took refuge in this pool. Lord Aberconway who saw the chase confronted the riders and dogs, and threw them out of the garden. Otters can still sometimes be seen in this part of the river and this accounts for the lack of fish.

This Far End area has been rejuvenated and enriched by much new planting. The so called Skating lake with an island is relatively shallow and was at one time used by the family for skating. This was laid out by Pochin's daughter Laura, and grandson Henry McLaren.

The Arts & Crafts boathouse, originally thatched, has now been re-roofed and restored.

Major work was undertaken to secure this area after the flooding in 2011 and a silt trap has been designed to protect the river and save the mill pond downstream from excess silting. The tons of silt annually dredged from the river are used for the paths and garden drainage.



New National Collection at Bodnant

Bodnant now has five National Collections: Embotrium, Eucryphia sp, Magnolia spp and Rhododendron forrestii and the fifth collection Bodnant Rhododendrons- hybrids bred at Bodnant 1927-1983 was just given this status earlier this year.

Left: The boat house of c 1900 was originally thatched and re-roofed with Cornish slate in 1938. This has now been restored sourcing the same slates. Image courtesy of NT Bodnant Garden.

Below: The boat house today © Glynis Shaw



Llantarnam Abbey

In December 2014, the Monmouthshire & Gwent branch objected to a planning application for a new T Junction beside a proposed breach in the perimeter wall of the 80 acre Grade II listed Llantarnam Abbey. The junction and breach in the 19th century castellated wall is to provide access for a large new housing development adjacent to the Abbey entrance.

Development on the Llantarnam site began with the construction of a dual carriageway which effectively cut off a large portion of the park on its western side. Building has already taken place at the northern end of the park.

Land allocated for development in the 2007 Local Development Plan included the Malthouse South site bounded by Newport Road, Malthouse Lane and the drive into Llantarnam Park. In 2010, outline planning permission was given to develop this site for employment use as part of a much larger scheme comprising employment, housing and amenity development in the area. However, by late 2014 that permission was coming to an end and the need for employment development was less obvious. So in 2014 a housing development to be constructed by Redrow Homes was proposed for the Malthouse South site.

The change of use of this site from employment to housing was accompanied by the request for a new access from the Newport Road, necessitating the breach in the perimeter wall. Both the breach and development hard by the drive to Llantarnam Abbey effectively override the listing of this part of the park.

In January 2015, despite a number of objections, the Torfaen Council approved the plans for the entire development. The scheme includes 450 houses, an employment area and some amenity facilities.

Llantarnam Abbey retains an almost complete layout of the 19th century park, informal garden and a walled kitchen garden. The main entrance building, the Magna Porta (pictured), a listed 1836 Bath stone gatehouse, is protected. However, on one side of the drive hundreds of houses, tightly packed on the upward sloping site adjacent to the entrance of Llantarnam Abbey will have an adverse impact on the visual character of the Magna Porta and compromise the integrity of the site by breaching the listed high crenellated boundary wall.

All sections of the wooded parkland can be viewed from the boundary wall, constructed in 1837, based on the original 12th century boundary. However, the council believe that the conditions of a 106 agreement can provide adequate mitigation for these detrimental impacts on the heritage landscape.

If development is to go ahead much can be done, and should be done, to ensure that it detracts as little as possible from this important listed landscape. WHGT have made a number of suggestions to mitigate the adverse



Magna Porta © David Roberts

impacts, including both widening the small buffer zone of planting outlined in the plans and ensuring its maintenance, the use of suitable building materials e.g. slate roofing, and landscaping the site to ensure that as far as possible little will be visible to visitors driving or walking into the Abbey grounds. The Abbey, although the home of a religious order, is widely used by the general public. Cllr Paul Williams is supporting the Llantarnam Village Residents Association in a campaign to have the housing application 'called in' by the Welsh Assembly, and to commission a strategic review of the impact of residential development along the M4.

The Malthouse South development is but one of many developments currently being proposed in Newport, Torfaen and Monmouthshire. Each is separately approved without due consideration given to the cumulative impact of large scale residential development along the M4 corridor. These separate developments are never considered holistically for their impact on the cultural and landscape heritage so important for the future development of Wales as an attractive place to live in and as a tourist destination.

Llantarnam Abbey was originally a medieval Cistercian monastery founded in 1179 as a daughter house of Strata Florida. After King Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries, the abbey was granted by Elizabeth to William, Earl of Pembroke. In 1559 it was bought by the catholic William Morgan with its appurtenant manors of Wentwood and Bryngwyn. Morgan turned the ruined abbey buildings into a family home which was maintained as a place of pilgrimage. The barn near the visitors' car park may be a medieval survival, though some experts suggest that it is 17th or 18th century.

In the early 17th century William's descendant Edward Morgan added to the house. Edward also helped the return of the Jesuits to Wales at The Cwm near Monmouth. David Lewis, one of the 40 Martyrs of England and Wales,

martyred at Usk in 1679, was captured just outside the Abbey grounds

The Abbey seems to have been abandoned through much of the 18th century, remaining untouched until Reginald James Blewitt in the 19th century spent a fortune completely reconstructing the property.

Reginald was related by marriage to the Morgans and the owner of the Porthmawr Colliery at Upper Cwmbran. 'Porthmawr' and 'Magna Porta' both mean 'Great Gate'.

The rebuild (1834-5) to an Elizabethan design was an early commission for the architect T H Wyatt. What began as a basic roof repair for £50 turned into a major work to rebuild the mansion, and cost nearly £ 60,000.

Laying out the park and garden involved rerouting the road from the Three Blackbirds to The Greenhouse with the construction of the boundary wall. The main oak staircase used the beams of the old tithe barn and a new dining room and a conservatory were added to the house.

In 1895 Sir Clifford Cory, colliery owner, shipping magnate and Liberal politician, bought the Abbey, living there until his death in 1941. Cory replaced a ruin overlooking a small lake with the picturesque *Monk's Cell* in 1905, (said to have originally been a changing room for polo players) and added the polo field. This, apparently the first polo playing field in Wales, is still visible today. Cory also altered the gardens, constructing a grotto to house ancient fragments from the abbey and a life-size sculpture of the praying monk, now sited in the kitchen garden.

After Cory's death the property was sold to the Government. During the Second World War the property became a storage centre for RAF uniforms and in 1944 the estate became an American marshalling camp before the Normandy D-Day landings.

The abbey was sold to the Sisters of St Joseph of Anancy in 1946. In 1957 the conservatory was replaced by a large private chapel by F R Bates, Son & Price.

Archaeological excavation has located the tentative outline of the medieval abbey church and cloister and the foundations of the great gate which separated the inner precinct from the world.

The new Heritage Bill coming before the Welsh Assembly in 2015 may be too late to save the entrance to Llantarnam Abbey. However, the story of Llantarnam Park is not ended. The developers will now be required to submit detailed plans including mitigation of the damage caused by the breach in the wall and on the style of construction and landscaping of the site. We will need to continue to keep a close watch on the next steps in the saga of Llantarnam Park.

Ann Robinson (*Planning Consultee Monmouth & Gwent*)



Parc Howard, Llanelli at Risk

A 19th Century mansion and 24 acres of parkland in Llanelli, Carmarthenshire, are at risk of becoming eyesores because of council cuts, according to those who help run them.

Parc Howard was built in 1885 and given to the town of Llanelli in 1912 by Sir Stafford and Lady Howard. Today it costs Carmarthenshire council more than £100,000 per annum to maintain the property.

The Parc Howard Association say that both the building, which houses a museum, and the parkland need more investment. The Grade II listed mansion is noted for its fine collection of Llanelli pottery, and also houses artwork and the town history.

The association is worried for the future of the Italianate country house and 24 acres of parkland, as they are now starting to deteriorate. Ken Rees, chairman of Parc Howard Association, told S4C's *Newyddion 9* programme that if the council aren't ready to spend money to maintain the place "it's going to become an eyesore."

Cllr Meryl Gravell, Carmarthenshire council's executive board member with responsibility for regeneration and leisure, admitted the future of the park was "uncertain" and that "at present the only other option is perhaps finding someone to come and take the park over,"

Demolition of Llanbedr Hall

Denbighshire Council have now given the green light after a decade-long battle in January 2015 for a new housing development at Llanbedr Hall. This site has not been listed though it was once a glorious garden belonging to Joseph Ablett, one of the founders of the Denbigh Hospital. The Llanbedr landscape including a large walled garden and estate church has been long neglected.

The Llanbedr residents objected to the proposed development on a number of grounds: the site's position on the Clwydian Range Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and the fact it is outside the authority's development boundary, which should have afforded some measure of protection. The new development is to be a crescent of nine terraced three-storey houses.



Historic tools at 2014 RHS Show Cardiff © Helena Gerrish

Historic Gardening Tools

There was much discussion at a Trustees meeting about what to display at the RHS Cardiff Show last year. Was this a chance to go "modern" with push buttons and screens or stay traditional? Mainly because the word "historical" is in our title it was decided to stay with that theme.

Over the last few years I have been involved in clearing out a number of houses and whilst going through the gardens sheds came across numerous tools long since forgotten. Some I kept for curiosity to find out what they were used for. I thought some tools looked as though they had been made in a better grade of metal than today's tools and might be useful for something, and others I put in a "don't know" pile.

With the curious tools I spent time on the internet and leafing through books to find what their use was. Reading up on some of the uses for the tools was interesting but I soon found the information was limited. While trolling the internet I came across an excellent website that turned out to be an encyclopaedia for garden tools. I managed to contact the owner who informed me that items could be hired for a small fee. In fact his tools were often hired by film companies to fit in with the period of the drama being filmed. He also told me that he had started out acquiring interesting tools from friends and relatives and that in a short while his garden shed became too small and so did the garage. He finally had to move into a warehouse to house the tools and put them on display and as far as he knew he had the biggest collection of tools in the United Kingdom! The warehouse is in Ealing, West London and members of the public can visit. I still have this treat in store.

I then had a problem of what to do with my "don't know" pile. This was solved when I discovered this amazing place in Crickhowell, "Tools Cymru", where one could take old tools to be mended or sharpened, or sent to Africa.

Tools Cymru is an independent Welsh charity that works co-operatively with other similar groups in the UK. The

unwanted tools are sent in kits to groups of carpenters, tailors, blacksmiths, leather workers, tinsmiths, bicycle repairers and builders in several African countries. An annual container is sent by sea and then transported along the dusty roads to rural areas in Africa. Those of us who live in well developed countries forget that much of Africa has no electricity and so these unloved and unwanted tools really do have a use to people wanting to earn a living. A large number of tools, not suitable or useful in Africa, are recycled for sale in Wales. These are mainly tools for gardening, horticulture, green woodwork and countless other crafts. The sale of these tools has become a major source of their funding. So if members have any old gardening tools lying around please place them with this excellent charity or if you are looking for a certain item visit their workshop or their stand at festivals and other events.

shop or their stand at festivals and other events.

And thus my small collection of old garden tools began to grow. I also learnt that in the past a number of garden tools were made by the local blacksmith which is why there is a great variety in shape, size and thickness of metal. These tools were built to last and were passed from one generation to another. It was not until the 19th century when steelworks began to develop all over the country and catalogues were printed giving designs, size and costs that garden equipment became more available for the public to buy.

Word soon spread amongst members that any interesting old garden tools would be welcome and it was not long before I had amassed quite a collection and had to make that decision of what tools to choose for the quiz.

The men who worked at "Tools Cymru" were extremely helpful and also offered to lend us a few. Finally I decide to borrow a couple of tools from them, the rare two pronged clay fork and the crossbill secateurs. The other three items came from members, the onion hoe, the hedge laying tool and the insecticide syringe.

Once the display had been set up and the show opened to the public we soon had people wandering over to the stand saying "I remember my Granddad/Great Uncle/Father using that". They wanted to pick the tools up and feel them. It turned out to be quite a crowd puller and made it easy to talk to people about what the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust did.

Merilyn Anderson

Tools Cymru: www.tfsrcymru.org.uk
0330 355 0122 / contact@tfsrcymru.org.uk

Old Garden Tools Virtual Museum: www.oldgardentools.co.uk
07836 257425 / enquiries@oldgardentools.co.uk

Congratulations!

Simon Goodenough, Curator at the National Botanic Garden of Wales has been awarded the RHS Associateship of Honour. He received his award from RHS president, Sir Nicholas Bacon, in February.



This highly-prestigious award, established in 1930, is made by the Royal Horticultural Society to people of British Nationality who have rendered distinguished service to the practice of horticulture either as employers or employees during their career.

The number of Associates of Honour may not exceed 100 at any one time.

Garden director Dr Rosie Plummer said: "This is a tremendous accolade and very well deserved; fully justified for his outstanding contribution to Ventnor Botanic Garden and more recently for all his work here at the National Botanic Garden of Wales." Simon said: "This is really rather splendid news and a very nice way to kick off 2015. I am very grateful to the society for this honour."

Congratulations!

Christopher Catling, MA, FSA has been appointed as the new Secretary (Chief Executive) of The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales. Chris is well-known as a journalist, author, and consultant on the historic environment and took up his post on 2 March 2015.

Good News

for Broadheath House and garden!

In the face of much local opposition the farmers at Upper Heath Farm, Presteigne, won an appeal for two 40,000 broiler sheds last October as part of a contract offer from Cargill Meats Europe. An original application had been refused in December 2013.

Those opposing the planning for the broiler sheds sought a Judicial Review on the grounds that there had been a failure to consider the cumulative impact and assess the likely impact of the poultry unit, a failure to assess the significant effect of poultry manure and the manure management plan, failure to publicise the pollution mitigation scheme and procure a biodiversity enhancement plan and a failure to give due regard to the material consideration of the impact on local heritage sites including Broadheath House and its garden.

The Judicial Review overturned the planning decision and the scheme for the broiler sheds has now been withdrawn.

Editor

Apologies for the lateness of this issue. Apologies also to those who were urged to meet deadlines in March and April!. Promised articles unfortunately failed to materialise. I hope that future issues will run more smoothly!

Penllergare Walled garden to be restored

A neglected "secret garden" on the outskirts of Swansea is to be restored. The Ymddiriedolaeth Penllergare Trust secured a £1.8m grant on March 27th 2015 to save the walled garden on the Penllergare estate from demolition. This is excellent news for the continuing restoration of Penllergare Valley Woods.

This grant will enable a second phase of restoration for Penllergare Valley Woods. This award is a First Round funding from HLF which will fund the development of the project in more detail in advance of a further funding bid at the Second Round.

This second phase will include the management of the river valley as a wetland habitat, balancing conservation with public access and the restoration of the orchid house and walled garden.

Terry Jones of the Penllergare Trust said the group was "really excited" the garden would be saved from "dereliction and inappropriate development".

The walled garden at Penllergare estate, north of Swansea, once had an astonishing collection of rhododendrons, among other species. Some of the rhododendrons in the walled garden are probably originals from around 1850, when John Dillwyn Llewelyn's Victorian paradise gathered momentum.

The garden had one of the earliest purpose-built orchid houses in the kitchen gardens, erected from 1836, which was heated by a coal and wood-burning boiler which turned cascading water into steam. The Penllergare orchid house is famous as it appeared in the very first article published in the Journal of Horticultural Society, now The Royal Horticultural Society, in 1842.

Work will include the refurbishment of the garden's orchid house, which is currently in a state of serious disrepair.

Historic Environment (Wales) Bill

Call for written evidence

The Historic Environment (Wales) Bill was introduced to the Welsh Assembly last month by Ken Skates AM, Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism. The Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee, which is considering the general principles of the Bill, has issued its call for written evidence.

If you would like to help to shape the legislation during its passage through the National Assembly for Wales, this is the opportunity to share your views on the Bill with the committee. The deadline for written evidence is 19 June 2015.

For more information visit the National Assembly website <http://www.senedd.assembly.wales/mgConsultationDisplay.aspx?id=176&RPID=637441&cp=yes>

Many thanks to Gaenor Price and Paul Mason for their assistance with this issue. Items for the next Bulletin should be sent by early September to Glynis Shaw: Bulletin@whgt.org.uk Castell House, Bodfari, Denbigh, LL16 4HT 01745710261

Botanic Gardens: Sarah Rutherford

*Shire Publications Ltd. 2015 Shire Library no.807
64pp, monochrome and colour illustrations throughout. ISBN-13:978 0 74781 444 3 £7.95 pbk*

This attractive and concise review of the history and purpose of botanic gardens begins by describing their function from scientific research to public enjoyment of plants. There follows a review of their historical development beginning with the physic gardens of Europe including the four oldest, Pisa, Padua, Florence and Bologna in northern Italy. Many early botanic gardens were associated with universities, a tradition which happily continues to this day.

As you would expect there is a strong and illuminating chapter dealing with the evolution of British botanic gardens and the botanists and horticulturists who created them during the 18th and 19th centuries. Another fascinating chapter deals with the strategic influence of colonial botanic gardens in establishing most of the world's major crop plants. Perhaps less well known is the strong emergence of botanic gardens in USA in the second half of the 19th century and the early 20th century. More recent developments are tracked under the heading education and conservation with a focus on British botanic gardens. Conservation is the main aim of many of the new botanic gardens established beyond Europe – for example 150 in the former USSR; it would have been useful to read more about gardens in the southern hemisphere.

In a chapter entitled 'What makes a Botanic Garden?'

Sarah amplifies her earlier definitions and examines key components – glasshouses, order beds, herbaria, libraries, and associated botanical museums and art collections.

Taxonomic research, plant biochemistry including screening for pharmaceuticals, conservation genetics, and ecological restoration are all important modern aspects of botanic gardens which are somewhat neglected in this short book. Widening public education and collaboration also deserve greater emphasis as botanic gardens assume their full potential to help deliver the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation. The role of the charity Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) is highlighted but there is no mention of PlantNetwork,, the influential network of botanic gardens and arboreta in the British Isles promoting modern initiatives in research, education and conservation.

The book is very attractively illustrated throughout with relevant, well captioned images on every page, many in colour. There is a list of 18 gardens to visit in Britain and Ireland, a reading list and short index.

In conclusion this is an attractive, well written and informative introduction to botanic gardens, strong on their historical development in Europe (and its colonies) and USA but somewhat deficient in explaining the vital purpose which now confronts botanic gardens world-wide – saving our Planet's plants and improving our scientific understanding of all things green and growing.

Nigel Brown, Curator, Treborth Botanic Garden, Bangor University.

First Ladies of Gardening: Heidi Howcroft

Frances Lincoln 2015, 176pp., illustrated in colour, ISBN: 978-0-711236431. WHGT Members can order First Ladies of Gardening at the discounted price of £16 including p&p (RRP: £20), telephone 01903 828503 or email mailorders@lbsltd.co.uk and quote the offer code APG290. *UK ONLY - Please add £2.50 if ordering from overseas.*

First Ladies of Gardening is one of those gorgeous books that is a joy to read. All the modern photographs were taken by Marianne Majerus and, at every turn of the page, another glorious garden view emerges.

The author describes the gardens developed by fourteen women. Eight of these, most of whom are well-known, appear in the first section of the book as 'Pioneers of Design'. The second section, 'New Directions', covers the work of women who have created wonderful but lesser-known gardens. Sadly, there is no gardening woman from Wales included in the book but those on the WHGT trip to Ireland last summer will enjoy the description of Helen Dillon's Dublin garden.

Some of the women, like Gertrude Jekyll, are well-known-doyennes of the garden history world, but, as this book shows, there is always something new to discover.

Jekyll's designs, for example, are documented through the work of Rosamund Wallinger at Upton Grey Manor.

When her family bought the property in 1983 they had no idea it had any connection with Jekyll and it was only through a vast amount of research and even more attention to detail that Rosamund re-created the garden as Jekyll intended.

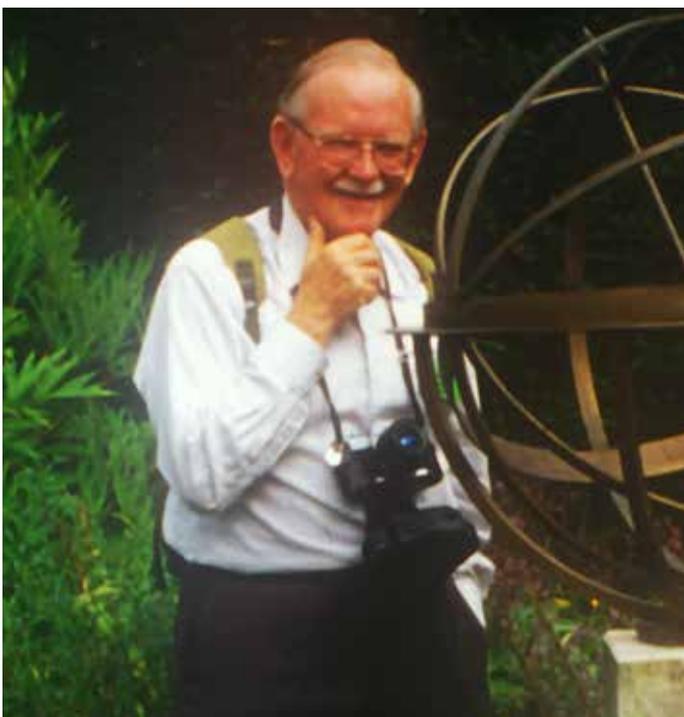
Another fascinating story is that of Rachel James and her garden at Eastington Farm on the Jurassic Coast of Dorset. The James family took over the farm, owned by the National Trust, in the 1980s and ever since have been creating a landscape which now contains walled enclosures, a rose garden, a pool garden and magnificent sea views.

At the end of each description is information describing the principles which guide each of the women in their work and a section on their signature plants, some of which are illustrated. This information is particularly helpful for less experienced gardeners who want to copy the ideas described.

At the end of the book there is a useful Bibliography and details of the twelve gardens which are open to the public. Any disappointments? I greatly missed an index because there were so many plants I wanted to check on again.

Jean Reader

Colonel Richard Gilbertson



Richard Gilbertson at Great Fosters in Surrey AGT Conference 2000 © Steffie Shields

Few people have given more devoted service to the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust than Colonel Richard Gilbertson, who has died, aged 88. He was a long standing member of the Trust committee and the driving force behind the formation of the Pembrokeshire branch. In his time he held office as Secretary and Treasurer and was the obvious choice to chair the small sub-committee charged with looking into relations between the centre and the branches in the early days. His meticulous attention to detail made him invaluable in all these roles.

Richard was born into a prominent industrial family with works based at Pontardawe in Glamorgan. After an education at Marlborough College and London University where he gained a B.Sc. in engineering, Richard joined

the Royal Signals. His army career was distinguished by his shooting prowess, representing the army at Bisley every year from 1964 to 1980 and in the Welsh National Team in 1965. Richard was also instrumental in the development of a new radio system for all three services.

After his retirement from the army, Richard moved to Pembrokeshire where he bought a small house with a large garden outside Lampeter Velfrey, which he devoted to the old fashioned roses, which, with his dogs, were the love of his life. Over the years he built up a remarkable collection, which he opened to the public every year in June, and became a fine lecturer on the subject. It was in Pembrokeshire that he first became involved with the WHGT but he also gave much time to his local Church and to the Civic Trust for Wales, all of whom would have fared much worse without him.

Richard was a staunch friend and a wise adviser. He was always a pleasure to work with on a committee, not least because of his own infectious delight in being with people who shared his interests. He was for many years the WHGT representative to the Association of Garden Trusts, which he loved and was valued in return, so much so that he became their Treasurer.

Gilly Drummond, President of the Association, recalls him with deep affection: *'Richard was a rare bird – charming, courteous, patient, well-organised and very innovative ... so endearing to work with and I am sure many people recognise and honour his very significant contribution in helping to form the bedrock of so much support for parks, gardens and designed landscapes.'*

Richard's last years were clouded by ill health and he was forced to leave his beloved house and his roses but, to his many friends, he will remain, in memory, the busy, friendly, hospitable and enthusiastic person he always was: sometimes obstinate, occasionally maddening, but invariably good-humoured and kind.

John Borron and Anne Carter

The Finest Gardens in Wales: Tony Russell

April 2015 by Amberley Publishing, softback, 175 x 250mm portrait, runs to 160 pages, including over 150 colour photographs. RRP £15.99. WHGT Members can order signed copies at a special price £11.00 plus £2.00 p&p from the author. Send your name and address with a cheque made out to Tony Russell, Gardens to Visit, Dan y Ser, Rhyd, Penrhyndeudraeth, Gwynedd, LL48 6ST.

For those with an interest in Welsh gardens this new book will be a great addition to the book shelves or car glove box. 'The Finest Gardens in Wales' has recently been written by Tony Russell and includes a selection of gardens which are horticulturally worthy and which allow public access during the year. Some of the featured gardens are less well known and includes many historic gardens. A map near the beginning of the book shows Wales is well provided with interesting gardens and the book describes why Wales is regarded as having one of the best and most diverse collections of gardens in the

world. The gardens featured all have quality photographs taken by the author and are described in a light hearted easy to read manner. This book will appeal to a wide range of readers and will certainly help to raise the profile of the gardens of Wales as a very worthwhile destination for garden tourists.

Tony Russell was the former head forester at Westonbirt, and is a broadcaster. Since 2009 Tony has been garden consultant to the National Trust, where he is helping the Trust establish the first ever complete digital inventory of the plants growing within National Trust gardens. In 2015 he will be working in the following National Trust gardens: Erddig, Dyffryn, Tredegar and Trengwainton. He is also currently advising on a major garden restoration for the Snowdonia National Park Authority at Plas Tan y Bwlch in North Wales.

Anthony Tavernor

Events 2015

Brecon & Radnor

June 28th Garden party Pen-y-Maes Hay on Wye. Strawberry tea £10.

July 20-23rd Royal Welsh Show

October 15th Visit Hergest Croft, Kington, Talk by Elizabeth Banks Meet 1100. Lunch in café. Afternoon walk around garden and tea.

Contact Maldwyn Rees
reesm@pc-q.net

07974 311320

Carmarthenshire

Saturday 13th June Joint Study Day with Carmarthenshire Antiquarians

Contact Judith Holland
j.holland@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk

01558 823121

Ceredigion

Sunday 7 June 10.30am Guided walks at the Hafod Estate. One walk will visit Mrs Johnes' Garden and the nearby scenery. The other walk will be a more strenuous exploration of the Picturesque walks. Also an AGM event.

Sunday 28 June 2.30pm. Garden visit and tea at Norchard, near Tenby where Mrs Heulwen Davies has restored the layout of the Elizabethan garden. (see article in Trafodion No 1.)

Contact: Caroline Palmer
caroline-palmer@tiscali.co.uk>

01970 615403

Clwyd

June Thursday 25th Aberclwyd Manor, Derwen, Corwen, LL21 9SF 2.30 pm kindly hosted by Irene Brown. 4 acres of garden on a sloping hillside overlooking the Upper Clwyd Valley £6 (includes tea)

July Saturday 11th Dedwyddfa Bryn Goodman, Ruthin, LL15 1EL 2.30 pm kindly hosted by Ann and Basil Thomas. £6 (includes Tea)

August Wednesday 12th Peacock House, Plas Castell, Bull Lane, Denbigh LL16 3SN, within Denbigh castle walls. There is access to the castle walls, listed Gothic Gazebo and icehouse. Visit includes the garden and tea at Castle House. £7

Contact Sinah Harrison-Jones for further details
sinah@btinternet.com

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07974 311320

Membership Secretary: Jennie Macve

01970 626180

Conservation Officer: Ros Laidlaw

01970 832268

Montgomeryshire



Sunday 5 July 2015 11.00 DISCOVER THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF TREES At GREGYNOG with Tony Russell.

Lecture, lunch and garden tour £24.50 tickets now available

Contact Joy Neal for further details

joyneal@btinternet.com

01654 781203

Gwynedd

Friday June 26th 6pm – 8pm Garden Party, Marian, Talwrn, Anglesey. £10 to include wine and canapés

7-9th July Visit to gardens of Yorkshire

Thursday 10th September Visit to Powys Castle. Cost for coach £18.00 per person Entry payable by non NT members

Contact Olive Horsfall

oandmhorsfall@btinternet.com

01766 780187

Monmouthshire & Gwent

Thursday 18 June, 6.30. for 7.00p.m. at Treowen, Mitchell Troy, Monmouth NP25 3EN. An evening at Treowen with a lecture by Liz Whittle on "Tudor and Stuart gardens of Monmouthshire". A light supper £20

Thursday 10th September, 6.30. for 7.15p.m. at Pilstone House, Llandogo, Monmouth NP25 4TH. A lecture by Julian Mitchell on "Wye Valley Artists".£12 (Includes refreshments)

Contact: Merilyn Anderson,

m.anderson666@btinternet.com

01600 780389

West Glamorgan

Monday 6 July All day coach trip to Caer Hir a "Dutch Garden in the Heart of Wales" and Llanllyr, 19th Century Garden on site of Medieval Nunnery. Both in Ceredigion. Full details to follow

Sunday 19th July Strawberry Tea. To be held at liston Gower.

Thursday 1st October. 7.00pm (Doors open 6:30pm). Talk "The Development, Discovery and Restoration of the Elizabethan Garden at Walled Garden at Norchard" by Heulwen Davies

October. All day coach trip to Westonbirt National Arboretum, Tetbury, Gloucestershire. Witness the stunning autumn colour.

Thursday 19th November 2:00pm "The History of the Fuchsia Collection of Margam Park" by Raymond Butt. Former General Manager at Margam Park and Director of Fuchsia Research International.

Contact Phil Stevenson

philip.stevenson1@ntlworld.com

01792 208431

For up to date information see: www.whgt.org.uk and Welsh Historic Gardens Trust Facebook page.