



WHGT BULLETIN

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Fig 1: A view of the house, Stackpole Court, and the Eight-Arch bridge across the Eastern Arm of the lakes, looking north from Deal Hill, c1850, published by Henry Barrett of Pembroke Dock (National Library of Wales).

Recent conservation at Stackpole Court by Sarah Green

The magnificent series of lakes at Stackpole lies just inland of the south coast of Pembrokeshire. The Lakes form the centrepiece of the Grade I landscape, in the parkland of Stackpole Court, a mansion demolished in 1963. Gerald of Wales made a reference to a house owned by the Stackpoles in 1188. From the mid sixteenth century the Lort family owned the estate that passed through marriage to the Campbells of Cawdor. The Campbells built the early Georgian mansion in the 1730s on the site of an earlier fortified house. Sir John Cambell II, who inherited the estate in 1777, began landscaping the site. After the mansion was demolished the remaining estate was eventually broken up. The Lakes, the mansion site, the ornamental Lodge Park and other land were transferred to the care of the National Trust in 1976.

Stackpole's lakes are artificial, created by the Cawdor family in the 18th and 19th centuries. As their unique ecology is of international importance, the Lakes are designated a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), and form part of a larger National Nature Reserve, famous for its resident otters and water lilies.

Today the quality of the SAC site is at risk as nutrient-rich runoff threatens to silt up the lakes. The associated growth of vegetation threatens not only to harm the aquatic communities but also to damage the historic character and quality of the designed landscape. The consequences of this siltation are most obvious above the One-Arch Bridge, northwest of the mansion site, where succession to willow and alder has led to a complete loss of open water. Silting has occurred despite all earlier attempts to manage the siltation, including the dredging of the lake beneath the One-Arch Bridge in 1996, digging silt traps in Castle Dock Woods and Cheriton Bottom that drain into the lakes, and installing a diversion water pipe from the Eastern Arm to flow directly to the sea rather than into the Central Lake.

The view from a terrace behind the house, immediately below the mansion site, looking south towards the Eight-Arch Bridge, is one of the most important and best known of the whole estate (Figs 2 and 3). This Eastern Arm of the Lakes is particularly suffering from the loss of open water. Here the rapid growth of water vegetation,



Fig 2: View from the terrace behind the house looking South down the Eastern Arm of the lakes towards the Eight-Arch Bridge July 2014 © Sarah Green



Fig 3: The same view as above in September 2016, showing the loss of open water © Sarah Green

such as reed and bur-reed, is an increasing problem. The National Trust, in collaboration with Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and neighbouring landowners, recently commissioned detailed surveys to try to fully understand the processes of siltation at Stackpole, in order to produce a catchment plan, identifying how to intercept, slow down and minimise future soil runoff into the lakes from their tributaries.

As a result of the surveys a number of small-scale actions have been recommended in the short term. These are expected to lead to the long-term conservation and restoration of the lakes in the future.

The first of these actions involved a pilot scheme which focussed on an area above the Eight-Arch Bridge in the Eastern Arm of the lakes, where 150 tons of silt was removed. Monitoring has shown this has had good results, and further silt removal will be repeated this month (November) using GPS to plot work areas. Analysis of

the removed silt indicates that it would be suitable for recycling and spreading on agricultural land.

The photographs taken from the terrace behind the site of Stackpole Court (Figs 2 and 3) show how rapidly tall swamp vegetation can grow and spread.

The initial small-scale pilot project may seem limited in scope, but the rigorous process of surveying and monitoring, and consultation with local landowners, demonstrates that even a low key approach can have a significant impact. The pilot project has already shown success in restoring open water and inhibiting plant growth. This will be recorded photographically next summer.

This kind of management benefits both the historic landscape and the natural environment. Moreover, it does not interfere with the enjoyment of the many visitors to Stackpole.



Fig 4: A sketch plan of c1825 attributed to Elizabeth Thynne (the wife of John Frederick Campbell), shows Stackpole Court in the angle between the two arms of the lakes. The walled flower garden, with a somewhat rounded boundary, is directly to the west of the house, in Lodge Park, and the more rectangular walled kitchen garden is to the south. (Carmarthenshire Record Office, Cawdor Archive, SD 63).

Lodge Park

After the marriage of John Campbell II and Caroline Howard in 1789, what had been an 18th-century wilderness west of Stackpole Court was remodelled in the Picturesque style. A secluded walled flower garden, planned by Lady Caroline, possibly incorporating features of the earlier wilderness, was screened from its surroundings by mature trees. Some of the specimen plants for the garden, and perhaps some of its inspiration, came from Yr Hafod on the River Ystwyth near Devil's Bridge, whose well-reported gardens had been laid out by Mrs Johnes and her daughter a decade earlier. Plants were also sourced from other Welsh estates as well as London nurseries.

A sketch plan of about 1825, (Fig 4), attributed to Elizabeth Thynne, shows the flower garden in the middle of Lodge Park, including the walking circuit and two main entrances to the flower garden, on the north and the south sides. Amongst good documentary evidence for the plant collections at Stackpole is a tree inventory compiled by John Claudius Loudon when he visited in 1837; at the time he was writing perhaps his greatest work, *Arboretum et Fruticetum Britannicum*, published

in the following year. Loudon's plant list, together with earlier correspondence from Charles Greville and later references in 19th-century guidebooks and articles, has been invaluable in guiding the recent restoration of the ornamental character of this area of the park.

Very little change was made to the gardens in the 20th century, and the diminishing fortunes of the estate culminated in the demolition of the house in 1963. Lack of maintenance of both hard and soft landscape features during this period had a particularly dramatic effect on the appearance of this area. The unchecked growth of laurel, sycamore and weedy understorey species, inappropriate coniferous planting in the 1940s and 50s, and the ageing and eventual loss of specimen trees have obscured its historic and ornamental landscape character.

The broad layout and some key features of Lodge Park remain in place. The National Trust is now restoring a more open and picturesque feel to the area, through large-scale clearance of sycamore and scrub, repairing walls and other structures and reintroducing and managing appropriate specimen trees and ornamental plants. Within Lady Caroline's garden this programme includes



Fig 5 Left: Young beech trees, in the foreground, replanted in an ornamental circle. Fig 6 Right: A stone gate post and rose arbour at the eastern entrance to Lady Caroline's walled flower garden. Images © Sarah Green

replanting an ornamental circle of beech trees (Fig 5). Three huge stumps remain from the original planting, which appears to have been well established by the time of the 1875 Ordnance Survey map.

This is atmospherically described by A P Rowler in the *Gardeners' Chronicle*, April 1909 as *a group of nine gigantic beech trees, forming a circle, their head a dome and constituting a grand natural temple*.

By the middle of the 19th century two more entrances

to Lady Caroline's flower garden had been added. The easternmost one is pictured here on a path leading due west from the house (Fig 6), where a rose arbour, apparently originally dating from the late 19th or early 20th century, has recently been restored and replanted with a collection of old rose varieties. These include cuttings taken from the original Cawdor roses, sourced locally and donated by supporters of the project.

Editorial

This is the first 24 page Bulletin. When I began to edit the Bulletin I was concerned that I would be unable to find who can best tell the stories of the conservation and restoration of Welsh parks and gardens, of those who created and worked in them and those involved in saving them. Over the past few years I have become indebted to many contributors who have generously shared their research and knowledge.

Recently my research for one gardener led to another: in April, John Phibbs who helped launch the Repton Festival 2018, suggested that Repton was involved in the landscape at Bodlondeb, the unregistered site of the Conwy Council offices, surrounded by a public park and a small woodland. Soon after, I had the good fortune to meet the property manager, Richard Jones, who, whilst unaware of any Repton connection, kindly showed me an original and beautiful planting plan by Edward Kemp (1876). This was a most unexpected treat!

Albert Wood commissioned Kemp at Bodlondeb. The Wood family made its fortune manufacturing anchors and cables at Saltney, Chester. The company's anchors were selected for Brunel's *Great Eastern*, the largest ship of its day. Albert's mansion at Bodlondeb, designed by the Liverpool architect T.M. Lockwood in 1876, still remains, and with a modern extension, now accommodates the council offices. Albert had been an alderman of Chester, a number of whom had commissioned Kemp to land-

scape their properties. Kemp had worked with Joseph Paxton at Chatsworth and in 1847 assisted Paxton with the layout of Birkenhead Park, the first publicly funded park in the world. Whilst Kemp continued as Park Superintendent for over 45 years he developed a thriving private practice. 2017 marks the bicentenary of Kemp's birth, commemorated by a blue plaque on the Birkenhead Floral Pavilion in April. 2017 is also the 170th anniversary of Birkenhead Park and a symposium on Kemp was included at the *World Urban Parks European Congress* held at the park in October. It was great to share the Kemp drawing for Bodlondeb with Elizabeth Davey, Prof R. Lee and the Friends of Birkenhead since so few of Kemp's plans survive.

Following a meeting in early October with a very enthusiastic team from Conwy CC, and Lisa Fiddes from Cadw, the Bodlondeb site will be surveyed to identify what remains from the Kemp plan.

Welsh parks and gardens are an enthralling subject and I hope the Bulletin will continue to cover new research and to document their conservation and restoration.

Please send any items for the Spring Bulletin 2018 to: bulletin@whgt.org.uk / glynis@castell-photography.co.uk 01745 710261 / 07867970086

Glynis Shaw

Horatio's Garden

A fund-raising drinks reception was held in September at Brynkinalt for the charity *Horatio's Garden* which creates gardens for NHS spinal injury centres. The charity is now developing a garden at the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt (RJAH) Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry where the Midland Spinal Injury Centre serves Shropshire, Cheshire, the West Midlands, North Hereford and North Wales. Some 180 people were warmly welcomed at Brynkinalt by Iain and Kate Hill-Trevor and Lady Trevor, Appeal Patron and Vice President of the League of Friends.

Horatio's Gardens were inspired by seventeen year old Horatio Chapple, who was tragically killed by a polar bear during a trip to the Arctic. His parents David and Olivia Chapple and family set up the charity to create the gardens in their son's memory. The garden at the Duke of Cornwall Spinal Treatment Centre, Salisbury District Hospital, where Horatio had been a volunteer, was the first to open in 2012.

The Horatio's Garden at the RJAH Orthopaedic Hospital will be the fourth. It will be created by the garden designer and Gardeners' Question Time panellist, Bunny Guinness. The garden will provide a beautiful sanctuary for patients with spinal cord injury. It is designed as a totally accessible environment, with perfectly level path surfaces for patients in beds and wheelchairs. A spectacular architect-designed garden room will ensure that patients are able to enjoy the garden whatever the



Garden therapy area

weather. There will also be a fabulous greenhouse within a garden therapy area. Horatio's Gardens improve the lives of patients who are in hospital for months, by offering a place away from the ward that feels more like home. The garden construction will begin when all the funding is secured. Over half the target cost of £675,000 has now been raised and it is hoped that work will start in the autumn next year.

To find out more, and how to donate to the project please visit www.horatiosgarden.org.uk/horatiosgarden/oswestry or visit www.facebook.com/horatiosgarden or shop.horatiosgarden.org.uk

Glynis Shaw

Chairman

We have recently launched a free membership of WHGT for young people aged 25 and under and for all students and apprentices. We have had a good take-up already, but please help us spread the word and encourage as many young people to join as possible.

If anyone is interested, please email admin@whgt.org.uk

I recently did a talk about WHGT to the thriving and very friendly Llandinam Gardening Club in Montgomeryshire and was very pleased that new members signed up afterwards. If you would like me to speak to any clubs or organisations in your area of Wales, please contact me on baynes@bodfach.com or 07880 786573 and I would be very pleased to come and tell people about the work of our wonderful Trust in protecting and caring for parks and gardens across Wales.

Simon Baynes (Chairman)



Recognising the risk to Twentieth Century Designed landscapes

In June this year the Gardens Trust held a one day conference entitled 'Mid to Late Twentieth-Century Designed Landscapes: Overlooked, undervalued and at risk?' The aim of the conference was to promote the understanding and significance of these landscapes in order to review how they might be better recognised and conserved.

An important outcome of the conference was the launch of the Gardens Trust's follow-on project 'Compiling the Record: the essential mid to late 20th-century landscapes' which aims to identify sites in England that are currently not included in Historic England's Register. The project invited suggestions for sites by 31st December 2017, these will then be reviewed with a final list being submitted to Historic England for potential registration. For further details including a submission form please visit: <http://thegardenstrust.org/compiling-the-record/>

Advolly Richmond



Top Terrace with flower beds and roses on chains, water colour by Alice Douglas Pennant, 1896 (Penrhyn Castle)

Penrhyn Castle Walled Garden and Environs, 1768 to the present by Gaenor Price

Penrhyn Walled Garden is often referred to as Victorian, but this is too simplistic a view. Its origins are pre-Victorian and its development continued into the 1930s and beyond. Although detailed records are lacking, its history can be traced through estate maps, OS maps, articles in journals such as *Country Life* and *The Gardeners' Chronicle*, and a few surviving garden plans and photographs.

The garden, at some distance from the house, comprises a long terrace furnished with shrubs and flowers, and, below a retaining wall, the Shrub Areas with trees and shrubs set into sloping lawns in the Gardenesque style. The Bog Garden lies below another wall.

An estate map of 1768 [Fig 1] shows a roughly oval area, surrounded by trees with a stream below, called *Gardd Parc y Moch* (Pigfield Garden) on the site of the walled garden. This sheltered spot with a southwest aspect would have been ideal for growing fruit and vegetables, and by 1803, as another estate map [Fig 2] shows, it was evidently a kitchen garden. Six beds are shown above a wall, which may well have formed an original terrace, and four beds between this wall and the stream. Landscaping of the surrounding park has commenced, with scattered trees above the garden and denser plantations below.

By 1828 some remodelling had taken place. A new, larger, kitchen garden (later to become famous under the Head Gardener Walter Speed) was formed north of

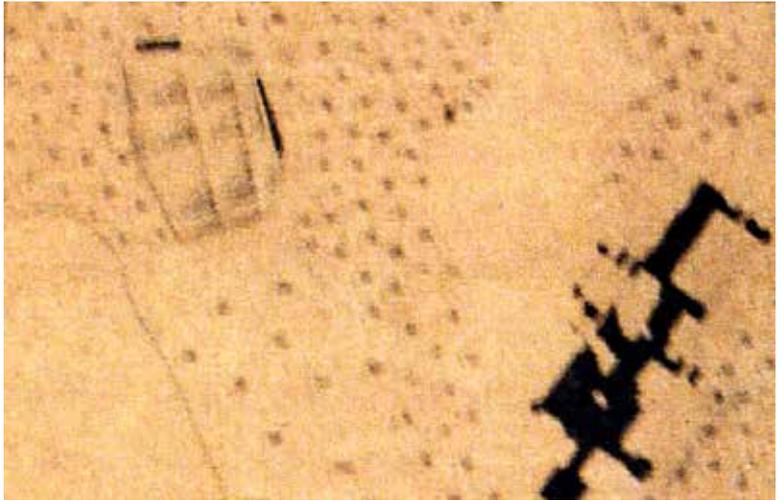
the Castle. In the original garden the beds between the wall and stream were abandoned (possibly because of drainage problems). It seems to have been at this point that the building of the walls began; the enclosure was probably originally hedged. The southern boundary remained open, with beds reaching well beyond the line of the present wall. The straight wall along the bottom of the garden was given the dogleg configuration that it retains to this day. A new range of buildings can be seen along the top, and an existing building on the north boundary has been enlarged [Fig 3].

Shortly after this time the transformation of the Gothic-style mansion by Samuel Wyatt into the Neo-Norman castle designed by Edward Hopper for George Hay Dawkins-Pennant was nearing completion. The extravagance of the architecture was matched by an extravagant layout in the Walled Garden. A surviving pen-and-ink plan [Fig 4] shows a wildly higgledy-piggledy arrangement of beds of different shapes, threaded by both straight and winding paths. On what is now Top Terrace there are hothouses and a pineapple pit. A semi-circular bastion wall backs a central pond, and on each side of this the ground follows its original slope to the lower level. Rectangular beds next to the hothouses and along the wall below the entrance suggest that the garden was still being used to some extent for production, although possibly they were for cut flowers rather than for fruit

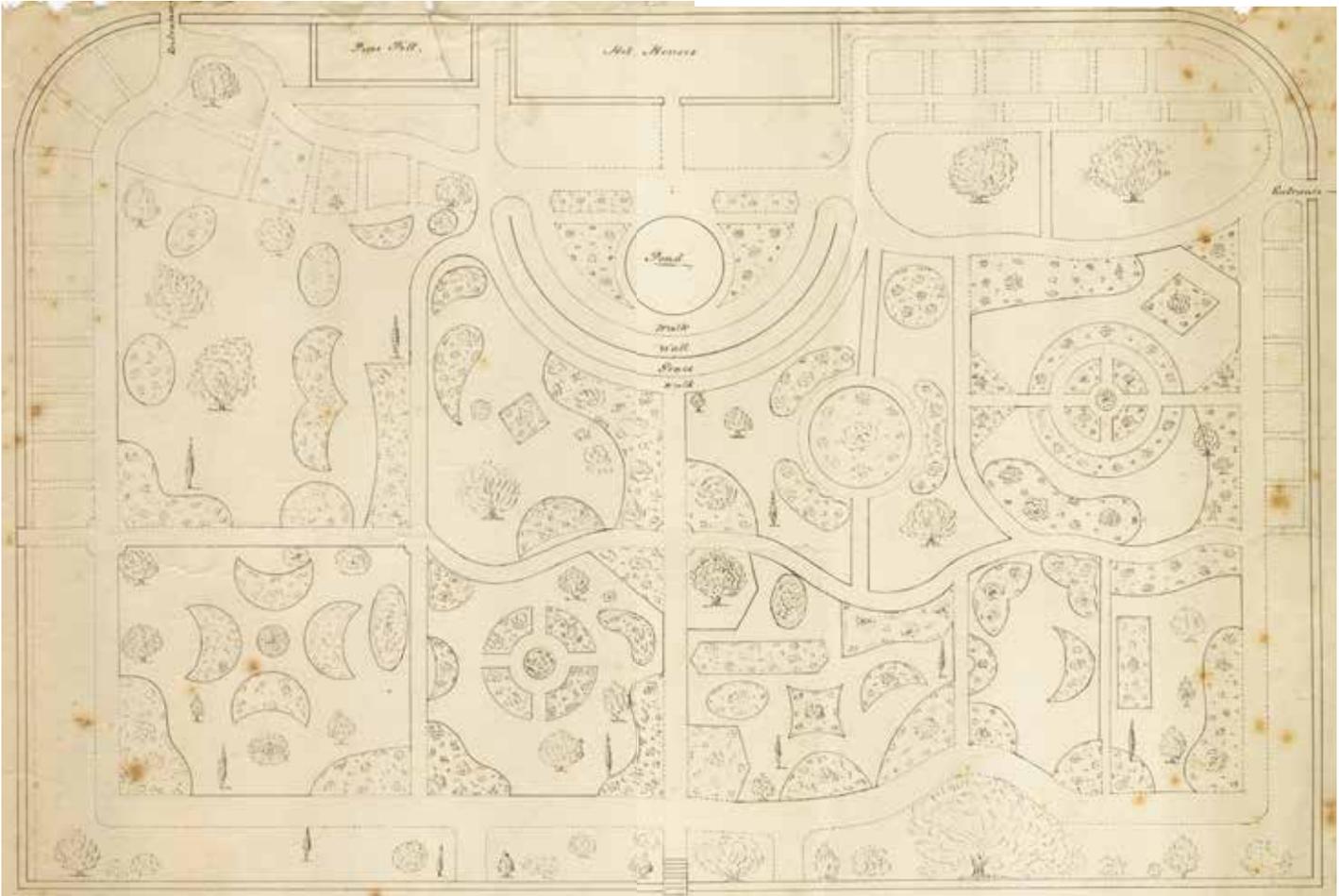


and vegetables. The boundaries are not depicted with complete accuracy: the side walls are parallel rather than splayed, and the bottom wall is shown as straight. Unfortunately this plan is not dated, but it reflects the style of the 1830s and 1840s; a letter in a *Gardeners' Chronicle* of 1839 complained that *scores of unmeaning flower beds in the shape of kidneys and tadpoles and sausages and leeches now disfigure our lawns* – exactly what we see in this plan.

Walter Speed was appointed Head Gardener in about 1863 and held the post until his death in 1921. Although famous primarily for his fruit and



Top left: [Fig 1] detail estate map 1768 (PFA/6/154). Top right [Fig 2] detail estate map 1803 (PFA/6/157). Centre right [Fig 3] detail estate map 1828 (PFA/6/163). Below [Fig4] Pen and ink drawing c1830s (PFA/6/217) Images courtesy of Archives and Special Collections, Bangor University.



vegetables and for the excellent training of his apprentices, he was also interested in exotic trees, especially conifers, and in flowers, shrubs and bamboos. It is clear from accounts by visitors to what had become an important tourist attraction that the Walled Garden, and the pleasure grounds generally, were being constantly developed throughout his time at the Castle.

The riot in the shrub areas was quelled and replaced by individual trees and shrubs in lawn in the Gardenesque style, as indicated in a *Gardeners' Chronicle* article in 1878, which mentions *Fuchsia magellanica* 'Riccartonii', *Cunninghamia lanceolata*, and *Taxodium distichum*. The Top Terrace, supported by banks rather than a wall, was furnished with bedding plants in box-edged beds, climbing roses on chains along the edge (seen in the water colour by Alice Douglas Pennant at the beginning of this article), and on the walls *half-hardy shrubs that have braved the storms of winter for many years* including *Aloysia citriodora*, myrtles, *Garrya elliptica* and *Tropaeolum speciosum*.

Further information can be gleaned from the 1889 Ordnance Survey map [Fig.5] showing seven specimen conifers and one broadleaved tree in the Walled Garden. One of the conifers is the magnificent double-stemmed *Pinus pinaster* (Maritime Pine), seen in many pictures, which succumbed to old age in the 1980s. The hothouse was enlarged, and a range of sheds added behind the wall (some of which survive). The garden was surrounded by woodland; steps at the bottom led to a path across the stream. (By the time of the 1914 OS edition only three of the original conifers remained, but there were many more broad-leaved trees.)

The Fuchsia Walk running down the centre of the garden is first mentioned in the *Gardeners' Chronicle* in 1891, and was thereafter an object of astonished admiration. (The present Fuchsia Arch has been repositioned to run along the bottom of the garden.) At this time the area below the garden, known as the Dell or the Bog Garden, was developed from woodland. The 1914 OS map shows numerous broad-leaved trees on each side of the stream; in addition there was a border of bamboo and *Miscanthus sinensis* cvs below the wall, plantings of *Phormium*, *Cardiocrinum giganteum*, *Gunnera manicata*, hydrangeas along the stream, and a *choice collection of the newer kinds of Japanese and other hardy shrubs*. The surviving *Acer palmatum atropurpureum* must be relics of this planting. There seem to have been grass paths, suggesting that this area was better drained than was the case later.

By 1914 the tree and shrub collection had expanded into the region of undifferentiated woodland north and east of the walled garden (see *Gardeners' Chronicle* articles of January and February 1914) on the approach from the Castle to the garden. The trees were *magnificent specimens* of *Pinus nigra maritima*, Scots Pine, Cedar of Lebanon and broad-leaved trees, providing *shelter and protection, but not dense shade*; the effect was that of a wild natural garden, contrasting with *the trim yet graceful*



[Fig 5] detail OS 1:2,500.map 1889

orderliness of the terrace garden, with its closely mown grass slopes. There were also flowering shrubs, including azaleas, *Choisya ternata*, *Grevillea rosmarinifolia* and *Metrosideros fulgens*.

No garden plans survive from the Speed era, but the appearance of the garden is well documented in *Country Life*, May 23rd 1903, and the *Gardeners' Chronicle* articles mentioned above [Fig 6].

Some of the more interesting plants mentioned include *Camellia reticulata*, *C. sasanqua*, *C. sinensis*, *Eriobotrya japonica*, *Ugni molinae*, *Lapageria rosea* (said to bear 200 flowers at a time), *Lardizabala biternata*, *Nerium oleander*, and, in the hothouse, *Bougainvillea glabra*, *Ipomoea horsfalliae* and sundry passifloras.

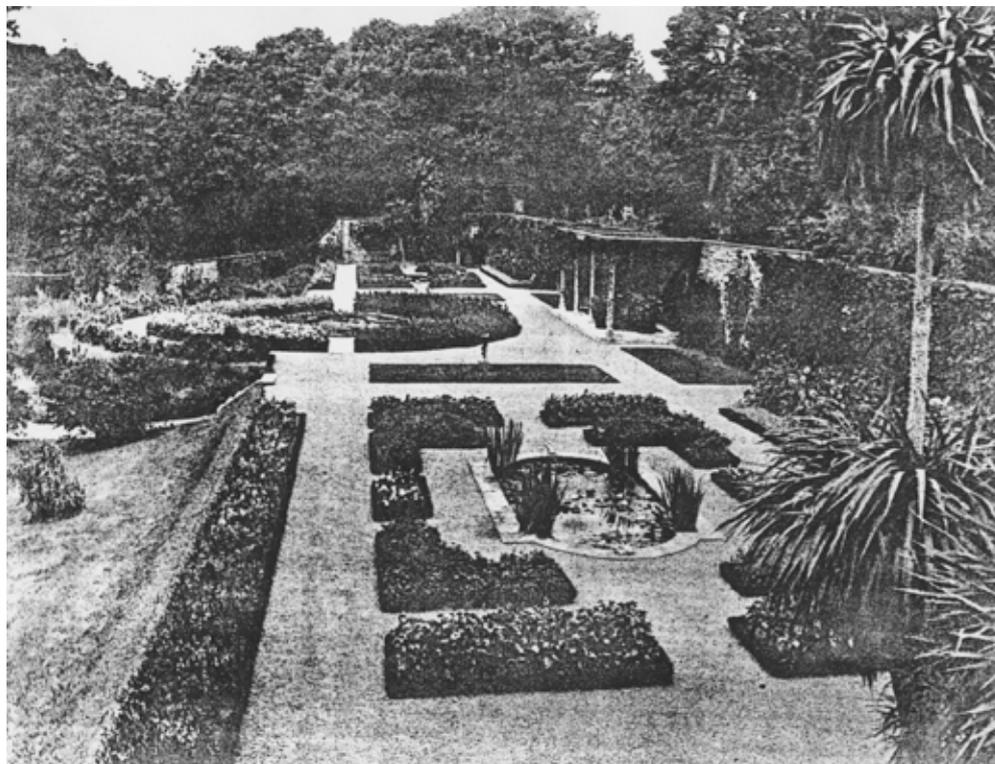
Walter Speed was followed as Head Gardener in 1921 by his son-in-law John Kneller. In 1927 Hugh Napier Douglas Pennant succeeded to the property, and his wife Sybil then made radical changes to the Top Terrace, with a simpler and more fashionable layout with ponds and fountains. The roses on chains were removed and the hothouse demolished and replaced by the Tuscan loggia, known as the Summer House. A central four-lobed pond with fountain was surrounded by quadrants of bedding plants. On each side lay a grass plat in gravel and, beyond these, rectangular ponds with fountains surrounded by oblong and L-shaped beds. Choice water lilies were grown in the ponds, and Chusan palms and cordylines planted at each end. A photograph not dated but probably of the late 1930s, shows the effect [Fig 7].

The Bog Garden is sometimes ascribed to Lady Penrhyn, but, as has been shown, it was already in existence in 1914. It is possible that impeded drainage was beginning to cause problems in the low-lying areas, and her contribution may well have been the simplification of the layout, with clumps of *Gunnera* in grass on either side of the stream, as seen until fairly recently, while leaving the drier slopes as they were.

Interest in planting continued: the Rhododendron Walk



[Fig 6] Shrub Areas, *Country Life* May 23, 1903 p.676



[Fig 7] Top Terrace c late 1930s, present location of the original photograph unknown, possibly but not certainly at Penrhyn Castle.

near the Walled Garden was laid out in the 1930s and the *Metasequoia* in the garden probably dates from its first introduction in 1947.

Hugh Napier died in 1947 and the property passed to his niece, Lady Janet Douglas Pennant, and subsequently, in 1951, to the National Trust.

Since then some changes, mostly regrettable from an historic point of view, have been made. The central flowerbeds, still extant in 1947, have been replaced by lawn, so that the designation of the Walled Garden as the Flower Garden is less appropriate. Roses have replaced the flower borders along the edge of the terrace, and the Fuchsia Walk has been re-located along the bottom of the garden. The Bog Garden could best be described as a disaster area. The central stream was culverted in 1981 for ease of maintenance; unfortunately by c.2000 the drainage had become so impeded that mowing was no longer possible, and there was a severe infestation of

reedmace. A recent attempt to turn the area into a quasi-Oriental water garden has no historic justification.

Nonetheless, exceptionally valuable historic areas remain, and it is fortunate that sufficient documentation is available to illuminate the development of these. The Gardenesque shrub areas, a style of which few examples survive, are probably the most important, and have not been altered, although much of the original planting has been lost. The 1920s Top Terrace, although less floriferous than it was, still merits attention. It would be pleasant to see the 1930s planting restored.

This article has not covered the landscape around the Castle itself, which represents the design and planting of the early to mid 19th century and the property would be worth visiting for this alone.



Top: Plas Tirion knot garden Left: plaster detail from a fireplace over mantle. Right: knot detail. Images © Sophie Scharer

WHGT Small Grants Scheme

This scheme continues to help with small scale projects which enhance historic parks and gardens in Wales. Two projects have been successfully completed in 2017.

Plas Tirion Knot Garden

Plas Tirion is a Grade II* sixteenth century manor house, near Llanrwst, in the Conway valley. The new knot garden was designed to complement the age and status of the house. The knot design is based on a pattern of the plasterwork from one of the over-mantel friezes in the house. After consultation with Jo Davidson and Rosa Andrew (both in the Gwynedd branch) and after visiting the lovely garden at Gwyndy Bach on Anglesey, where Rosa and Keith Andrew have successfully managed box, the knot garden was planted in March on the top terrace in front of the house.

The garden is now looking fantastic! We were a bit worried about the box early in the year when it was so dry. With lots of TLC (a team effort!) they have all pulled through and are thriving. It's been a great success.

The plants I used inside the knot all grew well. In the end I chose only native plants or those that would have been available when the house was built. One or two are not quite right - the red clover grew to be enormous without the competition from grass so that will be taken out and replaced. The ordinary lawn daisy was pretty for the first few months and then looked a bit tatty so that will also go. The sweet violets, wild strawberry, wild thyme and marjoram all worked well as did the pink thrift and the flax (the most successful of all, it has flowered continuously for four months and is the most beautiful blue colour). Getting the knots established spurred me on to add to the top garden, so later in the spring I added a lavender hedge either side of the central path, alongside the knots, and I started to develop the two oak sided compartments either side of the front door as mini physic gardens. The one on the right with plants for household use and the one on the left with those for medicinal use.

Thank you for all your support with this project!

Sophie Scharer

St Non's Well, St Michael's Church, Eglwysfach, Ceredigion

St Non's Well at St Michael's churchyard in Eglwysfach was completed with support from the Small Grants Scheme this year. St Michael's church is late Georgian and was rebuilt in 1833, but the site itself and the well are far older. King Edwin of Northumbria is said to have founded a chapel called Capel Edwin which may have been used as a burial ground in the churchyard c 620 AD in thanks for a battle victory at Llandre. An earthwork in the churchyard is thought to be the remains of a chapel of rest of 1623. St Non was the mother of our patron saint, St David. The St Non's Well lies adjacent to the Garden of Remembrance within the graveyard. It is now restored and was blessed by the Bishop of St David's during the R. S. Thomas Literary Festival on 16 September 2017. (The poet R. S. Thomas was the vicar at St Michael's between 1954-1967).

For some time Parishioners of St Michael's had wanted to restore St Non's Well. Joy Neal, a former WHGT trustee, was pleased to find a record of the well, written by Hugh Rees of Eglwysfach, amongst her grandmother's papers. Hugh Rees was the nephew of the famous Sir John Rhys, foremost of scholars of his time, who sat on several commissions on Welsh education in the late 19th century.

Hugh described the healing properties of the well and remembered, as a boy, seeing *hundreds of people visiting the well from far and near to wash in her water, and they had great benefit from the water, especially those suffering from rheumatism.* He also recorded; *There is no mistake that there is in the old well some mineral water. The strata of the rock runs from Glandyfi via Dolen, the school and the church, to the river Einion at Furnace which we can easily believe carries the mineral water in the strata.*

A further document of 1933 of over 50 pages written in Welsh, in rhyming verse, records Hugh's memories of the parish and also references the well:

*Wrth waclod yr hen fynwent,
'Roedd ffynnon o fri mawr
Un rhyfedd am ei rhinwedd,
I'w gweld mae yno'n awr.*

*Fe elai y plwyfolion,
I'r ffynnon lu'r pryd hyn,
Gan gredu yn ei rhinwedd,
Fel cynt 'Bethesda' lyn,*



Blessing of St Non's Well © Delyth Griffiths - warden

*'Rwy'n ddigon hen i gofio,
Er saled yw fy ngho,
Yn dod oedd rhai o bellder
I'r ffynnon ar eu tro.....*

The blessing by the Bishop of St David's was carried out by dipping the cross into the waters.

It is said that someone has already been cured!

St. Non's well was restored with the aid of a legacy from Celia Groves, a grant from the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust and the generosity of the Jones family of Dolen Farm, Eglwysfach, which is recorded on an information board nearby.

Joy Neal



Head Gardener Neil Rowlands and Anthony Tavernor at Plas Newydd with the new fern planting © Glynis Shaw. Right: Gardener Chris Pilkington at Plas Cadnant lifting plants destined for Plas Newydd © Plas Cadnant Estate

Plas Newydd, Llangollen

Another recipient of the WHGT 2016 Small Grants Scheme is Plas Newydd, the home of Sarah Ponsonby and Eleanor Charlotte Butler, the Ladies of Llangollen. The two aristocratic Irish ladies eloped together to Wales in 1778 and lived happily ever after in a cottage orné. The Grade II* grounds were developed in the Picturesque style as acres were gradually added. Originally visitors entered the grounds through a ruined Gothic archway, and descended into the Dell. The Cyflymen stream in its miniature ravine was crossed by rustic bridges; Lady Eleanor's Bower overhangs the Dell, and below this a Gothic arch dated 1782, dressed in tufa stone, encloses a medieval octagonal font stolen from the Valle Crucis Abbey ruins. The Ladies tacked poetic quotations on boards to the tree trunks along the walks in the sylvan scene of the Dell.

Around the house the Ladies developed a shrubbery with what they referred to as the *Home Circuit*, a circular walk. This area has become neglected and overgrown. Its rejuvenation with choice planting will be funded by the WHGT grant. The new shrubs will be planted this autumn and their selection is based on descriptions of the original planting found in the Ladies' diaries and their extensive correspondence.

Head Gardener Neil Rowlands has already erected fencing around the house to protect the shrubbery and the house when the property is closed. The rest of the site remains open to the public at all times, including the Dell, which also needs attention.

Our Picturesque Landscape, a Landscape partnership project in the Dee Valley, North East Wales, commis-



sioned landscape architect Bronwen Thomas to enhance the Dell. The scheme will soften the hard landscaping along the Cyflymen stream, which was restored in 2004 after extensive flood damage.

Thanks to the generosity of Anthony Tavernor, and the efforts of his Gardener Chris Pilkington, Neil has recently received several trailer loads of ferns and other plants from Plas Cadnant. These will make a huge difference in the effort to improve the Dell landscape.

Plas Newydd has drawn tourists to its landscape since the 18th century. The renewed planting will enhance the site for visitors as well as the local community who also enjoy these gardens.

Glynis Shaw

Celebrating Humphry Repton 2018



A LIFE IN LANDSCAPES
from
PAGE TO GARDEN

Next year Garden Trusts across the UK will celebrate the work of Humphry Repton, the last great landscape designer of the eighteenth century. March 2018 is the bicentenary of his death.

Born in 1752 in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, and sent to the Netherlands at the age

of 12 to learn Dutch, he returned as an apprentice to a textile merchant in Norwich. Repton failed to become a merchant and after failing at journalism, as a playwright, artist, and political agent amongst other occupations, he eventually set himself up as a *landscape gardener*, a term he coined himself. Repton saw gardening as an art form with the landscape as his canvas. Widely considered the successor to Capability Brown, Repton designed over 400 landscapes and gardens, and wrote extensively on his theory and practice.

Repton is especially remembered for his *Red Books* (bound in red Moroccan leather), in which he set out and explained his proposals for his clients. The *Red Books* were illustrated with watercolour views, plans and drawings. On some illustrations he used a flap (which he called a slide) and he produced *before* and *after* images to illustrate his suggested improvements.

Wales has three extremely fine Repton sites, each connected to a Red book: Plas Newydd, Anglesey 1795, now a NT property, commissioned by Lord Uxbridge (the Red Book is in the National Library of Wales, but sadly the pictures are missing; Rhug, near Corwen, Denbighshire, 1795, home of Lord Newborough, commissioned by Vaughan of Hengwrt and Nannau; and Stanage Park, 1805, an estate near Knighton, Powys, home of Jonathan Coltman-Rogers, commissioned by Charles Rogers who acquired the estate from a cousin in the 1770s. The *Red Books* at Rhug and Stanage remain in the private ownership of the estates.

Between 1790 and 1809 a small yearly almanac-cum-diary, *Peacock's Polite Repository, or Pocket Companion*,

was illustrated with engraved frontispieces and twelve monthly views based on miniature (6 x 3 cm) watercolours by Repton. A few of the original sketches can be seen in *Humphry Repton* by D. Stroud published by *Country Life*, 1962. The *Peacock's Repository* in the V&A includes engravings from a number of sites in Wales. These include Bodlondeb, the seat of Mrs. Holland Roberts (1800). This is now the site of the Conwy council offices. Some eighteenth century landscaping is thought to still survive in the Bodlondeb Woods and the site is now being researched. (There was an earlier house on the Bodlondeb site by the architect John Nash, who worked with Repton until 1800 when the partnership ended acrimoniously). Peacock also illustrated Knoll, Glamorganshire, seat of J. Hanbury Leigh Esquire (1799), and Llangatrick House, Monmouthshire, which seems to be confused with Llanwysg House in Llangatock near Crickhowell in Breconshire. Llanwysg was designed by Nash for Vice Admiral Gell (1799) and may have been landscaped by George Stanley Repton (Humphry's youngest son and pupil of Nash).

Some have suggested that Repton may have been connected with the Grade II Rheola, in Neath, designed by John Nash for his cousin John Edwards in 1812 -14, with a picturesque setting. Developments at Rheola were contemporary with those proposed for Nanteos (near Aberystwyth) and George Stanley Repton made a contribution to both designs. In September 1814 a payment of *Mr. Repton's expenses at Rheola* is recorded in the Nanteos accounts. Whether Humphry Repton was involved is not certain. Edwards later commissioned a huge map and panorama from Thomas Hornor, c 1820, depicting Rheola in its landscape setting, which perhaps would not have been necessary had he had a *Red Book*.

If anyone discovers further information on Repton in Wales please do share it. The Gardens Trust aims to put as much material as possible in the public domain so that Repton can be better known and appreciated by a wider audience.

For more information email repton@thegardenstrust.org.

Glynis Shaw

Repton plans from the Rhug Red book showing the 'Before' 1794 and the plan for 'After' Rhug 1795 © Rhug Estate.





John Summers sunken garden. The tall chimneys were demolished after 1938 with the installation of the new American plant.

John Summers Garden Shotton

The 1958 detailed site and planting plans for the Grade II John Summers Garden at Shotton steelworks, by the pioneering landscape architect Brenda Colvin, are in the Landscape Institute archive and library at The Museum of English Rural Life (MERL), University of Reading. (*Brenda Colvin Collection Ref: AR COL No. 420*)

The JS&S Shotton steelworks were developed by the sons of John Summers from 1896, on 10,000 acres of marshland on the north bank of the River Dee, when their site at Stalybridge became too small for further expansion.

Colvin's designs complemented the John Summers & Sons Head Office, built in 1907 by the Liverpool architect James France, a friend of Henry Summers. The listed building in polished red brick and terracotta resembles the Midland Hotel in Manchester.

Colvin's commission came through Sylvia Crowe with whom she shared an office at this time, following a period of massive expansion of the steelworks during the 1950s. Colvin integrated the associated buildings on the site, including the Director's Garage on the west side of the garden and an earlier Laboratory building enclosing the forecourt on the east side of the site. (Developers now wish to demolish both of these buildings.)

Colvin landscaped the entire Headquarters site, including the forecourt and a parking area. In the garden, Colvin completed the putting green with land reclama-

tion, much improving the symmetry of the site. All the pre-existing features were encompassed in her plans, including a sunken garden, and the recreational facilities. The planting plan included numerous trees and shrubs for the site, beds of heather, and new borders enclosed with box hedging in a key design on both sides of the two new buildings, linked with a concrete arch over the garden entrance, which were added in the 50s to provide dining rooms and offices. Colvin transformed a bleak and featureless polder site into an oasis of tranquility and an attractive space for recreation.

It is not known who designed the original layout of the site. A central lawn on the main axis with paths either side leads to the sunken garden. At its centre a York stone pedestal supported a plaque, now lost, which recorded the presentation of the garden and recreation facilities by Henry Summers to the Headquarters Office staff, on the occasion of his seventieth birthday in 1935. This must have been a gesture of renewed optimism as on April 24 1931, on what became known as Black Friday, the steelworks had closed with 4,000 staff sacked.

A putting green and bowling green were laid out on either side of the central axis. A flight of steps from the sunken garden led up to a wide terrace with a swimming pool behind the wall pierced with portholes (see above), a clubhouse pavilion above the bowling green and the tennis courts. Originally there were also glasshouses and a gardener's cottage to the North of the site.



Left: Original entrance to John Summers Garden. Right: Sunken garden 2012 © Glynis Shaw

The garden has been ascribed to Sylvia Crowe, but this is unsubstantiated. Crowe, working for William Cutbush & Son Nursery, laid out the water garden and contoured the landscape at Lower Soughton, Flintshire in 1937-8, then the residence of Alexander Reith Gray, a director and works manager at JS&S Shotton. No evidence has been found to connect Crowe to the Shotton site prior to this. The original entrance to the John Summers garden is reminiscent of the pergola designed by Percy Cane at Llannerch Park, near St Asaph, in 1928, but there is no evidence that Cane worked at Shotton either.

In 1937 further land was reclaimed as the steelworks expanded to meet the war effort. A new American Steel Mill was imported in 1937-39. After the war, expansion continued and at its peak, in 1967, 13,000 people were employed on what became a 470 hectare site.

Colvin's landscaping was revised on two occasions and

further work by Colvin & Moggridge in 1970-71 is recorded in Colvin's notebook: *job 570, extension for 420*.

The site is a rare survival in North East Wales of an industrial landscaping, providing recreational social benefit to employees, as pioneered by Lever at Port Sunlight.

This garden is now under pressure of redevelopment as part of the 200-hectare Deeside Enterprise Zone. As the listed Head Office has been long derelict, its designed landscape has been abandoned and neglected. Many parts of it were virtually impenetrable when we visited the site in July this year.

Glynis Shaw

Many thanks to Glyn Jones, who worked for many years at the Head Office building and enjoyed the garden and recreational facilities. Glyn's assistance and information has been invaluable in helping to understand this site.

Historic Bridge replaced at Hafod

Pont Newydd, or Pont Ddu, crosses a ravine on Nant Peiran. The Hafod Trust has reinstated the bridge with support from a £17,500 grant from Cadw and match funding of £17,500 from Cefn Croes Wind Farm Community Trust.

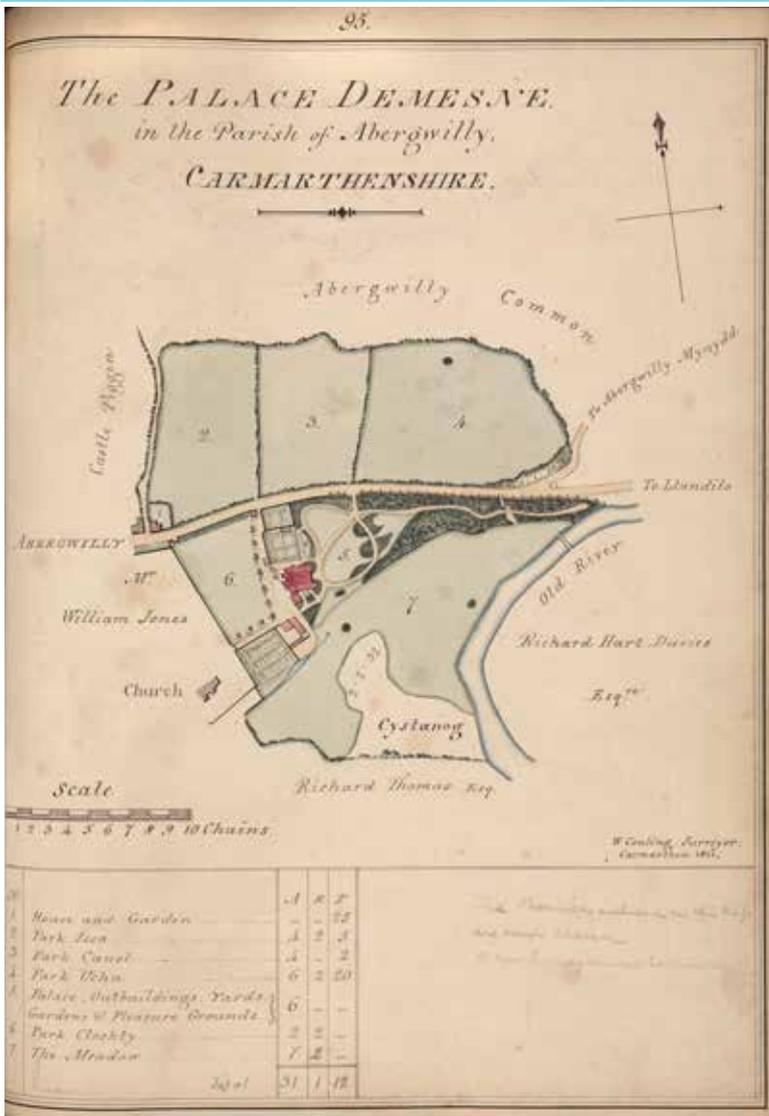
The original stone bridge and the carriage drive that crossed it were built by Thomas Johnes in 1813-14, as his last major project at Hafod. In about 1840 the next owner of Hafod, the 4th Duke of Newcastle, rebuilt the bridge as a timber span, and it was retained in this form until well into the 20th century.

By the 1980s it had collapsed. The stone abutments remained and have been extensively stabilised to support a new timber footbridge wide enough



New Hafod bridge

to enable wheelchair access. As David Newnham, project manager at the Hafod Trust, said: "The bridge will allow visitors to follow in the footsteps of Georgian tourists and enjoy the walk's wooded valleys, rushing streams and waterfalls for generations to come".



Left: the Palace Demesne in the St Davids (sic) Map Book 1811 (NLW).

Above: Conservation architect's drawing of the Tywi Gateway Centre, with the Museum adjoining.

project with the Museum, the former Palace of the Bishops of St. David's, was devised.

Education programmes would focus on the historic, social and natural development of the Palace, including the development and practice of formal and informal gardening there, as well the natural history and management of the flood-plain.

The project encompasses its Tywi catchment area with its other notable parks and gardens. This was an innovative approach, little used elsewhere.

In June 2017 HLF awarded a delivery grant of £1,274,000 to realise this vision.

Evidently this is only just over half the total cost and the Tywi Gateway Trust had to raise the rest, helped by a substantial grant from the County

Council. Volunteer time also made a valuable contribution towards the total.

It's worth saying that although the WHGT Branch met a few incidental costs from its own funds, and whilst the HLF grant enabled us to employ a development officer for a year, this project would never have got beyond the concept stage without volunteers.

What next? Provided the legalities are completed satisfactorily HLF is expected to give permission to start work in January, including the recruitment of staff.

Does that mean that we can sit back, job well done? Not a bit of it; more than ever the success of the project will still depend vitally on volunteers at every level.

Although the WHGT doesn't appear on the writing paper any more it can be well pleased that, backed by the now-indispensable support of the National Lottery, it has initiated another rescue and conservation project: and most fittingly in the Tywi valley, where it all started.

Michael Norman

The Gateway's Preparing To Open

In January 2014 Carmarthenshire County Council envisioned *A Park and County Museum for All*, which, on its completion, the parkland and museum will be a centre for learning, leisure and health for the local community, as well as an exciting tourist destination.

Today the Tywi Gateway Trust, a community-led and independent charity, is charged with realising that optimistic vision with an initial budget of £2,345,000.

The story began in 2005 with an environmental and historic landscape analysis by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust and their proposals to develop the former Bishop's Park for greater public use and enjoyment. There matters rested until the Carmarthenshire Branch of WHGT (based fortuitously at the archaeological trust) decided to take a hand.

Originally we intended just to take over the walled kitchen garden from the Church in Wales, but the Council's visionary statement prompted us to include the whole of the Cadw registered park and garden, largely owned by the County Council, with the Museum at its heart.

Development funding awarded from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) *Parks for People* programme followed, and it was during this phase that the concept of connecting the



Fonmon Fuchsias

The medieval origins of Fonmon Castle are still visible in its external battlemented walls and defensive towers, but over the centuries, notably in the 18th century, the castle was transformed into an elegant domestic residence. Since its purchase by the parliamentarian Colonel Philip Jones in 1656, Fonmon has been successively and uninterruptedly occupied by generations of the Jones and Boothby families, each generation contributing to the improvement of the castle and its surrounding gardens. The two families of Jones and Boothby were united in 1906 by the marriage of Clara Valpy a direct descendant of Colonel Philip Jones and heiress to the Fonmon estate, and Sir Seymour Boothby of Ashbourne in Derbyshire. After Sir Seymour and his wife took up residence at Fonmon Castle the gardens became the focus for Lady Boothby's horticultural interests and one feature of the gardens today is a living memorial to her and to one of her particular interests.

Throughout the Victorian era and the early twentieth century fuchsias enjoyed great popularity and they were already a favourite of Lady Boothby before she arrived at Fonmon in the Vale of Glamorgan.

During the First World War, commercial fuchsia growing all but ceased. In the words of one nurseryman *the stock plants of fuchsias (grown under glass) were thrown out onto rubbish heaps and tomatoes planted in their place.* Fortunately, many of the old hardy cultivars survived, to be identified and propagated in the decades after the war by a group of enthusiasts, led by Lady Boothby for whom fuchsias *were the most fascinating flowers.*

In 1938 Queen Mary visited the Boothby family at Fonmon. A story handed down the family relates how the Queen, both a friend of Lady Boothby's and also a lover of fuchsias, had seen a newspaper notice advertising a FUCHSIA Society, and was determined to attend its meeting. When informed that the letters represented a branch of the *Women's Conservative Association* (F for friendship, U for usefulness, C for cheerfulness, H for helpfulness, S for sympathy, I for instruction and A for amusement), a political organisation with which royalty could not be associated, Queen Mary then announced that a horticultural Fuchsia Society should be formed with Clara Lady Boothby as its president.

The Society was founded in 1938 at Lady Boothby's London flat, with *Secretary W.W. Whiteman, our London Representative Ralph Newman, and Mr H.A. Brown who has specialised in Fuchsias for many years and has now so generously placed his first hand knowledge at our disposal, ...and Lady Boothby became its President.*

In her first President's address, published in the first Annual Report, Lady Boothby spoke of her long-standing interest in fuchsias, having grown them in her gardens in Devon and in the Mendip Hills before moving to South Wales. Most of her hardy fuchsias were left outdoors in



Fuchsia 'Lady Boothby' at Fonmon. Image © Visit Britain

winter, covered with a layer of ashes, and survived year after year. The rarer species and less hardy varieties were grown under glass. Lady Boothby had a keen and informed knowledge of fuchsias: *We cannot all hope to see rampant species climbing to a height of 20 feet as in Brazil, or wander in the dark forests by the Chincha in Peru and gather long tubed scarlet clusters of Corymbiflora, nor would we wish to risk our lives to see F. Splendens growing on Tonicapan mountain 10,000 feet above sea level!! We cannot all grow Fuchsias as in sheltered parts of South Devon and Cornwall without fear of our big bushes being cut to the ground in wintertime, nor can we hope to have species and varieties in full flower by the middle of May as at Tresco Abbey in the Isles of Scilly, but we can all choose many beautiful and hardy varieties to grow in the open, and if we are lucky enough to possess a greenhouse, there are enchanting varieties to grow as standards, pyramids and bushes, amongst 1000 already known.*

Lady Boothby and her colleagues sought out old varieties that were no longer grown commercially, in order to save them from extinction. They were helped by friends and owners of many country houses and their head gardeners. When later, Lady Boothby remarked, half in jest, that F.U.C.H.S.I.A. might be an appropriate motto for the Fuchsia Society, she referred to the collaborative work that had sustained the Society.

Although the outbreak of war in 1939 severely restricted their resources and activities, the Society survived. In 1946 the newly entitled British Fuchsia Society resumed its pre-war activities under a new president.

In 1939 a new fuchsia was bred from an original Brazilian species. The vigorous and hardy climber with two-toned bright red and dark purple flowers was named 'Lady Boothby', a fitting tribute to one who had done so much to secure the future and popularity of fuchsias in this country. Clara Lady Boothby's love of fuchsias and her support of the Fuchsia Society continued until her death at the age of ninety-two in 1969.

Fonmon still retains a border largely given over to hardy fuchsias which was restored in 2015-16.

Hilary M. Thomas



Andrew Pettigrew (standing) with his three sons. Left, William Wallace, foreground, Hugh Allan, right, Andrew Alexander. Photo 1900 courtesy of Tim Pettigrew

The Pettigrews: The family who landscaped Cardiff

Today the name Pettigrew is synonymous with a small successful tearoom in Bute Park. However, the importance of the name Pettigrew and the huge contribution this one family made to the city's landscape deserves to be more widely known.

Cardiff Council's Parks Service has a set of six green-bound typescript volumes known as *The Pettigrew's*. This is one of several sets of identical documents, another of which can be found in the Cardiff Collection in the Cathays Library, containing an account of the founding of the city's parks by its former Chief Parks Officer, A. A. Pettigrew.

Recent research has uncovered the fascinating story of the family that underpinned Cardiff's public park heritage.

The Pettigrew's were meticulously researched and they are now the main authority on the early history and development of Cardiff's parks and open spaces and an invaluable primary resource to inform their conservation and restoration.

Andrew Pettigrew was born in Ayr in 1833, the son of a shoemaker William Petticrew (name as recorded in the christening records of St Quivox Church, Ayr).

Andrew had more than ten siblings; at least two died in infancy and two in their teens or early twenties. Of the surviving siblings, four became shoemakers, one a dressmaker, one a carpet weaver and one entered domestic service. Andrew, however, became a gardener, entering employment at Craigie House, Ayr in 1845.

Over the next few years, Andrew's gardening career advanced through a series of moves around properties in Ayr, followed by nine months at Sheffield Botanic Gardens in 1854. Returning to Scotland, he worked at Minard Castle in Argyll and moved to Drumlanrig Castle in 1856. Before long, Andrew returned to England, to Daylesford House in Gloucestershire and to Rollinson's nursery, Tooting in 1860, where he learned about hardy fruit cultivation and graft hybridization.

In 1862, at the age of 29, Andrew became Head Gardener at Richings Park in Buckinghamshire. By this time Andrew was married to Agnes, and their first child, Mary, was born in Buckinghamshire.

Shortly after the birth of his second child Lizzie, in 1866, Andrew returned to Scotland as Head Gardener at Dumfries House to work for the Marquess of Bute. He remained Head

Gardener to the Bute estates for 36 years. Andrew and Agnes settled into life on the estate, where their sons William Wallace (1867) and Hugh Allan (1871) were born. In 1873 the remodelling of Cardiff Castle by the third Marquess of Bute was underway, under the direction of William Burges, the renowned Victorian art-architect.

The estate at that time was a deer park, enclosed following the acquisition of land over the previous decades. The layout of the grounds had become a pressing issue and Andrew Pettigrew was brought down from Dumfries House in November 1873 to serve as Head Gardener at Cardiff Castle.

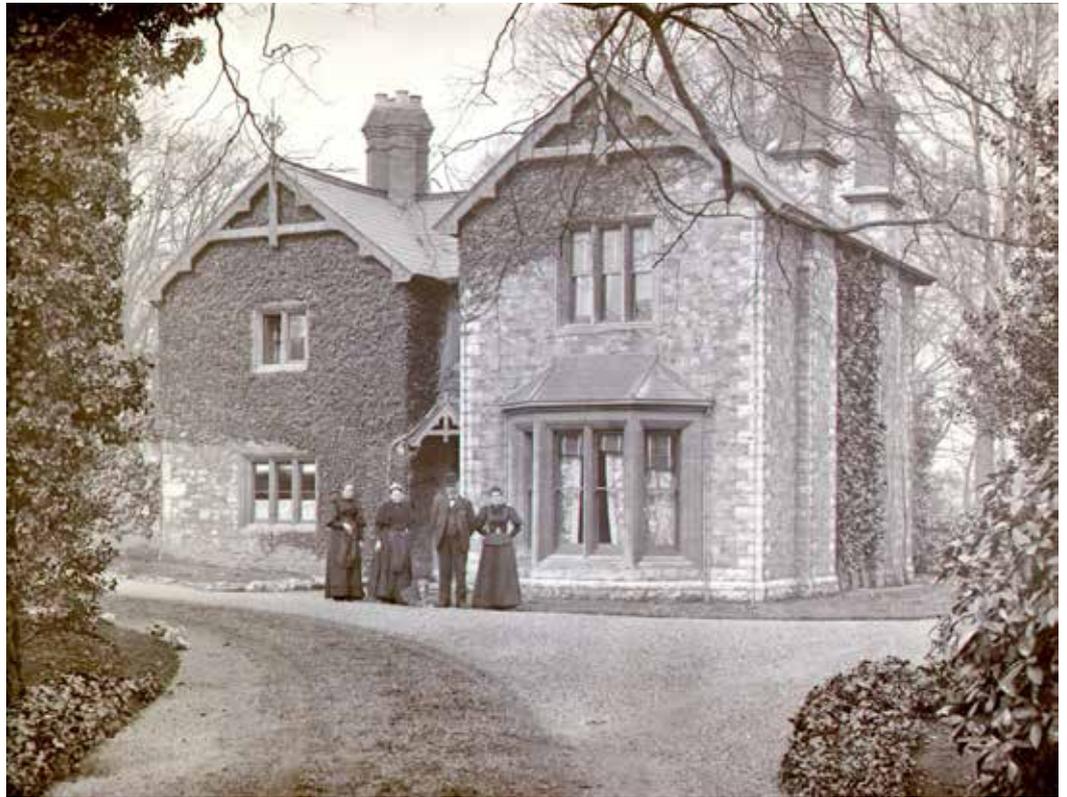
Andrew transformed the Cardiff Castle estate into one of the most fashionable gardens of its day. Gardening writers flocked to be taken around the pleasure gardens, extolling the virtues of their layout. Pettigrew's abilities as a grower, cultivator and plant breeder enabled the glasshouses, orchards and vegetable gardens to produce food for the Butes, transported by rail to wherever they were in residence. Early in his employment, Andrew had been sent to France to gain skills in viticulture and returned to establish vineyards on the estate, which eventually produced the first commercial British-grown wines in the modern age.

Andrew Alexander (1875) and Agnes (1877) were both born in Cardiff where the family lived in Cathays

Park Lodge, a substantial detached property in Cathays Park.

Andrew remained in Cardiff until his death in 1903, having risen to the highest levels of respect in horticultural circles in the UK. At the time of his death he was one of the oldest Fellows of the Royal Horticultural Society.

William Wallace Pettigrew (Willie) born in Dumfries House was Andrew's eldest son. He began work with his father at Cardiff Castle before training at Kew. Like his father, Willie's employment began on private Scottish estates: Dunkeld House in 1889 and Culzean Castle in 1890.



Cathays Park Lodge: photo courtesy of Tim Pettigrew

In 1891, at the age of 24, Willie was appointed as Head Gardener for Cardiff Corporation, reporting to Borough Engineer, William Harpur. Willie was initially engaged in laying out Roath Park, constructed under Harpur's supervision. The land for the park had been donated in part by the Marquess of Bute and several other landowners following a campaign of more than a decade to find land for a park for the people of Roath. In June 1894, the park was opened to great public celebration, with the Western Mail reporting:

During the time Roath Park was under construction, many local wiseacres prophesied that the new pleasure grounds would never become anything more than a private enclosure, owing to the distance from the centre of the town. For once in a way the gloomy forebodings of the prophets have not been fulfilled. The Roath Park has fairly jumped into popular favour and on the Thursday the recreation field was the choice of many hundreds of people who strolled to and fro enjoying the fresh air and sunshine and admiring the picturesque view of the surrounding countryside. (Western Mail, 23 June 1894).

Other successful parks followed, including Grange Gardens (1895) and Victoria Park (1897). Possibly Willie's most difficult commission was the development of Cathays Park, where his family home had stood for many years. The land was bought from the Marquess of Bute in 1897 and the subsequent layout of the Civic Centre was dictated by the requirement to retain the avenues of lime and elm trees planted by Willie's father on the instruction of the Marquess of Bute. (*The Public Parks and Recreation Grounds of Cardiff' unpublished manuscript by A. A. Pettigrew, Volume 2, page 72, footnote 428 (electronic version.)*) Cathays Library Local

Studies collection.)

Willie married Ruth McConochie in 1894 and from 1897 the couple lived in Roath Park House, a purpose-built property for the Parks Superintendent.

In 1915, Willie moved to Manchester, where he remained Chief Parks Officer for Manchester Corporation until his retirement in 1932. Willie and Ruth then moved to the South coast, where he continued to lecture and write on parks. In 1937 his *Municipal Parks: Layout, Management and Administration* was published. This was the first definitive textbook on public parks administration. Willie died in 1947, shortly after Ruth.

Hugh Allan Pettigrew was also born at Dumfries House. Like his brother Willie, he began work at Cardiff Castle before training at Kew. Hugh subsequently entered the employment of the Rothschild Estate in Geneva where his wild lifestyle became the subject of many letters between his older and younger brothers. In 1897, Hugh returned to the UK to become Head Gardener at Hewell Grange, the family seat of Robert Windsor-Clive, who in 1905 became Earl of Plymouth. In 1900, Hugh was transferred to St Fagans Castle to work with Lord and Lady Plymouth on the reconstruction of the gardens there. Lady Plymouth was a keen gardener and together they created a new terraced garden and laid out the Rosary, Thyme and Italian Gardens at St Fagans. Hugh retired in 1935, having been in poor health due in part to alcoholism, and he had fallen out with Lord Plymouth. He and his wife Alice moved to France, returning to London when war broke out. After the war they resettled in Nice, where Hugh was tragically knocked down and killed by a police car in 1947.

Andrew Alexander Pettigrew was the youngest son of Andrew and Agnes, born in Cathays Park Lodge in 1875. After working in Cardiff Castle, a severe bout of illness resulted in his being sent on a 'round the world' trip on the *SS Rubens* in 1894. Returning to the UK he attended Kew in 1898 but his training was cut short in 1900 when his father secured him the Head Gardener's post at Hewell Grange vacated by his brother Hugh. Andrew's writings record with great affection his time working at Hewell. However in 1915 he moved to take up the post of Chief Parks Superintendent for Cardiff Corporation, vacated by his older brother, Willie. During the war, Andrew oversaw the struggling Parks Service. The reconstruction of the Service became his challenge in the post-war period, including the construction of the city's post-war parks such as Hailey Park, Sevenoaks Park, Maindy Pool and Cyncoed Gardens. However, Andrew's most important legacy was his writing. His account of the history of Cardiff's public parks (the six volumes mentioned at the start of this

account) was written in his spare time but remained unfinished. He died from cancer, still in post, in 1936. Such was the profound affection of the family for the city that, following Andrew's death, Willie returned to Cardiff for a short period, unpaid, to take up the helm of the Parks Service until a new Chief Officer could be appointed.

Andrew senior, his wife Agnes and their daughters Lizzie and Agnes Pettigrew were buried in Cathays Cemetery and Andrew Alexander's ashes were scattered there. The family's contribution to the development of Cardiff's parks is unmatched and their legacy lives on in the many green spaces that people still enjoy today.

Rosie James

The assistance of Tim Pettigrew, grandson of Hugh, is gratefully acknowledged in providing access to family archives and memorabilia to inform this account of his family's story.

Congratulations!

The Nelson Garden Preservation Trust

Helena Gerrish hosted a celebration at High Glanau Manor on June 3 on securing the necessary match funding for the HLF grant of £84,600 to restore and improve facilities at the Nelson Garden, Monmouth. We are delighted to learn that repair work started on the Hot Wall and the Pavilion on November 13. The repairs are being carried out by Hill Valley Restoration under the supervision of Caroe & Partners Architects.

Parc Cefn Onn, a Grade II listed historic country park in north Cardiff has been awarded a £459,000 grant by the Heritage Lottery Fund to upgrade and improve access and facilities for a wider audience.

The funding for Parc Cefn Onn comes as part of an announcement of £30.7 million for 16 parks across the UK.

Mariamne's Urn



Mariamne's Robin Redbreast Urn © Stephen Briggs

I refer to Bulletin WHGT 73's note on Mariamne's Robin Redbreast Urn from Hafod (p.15). It may be of interest to learn that from its acquisition (probably in the 1950s) until 1977, it overlooked the library's access road in a meticulously kept alpine rockery garden. As it was being lashed by Atlantic gales with its surface pitted by acid rain, it was visibly deteriorating, so I wrote conveying my concerns for its future welfare to the then National Librarian, David Jenkins, CBE and was amazed when the urn was taken inside for protection almost immediately.

Stephen Briggs

Parks & Gardens UK

Parks & Gardens UK is the leading on-line resource for historic parks and gardens. It provides freely accessible, and accurate information on UK parks, gardens and designed landscapes and all activities concerned with their promotion, conservation and management.

In September 2016 Parks & Gardens UK (P&GUK) and Hestercombe Gardens Trust received £97,900 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to secure the future of the P&GUK database and the website of historic designed landscapes. P&GUK has now been relocated to its new home with the Hestercombe Gardens Trust.

To find out more or if members wish to contribute information, please contact <http://www.parksandgardens.org/>

The Most Glorious Prospect: Garden Visiting in Wales 1639-1900, Bettina Harden

Graffeg:19/10/2017 ISBN 9781910862629 (1910862622) £30.00

Bettina Harden's handsome book features 16 great gardens arranged in three groups illustrative of three phases of garden design: the 17th century, the 18th century and the Picturesque, with the history of the gardens followed through to the end of the 19th century. Although some are now barely recognisable, all were celebrated in their day in the accounts of travellers through Wales, in paintings and amateur sketches, in 19th century publications such as the Gardeners' Chronicle and the Journal of Horticulture, and in the writings of the great garden pundits of their time: Brown, Repton, Loudon, Mason and their ilk... These were the gardens of extremely wealthy men, and Bettina has diligently mined the historical sources for the maps, pictures and contemporary travellers' accounts which plunge us back into their glorious past. It is thus a book of many voices, skillfully knitted together with a commentary and biographical details.

Descriptive journals were often long winded, but Bettina has selected apposite descriptions, giving a human insight into the past. No-one could fail to enjoy the Rev Plumtre's comments on the outrageous expectation of a 5 shilling tip by the housekeeper at Hafod (he never tipped more than 2/6d), or the dry remarks of Richard Owen Cambridge: *I remember the good time when the price of a haunch of venison with a country friend was only half an hour's walk upon a hot terrace; a descent to the two square fish ponds overgrown with frog spawn: a peep into the hog sty or a visit to the pigeon house.*

Rooted in History: Celebrating Carmarthenshire's Parks and Gardens, Penny David

Fern Press, 2017. £17.50, ISBN 978-1-5272-1004-2

It is difficult to separate the history and development of historic parks and gardens from the fabric of social history. Penny David, with the help of a dedicated group of volunteers, has managed to capture this amalgam in *Rooted in History*. The book demonstrates that Carmarthenshire possessed its fair share of outstanding designed landscapes. It also reveals the captivating stories of the people, personalities and circumstances that led to the creation of the gardens featured.

This book contains the usual suspects to be found in Cadw's Register such as Middleton Hall, Golden Grove, Bishop's Palace, as well as Aberglasney, one of the best known of the county's garden, which has been extensively documented in the past, notably by Penny David herself.

However it is the less well known, threatened or lost gardens and landscapes that I found of most interest. An interesting inclusion is Mr. Davies' lost *Garden of Eden*; this eccentric mid twentieth century cottage garden featured topiarised Biblical set pieces now only memorialized in a range of post cards.

I enjoyed the book's format which set the scene with an overview of Carmarthenshire and its landscape history,

How reasonable was this when compared with the attention now expected from you to the number of temples, pagodas, pyramids, grottoes, bridges, hermitages, caves, towers, hot houses &c., &c.

Then, as now, proud owners of vast gardens risked becoming garden bores.

Over 200 period paintings, engravings and drawings illustrate the text, some familiar, others almost unknown, and it is a joy to have so many defining images assembled in one book for one's delectation. Choice modern photographs also have a place, illustrating features first described a century or two ago.

The featured gardens are Chirk Castle, Margam Abbey, Powis Castle, Llannerch Park, Dynefwr Park, Picton Castle, Wynnstay, Plas Newydd, Baron Hill, Penrhyn Castle, Stackpole Court, Piercefield, Hafod, Plas Tanybwlch, Plas Newydd Llangollen, and Bodnant.

The introductory chapters describe the traveller experience over the centuries, of their Welsh hosts, accommodation, transport, maps and guide books. A helpful gazetteer at the end provides a statement of the fortunes of each of these gardens in the last hundred years. Don't bother to visit Llannerch or Baron Hill, but others have enjoyed a renaissance.

Caroline Palmer

Please see the flier for a member's discount .

followed by short but detailed accounts in the form of 'portraits' and then the little vignettes or 'snapshots' in the last chapter. Perhaps an additional location map of these 'snapshot' sites might have been useful for people unfamiliar with the county.

I am a huge fan of estate maps and *Rooted in History* has a good selection to offer. There are many previously unpublished images to illustrate the text and to delight such as the watercolours of Maud Faulkner's which have immortalised the Italianate terraces of Glanymôr set above the estuary of the River Tâf.

As someone who heartily advocates the researching and recording of historic designed landscapes in the shadows, I found the author's generosity in signposting potential future research subjects most encouraging. A prime example is Edwinstord to which, as the author points out, an entire book could be devoted. Also the later snapshots beckon the garden historian to explore further.

Advolly Richmond

Under the Black Mountains: The History of Gwernyfed since 1600 edited by Colin A. Lewis
Logaston Press, 2017. £12.95 ISBN 9781910839157

In 1989, the WHGT adopted their logo showing two Renaissance-style gate pillars from the then recently discovered garden and fossilised landscape at Old Gwernyfed, near Hay-on-Wye.

Prof Colin Lewis is the son of the former vicar of Glasbury and from childhood was familiar with the Gwernyfed estate. His book is a six-part, 9-chapter compilation, parts 2-5 being essays. The first, written by an owner born at Old Gwernyfed, Elyned Hore-Ruthven, (a friend of Lewis' parents), and titled *Essays on a Victorian Childhood* was written c 1960 (55-70). The second, *Life at Gwernyfed in the 1860s* (71-82) by Thomas Perks (1850-?1937), the eldest son of the then impoverished tenant family (Proberts) which graphically explains contemporary agriculture and domestic life in the decaying mansion-farmhouse. The third and fourth accounts are: *Three Cocks and Surrounding Areas, 1902-5: A Railwayman's Memories* (83-92) by J. W. Hobbs, and *Memories of Velindre and District...* by Mary Kinsey (93-102), which concern Gwernyfed only to a limited degree. Three appendices (103-108) (one on horse-breeding and travellers) and two poems (109-113) round off a piece of useful social history. These essays and reminiscences form a valuable contribution to the historical record.

As this compilation was drawn into a book the publisher suggested Colin Lewis should write an accompanying history of the house and estate. This appears as four short chapters: *Before the death of David Williams* (1-4); *in the 17th century* (5-15), *the 18th century* (21-28) and *Under the Wood family* (29-52). The first two draw heavily on my article in Gerddi 2006, (C. Stephen Briggs and Nesta Lloyd on *Old Gwernyfed: an Elizabethan Garden in History and Poetry*, Gerddi IV (2005-6) 7-37) adding little new information except for references to the History of Parliament and its Members. More new material appears in the chapters dealing with the 18th and 19th century. Of these, the Wood family chapter is the most originally researched.

Though its Crown Copyright is acknowledged, a plan of the early earthwork garden is missing its important attribution to a survey by 'Dept of Archaeology, University College, Cardiff'. Lewis writes authoritatively, but is less than rigorous in citing sources, more of which could have been usefully acknowledged. The substance of the Gerddi text has been tailored by addition and subtraction in a way that introduces some misleading concepts and facts into its history.

Stephen Briggs

Philip John Stevenson, 1947 – 2017



The West Glamorgan Branch suffered a great loss on June 10 2017 with the death of Phil Stevenson after a short illness. Phil was a valuable member of the Committee who gradually undertook three important roles; treasurer, membership secretary and leadership in organising the

branch programme of lectures and events. Phil was unassuming and friendly, carrying out these duties in a professional way and always helpful, making light of what he did. There was no doubt about his commitment: always a regular attendee at meetings where he provided everyone with an up-dated financial statement. In addition Phil provided material for the WHGT publications and liaised with Jennie Macve concerning membership.

Phil was the first child of Ron and Helen Stevenson, born in Brussels, where his father was stationed with the RAF, and brought up in Swansea. At 16 he took up an apprenticeship as an electrical fitter at the Royal Naval Aircraft Yard at Gosport where he met his wife Vanessa and the couple were married in 1970. With part-time

education Phil improved his qualifications and he worked as an industrial engineer with Saudi Airlines in the Middle East from 1978 to 1983. On his return, in the early 1980s, further part-time education led to a management post in IT in the NHS and he went on to become Head of IT with the Welsh Ambulance Authority where he created an All-Wales IT system which in due course was adopted by other areas in the UK.

Phil was always an avid gardener and in retirement he studied horticulture. Both he and Vanessa enjoyed volunteering at the Botanic Gardens at Singleton Park, Swansea and joined the WHGT. Phil's contribution to this organisation has been immense and he will be greatly missed. He is survived by Vanessa, daughter Laura and son Simon and his family.

Don Williams

WHGT Officers:

President: Elisabeth Whittle	
Chairman: Simon Baynes	07880 786 573
Vice Chairman: Joanna Davidson	01407 720431
Treasurer: Maldwyn Rees	07974 311320
Secretary: Jennie Macve	01970 626180
Bulletin Editor: Glynis Shaw	01745 710261

Aberglasney Gardens, Llangathen, Carmarthen SA32 8QH
admin@whgt.org.uk 01558 668 48



Our Patron, Prince Charles, touring Plas Cadnant Hidden Gardens, Menai Bridge, Anglesey, July 14, 2017, hosted by Anthony Tavernor, during The Prince of Wales' annual summer visit to Wales © Plas Cadnant Estate.



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Branch contacts

Brecon & Radnor, Jonathan Reeves jhwreeves@outlook.com	01982 5602015
Carmarthenshire, Judith Holland whgtcarms@gmail.com	01558 825992
Ceredigion, Caroline Palmer carolinepalmer.wales@gmail.com	01970 615043
Clwyd, Sinah Harrison-Jones sina@btinternet.com	01745 583433
Gwynedd, Olive Horsfall osandmhorsfall	01766 780187
Monmouthshire & Gwent, Lucy Prichard lucyliver_6@hotmail.com	01873 881127
Carmarthenshire, Judith Holland whgtcarms@gmail.com	01558 825992
Montgomeryshire, Simon Baynes baynes@bodfach.com	07880 786573
Mid & South Glamorgan, Val Caple Val.t.caple@care4free.net	01446 775794
Pembrokeshire, Stephen Watkins welshcountrysmilk@aol.com	01239 82071
West Glamorgan, Ann Gardner avbgardner@icloud.com	01792 290014
WHGT Administrator, Jane Lee jane.lee-sao@outlook.com	07956 840649

March 17 Rhug nr. Corwen, Denbighshire, LL21 0EH, Clwyd branch.

Speaker John Phibbs at the Clwyd branch AGM held in the Rhug conference room. There will be an afternoon walk across the Repton landscape.

May 23 Stanage Park, nr. Knighton, Powys, LD7 1NA, Brecon and Radnor branch.

Speaker Gareth Williams, Curator at Weston Park, followed by a strawberry tea.

September 12 (TBA) Gwynedd branch. Speaker Dr. Jane Bradley, Garden Historian and Archivist from Enville Hall.



Stanage Park, near Knighton, Powys © Peter Evans licensed for reuse creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0

WHGT AGM 2018
 Saturday June 16
 Hosted by Montgomeryshire Branch
 at
 Bodfach Hall, Llanfyllin

Other visits and events to be confirmed.


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AGM 2017

Many thanks to everyone who supported the AGM 2017 held at the Bodnant Welsh Food Centre. Thanks particularly to members of the Clwyd branch, who contributed to the success of the weekend.

Special thanks to Gareth Williams for his excellent talk and to Judy Corbett and Peter Welford at Gwydir and Dr. Michael Senior at Bryn Eisteddfod for their warm welcome at their homes and gardens.

Head Gardener John Rippin gave an excellent tour of Bodnant Garden, which encompassed the recently opened Furnace Woods and the gardener's cottage which is proposed to be developed as a site operations centre with a new yard and gate entrance. A tour of Bodysgallen garden completed the weekend of ancient garden visits.

Over the course of the weekend £750 was raised towards flood protection for Gwydir.

Left above: The Garden at Gwydir. Left below: The old walled garden at Bryn Eisteddfod visited after the AGM. Images © Simon Baynes