

SUMMER ISSUE 1992

STOP PRESS!! THE TRUST
WILL BE AT EBBW VALE

FOLLOWING the disappointing news that the Trust had been unsuccessful in its attempts to have a presence at Garden Festival Wales at Ebbw Vale, we are delighted to announce that we will be there after all as part of The RHS Show at Ebbw Vale. This will run from Friday 31st July to Sunday 2nd August, and you will find the Trust display in the Foyer area of the RHS Stand in the Floral Hall. We will be alongside the RHS Advisory Desk so we should attract lots of attention and spread the news of our aims and ambitions for historic gardens in Wales.

The RHS has put together a marvellous array of exhibitors, and visitors to their show will be able to find the gamut of gardening experience from the bulbs of Jacques Amand, through Pinewood Bonsai and Glebe Cottage Plants to orchids, exotics and Carniverous plants. The Show will be well worth a visit to sample all this and to give the noble volunteers on our stand some moral support.

Opening Hours: 10am-8pm
Admission: £8.50
Children (5-15inc) £5.50
under 5 - free; Family Tickets:
£26.00



Garden Festival Wales
Gŵyl Gerddi Cymru
Ebbw Vale 92

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1992

NODDWDYD GAN
CYNGOR
CEFN GWLAD
CYMRU



SUPPORTED BY THE
COUNTRYSIDE
COUNCIL
FOR WALES

THE 1992 AGM started and ended with tea.

The President, Lord Morris, opened the meeting by attempting to persuade the fifty or so members present that - like the butler at Bertie Wooster's tea party - his only role was to add tone; then swiftly destroyed that hypothesis by moving the business of the day forward at a cracking pace.

The Chairman, William Powell Wilkins, reviewed the major achievements of the year and announced that the Countryside Council for Wales has recognised the growing importance of the Trust to the conservation of Welsh heritage with a substantial grant under the CCW Partnership Programme.

The Chairman said the grant was "an accolade of no mean order for so young a Trust and it would be difficult to find a more satisfactory expression of support for our objectives and our organisation. The grant will now enable us to add breadth and depth to the Conservation Advisory Service for owners, local authorities and developers on how best to conserve garden landscapes; to train many more volunteer members in branches throughout Wales, with priority given to compiling gazetteers of sites of both national and local value and interest; to develop relationships with other agencies in species and habitat conservation, as well as our vital role in education. The Council's generous assistance is the best

possible way of ensuring that the hitherto under-valued garden landscape heritage of Wales is given the attention and care it deserves."

The Chairman applauded the growth of the branches and, in paying tribute to the gruelling but indispensable work of committee members, he made particular reference to those whose service came to an end last year.

The Acting Treasurer, John Savidge, noted that the rapid growth of expenditure had outstripped income but that the CCW grant-aid towards the core costs of the Trust came at a most opportune moment and he was able to end his tenure on a note of optimism, in handing over to Bryan McSwiney.

After lunch Sir Roy Strong spoke eruditely and entertainingly on Shakespeare Garden...??!

And, yes, it ended with the famous Gregynog tea. "There must be several million calories on that table", said Lord Morris. But our mouths were too full to reply.

Michael Norman.

APOLOGIA

THE Editor would like to apologise for this amateur production of the Summer Issue of THE BULLETIN. Circumstances beyond her control made this inevitable. The Autumn Issue, scheduled for October, will be back to standard.

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

CLWYD

Members of the branch here have recently visited four gardens in the County which feature in Elisabeth Whittle's excellent new book, *The Historic Gardens of Wales* - Rhual, Brynkinalt, Whitehurst and Llangedwyn. Thanks are due to the owners and agents who made these visits possible and, in several cases, supplied a delicious tea.
Sarah Furse.

GWENT

THE following is a brief update on Gwent's activities:

David Freeman, the Curator of *Tredegar House*, near Newport, gave a lecture on the new Parterre garden there. This was followed by a Buffet Supper. Many terracotta and blue & white ceramic pots are needed for this spectacular garden and, with the proceeds of the evening, a cheque was sent to David for a 'pot'; two other branch members also gave him 'pot' money.

This lecture was followed, on the 3rd May, by a visit to this new garden at *Tredegar House*. Reactions to the garden varied, but the historical validity was of great interest - the whole layout of the 'Parterre' has been revealed beneath a layer of top spoil (originally produced from the digging of the lake at the end of the 18th Century).

This is advance notice of an exhibition planned for October of visual records and reminders of the principal 'lost' gardens in Gwent. It will be held in the Nelson Museum, Monmouth, where the Curator, Andrew Helm, is most enthusiastic and helpful. We have already been promised an important 17th Century garden painting, and with Elisabeth Whittle's expert help, we hope to include a number of early garden tools as well as paintings, drawings,

photographs &c.. The preview date is 2nd October, the public opening 3rd October, the exhibition to last six weeks entitled *Prospects*.

There is no more information at present as to the fate of the Nelson Summerhouse in Monmouth - a stalemate exists between Lloyd's Bank and Monmouth Borough Council. We will keep you posted.
Sheila Thorneycroft.

GWYNEDD

We have had a series of very pleasant and informative visits to gardens in the County. As other members are aware, *Glynllifon* is of particular importance to us at the moment. The value of the site as a whole has to be admitted by the several agencies who control the house, gardens and park, so that they can work to a common good, rather than pulling in several different directions. We will keep members advised as to our progress.

Plas Brondanw. The garden at Plas Brondanw is its chief glory. Its creation was Sir Clough Williams-Ellis' especial passion and he enhanced and enriched it over many years. A Proposal to site a new car park within the confines of the garden, immediately to the right of one of its most dramatic vistas, has been greeted with consternation. Objections have been lodged with the National Park which is considering the application and we hope for a decision by the end of July.

Tuesday 29th September 12.30 pm
Michaelmas Luncheon at Plas
Bodegroes, Pwllheli.

An occasion when members can meet each other and enjoy a meal prepared by Wales' only chef to hold a Michelin star, Chris Chown.

The three-course meal will cost **£15.00** a head. Members from outside the County who might find themselves in the area at this time are welcome to join us - please apply as soon as possible to Bettina Harden. Tel: 075 883 610.

MID AND SOUTH GLAMORGAN AWAKE

SOUTH and Mid-Glamorgan Branch are now up and running following their successful first meeting held at the Welsh Folk Museum, St Fagans, with over 60 in attendance. Membership now stands at a healthy 87.

To maintain a momentum the Branches are particularly keen to maximise membership in their first year by providing an enjoyable and interesting programme of events, garden activities, lectures and presentations.

To ensure things get done and real progress is made, each of the Branch's committee members have been given a particular area of responsibility to action. These areas include the development of the gazetteer, the lecture programme, the garden development programme and special projects. Each member will now be preparing their proposals on the way forward and hopefully a well-focused and interesting year's agenda will be agreed.

A letter is now going out to members to encourage them to indicate areas of the Branches' work where they would be willing to become involved. Each committee leader will then pull together those members with an interest in their area of responsibility and we should see the development of a varied programme meeting the objectives for which the Trust was established.

A number of special projects are already in the melting pot, with the early favourites being the many gardens in public ownership within our two counties.

Once the proposed programme has been agreed, particular emphasis will be paid to highlighting the work of the Branch through a structured series of press releases and active participation of journalists in events.

The aim of this will be to gain credibility for the Trust, establish interest in our work, to gain new members, to make the owners of historic gardens aware of the ways in which we can assist them in researching

and developing their gardens, and to generally make the public and local authorities more aware of the wonderful historic garden asset which largely goes unrecognised by so many.
Stephen Kember.

POWYS

Branch Trip to David Austin Roses

ON a flaming Saturday in June, a small group of Powys members paid a visit to David Austin Roses to see the old varieties which are grown there in abundance. We chose well: the roses were at their peak and the season probably one of the best for years. As one member of the party remarked: it was just a little like being drowned in strawberries and cream.

The rose garden at Albrighton is not laid out historically. Part of its intention is to demonstrate how effectively the new English roses, bred by Austin for recurrent flowering, combine with the old varieties in a garden setting. And anyone who has ever despaired of a wilting *Reine Victoria* or watched *Souvenir de Malmaison* turn into a soggy brown heap after rain would have to be a hardened purist to reject the strong growth of *Bow Bells* or the exquisite blooms of *Sharifa Asma*. It is cheering, too, for those maintaining gardens open to the public, to reflect that when *Tuscany's* brief glory is over, *L.D. Braithwaite*, historic or not, will still be soldiering on. In fact, the only element that most of us found disappointing in these new/old roses was their scent which, in some cases, to our noses at least, carried undertones of detergent.

Of the old roses, gallicas, albas, damasks, chinas, bourbons and hybrid perpetuals, the range grown and on sale is impressive. For each of us the gardens held at least one variety we were seeing in flower for the first time and the mixed planting produced interesting contrasts and combinations.

Altogether, a satisfying day.

Anne Carter.

HISTORIC PLANTS

THIS is the first in an occasional series on garden plants found in historic gardens and of relevance today.

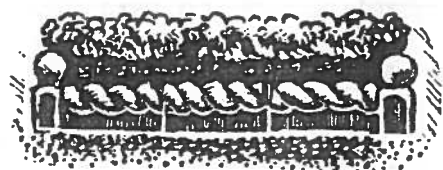
BOX

OFTEN used as a basic ingredient in creating a sense of formality in gardens, the rich colour of Box gives year-round pleasure as a contrast to the gravel path it usually edges. The Dwarf Box, *Buxus sempervirens* 'Suffruticosa', became the favourite of knot gardens and parterres during the late 16th Century, and has remained so. It originated in Holland, most appropriately, since the basic ingredient for knot gardens and parterres is level ground, well drained. Prior to this, small hedging and edging was done with Thyme, Thrift, Rosemary, Lavender and Wall Germander. Common Box, native to Britain and Europe, was also been used in topiary, but unlike examples in Yew, no really old examples remain, and it is not well-suited to complex and ambitious shapes, since it loses its rigidity and branches sag when they have to support too much weight of foliage. Nevertheless, for small topiary, particularly simple shapes, Common Box remains popular. From the 19th Century Box also became the basic ingredient of what was termed 'The Dutch Garden' (known in Holland as the 'English Garden'), where Box is used both as hedging and topiary in a compact and formal area within a larger garden.

Box is outstanding in allowing itself to be manipulated by the gardener in creating line and form. However, when we admire fine Box hedging, we often forget the one important factor involved in achieving that state of admiration - the planting was done a long time ago. Box is painfully slow to grow - young plants are much more interested in developing root systems, seemingly for years on end, than making visible growth, and to add further dismay, one always needs much more of it than one at first thought. From Common Box come over thirty cultivars and forms, mostly medium to large shrubs, some variegated. Propagation is by hardwood cuttings taken from September to November. Do not use a rooting hormone powder, remove soft tips, and insert cuttings of

between three to six inches, in a peaty compost in a cold frame. In mild areas, cuttings may be rooted in open ground, and ashes mixed into the soil is a traditional recommendation. Plant out rooted cuttings in the Spring. In addition, and much more appealing, *Buxus sempervirens* 'Suffruticosa', or Edging Box, can be lifted in the Spring, pulled into several pieces and replanted. This is the dwarf or small shrub commonly used as an edging to paths and flower beds. Box grows happily in most situations, in sun or shade, and in most soils, though some cultivars, particularly of the tender species, resent a very chalky soil. Very importantly, prepare and feed the ground well before planting. Box is best clipped after the Summer's first growth. Under all circumstances, Box is best planted with an eye to the future.

Nigel Pittard.



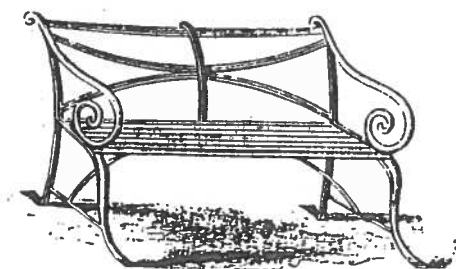
HERE TODAY, GONE TOMORROW?

GARDEN STATUARY is increasingly in danger of being stolen.

Members may feel that, not owning a stately home, this advice is not for them. However, anyone opening their garden to the public, either through the National Gardens Scheme, or for a local charity, is at risk, as is the owner of a pretty garden urn or bench that once belonged to their grandmother. Many people do not realize their garden furniture is of value until it has been stolen.

The following is extracted from an article by Norman Hudson in the Summer Issue of *Historic House*, the journal of the Historic Houses Association.

HERE TODAY, GONE TOMORROW?



"Standing in open countryside and gardens, alone and unprotected, with all the vulnerability of an unlocked car in a London street, are literally millions of pounds worth of garden statuary, ornaments and furniture, and like cars they are being stolen at an alarming rate. The treasure chest is being stripped.

With the exception of those few who choose to have Rotweilers or the like roaming loose (the lions at Longleat do not perform the same function), the security of gardens and grounds has been largely ignored. Gardens have been seen as no more than a route to the house. Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson may have examined the flower beds, but perhaps only for the sign of footprints at the base of the drainpipe. The silver teapot may find its way to a garden table, but is always whisked back to the comparative safety of the house after use. Yet many of the things left out in gardens have a value many, many times that of the silver teapot.

Urns, vases and sculptured ornaments, in stone, marble, lead, and even bronze, are important components in the design of many British gardens. The astounding increase in theft of these stems from when Sotheby's and Christie's first started holding their regular sales of garden statuary, with much publicity given to the high prices achieved. Not only are garden ornaments at risk but also furniture, sundials and gates.

What can be done? Before considering sophisticated measures, which in any event are in their infancy, there are several basic precautions which everybody should take immediately:

Statuary should be secure. Many lead figures and stone urns are merely placed on walls or plinths to be carried away by anyone strong enough to do so. Possibly they can be secured by pins or bolts into the plinths or bases on which they stand, and this may deter the less professional thief. However, experience has shown that many are frequently equipped to deal with physical protection and cause damage in the process of removal. Hardened steel or stainless steel pins will be more effective than mild steel.

Ideally, things should be out of the public eye, for example not by an entrance where any passer-by can see them. It is easy for thieves to hire trucks with a crane for a mere 50 a night. They can quickly come, clamp chains on to a pedestal and hoist statues on board.

Padlock all access gates at night and ensure that the gate hinges are made resistant to being lifted off with a jack.

Do not forget the tool sheds. These are often left unlocked because the value of their contents is minimal in monetary terms. It frequently is, but the real value of tool sheds to the thief is in finding a poorly defended and easily accessible supply of spades, crowbars, ladders, garden trolleys and wheelbarrows - all of which are very handy, whether he is targeting the contents of the house or garden.

Where possible have a cultivated area round the base of a statue, leaving only narrow grass access lanes if close public inspection is desirable. Soft soil and rose bushes cause endless complications to thieves, making access extremely complicated and often providing ready evidence in the form of boot and tyre prints. Thieves like to act with speed. Anything which slows them down will make them think twice about attempting a job.

Photography is important. Either black and white or colour are adequate but they should preferably be taken from more than one angle. It is particularly important to record details, e.g. pitting caused by

shotgun pellets on the lower left leg. A signature will further help identification and if it can be marked in an insignificant place, unlikely to be noticed by a thief, it greatly helps detectives.

Record exact dimensions. Without identifying marks and exact dimensions it is difficult for police to check and recognise an item from information fed into a bulk system and spread throughout 43 police forces.

A simple precautionary measure might be to have a notice warning people not to lean on or vibrate statues or urns because they are alarmed. This may provide some deterrent whether it is the case or not!"

Assuming that membership of the Trust indicates an involvement in all matters pertaining to gardens, their history and preservation, I thought that it might be useful if THE BULLETIN supplied details of various organisations and groups which extend this interest, though not necessarily with a Welsh bias. As far as the first is concerned, I must declare an interest given that I will be actively involved in fund-raising for THE MUSEUM OF GARDEN HISTORY in Gwynedd and, until other volunteers emerge, in Wales as a whole.

THE MUSEUM OF GARDEN HISTORY

St. Mary-at-Lambeth,
Next Lambeth Palace,
Lambeth Palace Road,
London SE1 7JU
Tel: 071 261 1891

The Tradescent Trust was set up in 1977 to save from demolition the historic church of St Mary-at-Lambeth and found there the first Museum of Garden History - a centre for lectures and exhibitions related to this theme. Over the years a great deal of essential restoration and maintenance work has been undertaken and the Museum is now open Monday-Friday, 11.00 am - 3.00 pm,

(Closed Saturday) and Sunday 10.30 am - 5.00 pm until the second Sunday in 1992. Apart from the ravishing Tradescant Garden made up of plants and shrubs known in the Tradescants' day, the Museum offers a wide range of lectures, concerts and fairs throughout the year. There are outings to historic gardens for Friends of the Tradescant Trust and several gardens throughout the country are open under the NGS to raise money for the Museum. In order for the Museum to expand and grow as it must, a £3,000,000 Appeal was launched in 1989 by HRH the Prince of Wales, Patron of the Tradescant Trust - (Something we have in common!) Plans are in hand for the erection of display galleries for the permanent collection at first floor level, leaving the ground floor free for successive exhibitions, lectures, plant fairs and other events. There are also plans for a restaurant, library and shop.

Just across Lambeth Bridge, the Museum offers a fascinating respite from a busy London day with a chance to sit in the charming garden, enjoy a delicious light lunch, and view the permanent exhibition and the watercolours of Gwen Mandley (7-19 July) or 'The Embroiderers' Flowers (7-21 October).

To become a Friend of The Tradescant Trust which supports the Museum, you should apply to:

Miss Doreen Kemp,
19, Tarrington Close,
London SW16 1LS
Tel: 081 769 7082
Subscription £10.00

Autumn Issue:

The Garden History Society

REVIEWS

Nature Perfected, Gardens Through History William Howard Adams (1991, Abbeville Press Inc., distributed by John Murray) 25.00

GARDEN history, unlike Art history, is a relatively new subject, still an uncertain discipline, with

cranky, even sometimes hysterical proponents tediously laying down the law with little scholarly justification. It is refreshing to review a book which is neither cranky nor tiresome, but combines erudition with plain-speaking narrative; and with such ravishingly beautiful photography that I have few regrets in North-West Wales at not having seen the Channel 4 series based on the book

William Howard Adams' subject is vast and dauntingly complex. He moves through it with deftness, an assured grasp of relations and interconnections, and an astounding ability to prune the merely incidental.

His book runs to 350 pages, as indeed it must; for it explores with scholarly references, careful analyses, and vibrant anecdote, the whole history of designed gardens, from the royal gardens of the Chou dynasty of China 1,000 BC, to Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe's moving 1960s one-acre memorial garden to the assassinated President John F. Kennedy, overlooking the historic Runnymede meadows above the River Thames in Surrey.

What an impressive sweep of garden history is embraced within that 3,000 years! Adams begins in the Roman garden towns of Pompeii and Herculaneum with a photograph of an exquisite mural on the rear wall of a small enclosed villa garden. Moving back in time through Greece and Egypt to the vast planted royal parks of Persia and the Middle East, we learn in passing that the absence of respect for gardening as an art in ancient Greece may be a consequence of Democracy; ambitious private gardens require private property. Hot, dry summers and open sheep husbandry is, perhaps, a more convincing explanation.

Adams' section on the importance of the Islamic Garden in history is riveting; so, too, is the sequence of photographs of the Alhambra in Granada. Cordoba was a major centre of botanic studies; the comparative study of plants and the import of exotic plants first began in Moorish southern Europe. Indeed, in the science and technology of gardening the Arabs were far in advance of the Europeans in

the 13th and 14th Centuries.

In the Egyptian, Islamic and Mughal Garden traditions the importance of water, its control and manipulation by royal authority, is emphasised; so, too, is the importance of geometric symmetry to reflect the perfection of God. It requires little stretching of the imagination to make the transition from the extraordinary Nishat Bagh garden on Lake Dal, Kashmir, with its series of terraces and long water axis, to the mid-16th Century Italian water cascades of the Villa Lante at Bagnaia, and then on to the formal gardens of Versailles and the Basin of Apollo.

And so to England and its landscaping. Nothing very unpredictable here for our readers. The centre pages of the book are dominated by a 3-page photographic feast of Castle Howard at dawn "perfectly scaled to the grandeur of its setting", with its Temple of Four Winds and the Mausoleum. Walpole said it would have been worth being buried alive in such a place.

Finally, to the illuminating section on *The New World*. Adams dispels our Romantic notions of the 'Gone With The Wind' South, with porticoed plantation houses, happy slaves, and the smell of magnolia - most plantations were isolated, in trackless, unbroken wilderness, with shabby fields and rutted roads. In the post-Colonial period it is surely Frank Lloyd-Wright's *Fallingwater*, designed in 1936 for E.J. Kaufmann at Bear Run, Pennsylvania which makes the heart beat fastest - "Stream, waterfall, rocks, trees orchestrated into the mathematics of a concept so unified that architecture, engineering and landscape design become inseparable."

I miss any reference to Powis Castle or the park and palace at Wilhelmshe, Kassel. But that is to focus too narrowly. This splendid book takes one outside the restrictive world of European gardens and lifts the art of the garden onto the world plane of painting, architecture and music.

David Jeffreys.

INSURANCE COVER

MEMBERS of the Trust are insured under a policy held by the Trust Office for personal accident and public liability 'whilst engaged on conservation or conservation-related activities'; ie while working on Trust business.

Owners of sites can be assured that this cover is in place for Trust members while on duty, and that they will not be liable in case of accident or incident arising from Members' actions. However, before starting work on a site, members should read the *Guidelines for Conservation Sitework*, copies of which are held by Branch Secretaries.

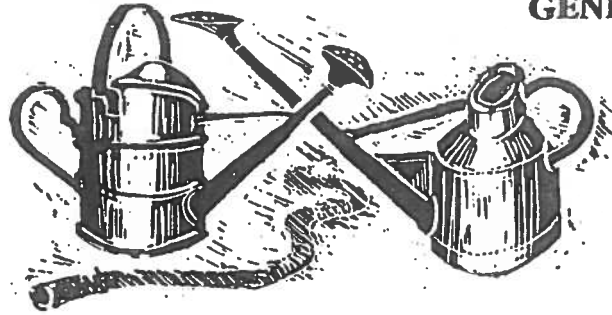
The Trust Office must be told immediately of any accident to ensure that the insurers are told without delay.

Non-members of the Trust are NOT covered by the Trust's insurances. If these people are invited to accompany members on sites whose owners have themselves not taken out appropriate insurance cover then it is strongly recommended that a 'day-membership' fee of 50p should be charged. A standard receipt book with counterfoils (available from any stationer) will suffice and it should be used exclusively for Day Memberships. The date, the 'day-member's' name and signature, as well as the fee charged, should be clearly recorded in every instance.

PART-TIME COURSES

University of Wales, College of Cardiff,
Department of Extra-mural Studies,
38 Park Place,
Cardiff CF1 3BB

The following part-time courses on Garden History and Design are being offered in the programme of continuing education 1992-1993. If you are interested please contact the Extra-mural Department (address above)



GENERAL NOTES

Renaissance Gardens in Britain

Course Tutor: Robin Whalley M.Sc.
6 Meetings commencing Tuesday 20
October 1992 7-9 pm

The rebirth of learning and the rediscovery of the classical world inspired the gardens of the Italian Renaissance. It was the knowledge of these gardens which spread northwards and gave rise to the Renaissance garden in Britain. This series will focus on the design of specific gardens, from Tudor to Edwardian times, which show the influence of humanist thinking and the discovery of classical antiquity. The lectures will be illustrated to demonstrate both a visual awareness of Renaissance garden design and an understanding of their social context.

Plants and their Histories

Course Tutor: Robin Whalley M.Sc.
4 meetings commencing Tuesday 19
January 1993 7-9pm

As exploration of the world has progressed British gardens have been profoundly changed over the centuries as new plants were introduced from abroad. This series will provide the historical background to the most significant botanical changes from Tudor times onwards, and aims to develop an understanding of the social and botanical significance of plant hunters and their part in supplying patrons and nurseries. In addition, close attention will be given to the way these plants have been nurtured and displayed, and their changing role in different concepts of garden design.

ADVANCE NOTICE

One of our members, Mrs Ruth Hayden, is the author of a fascinating book,-- *Mrs Delany, her life and her flowers*.. -Mrs Delany was a very talented and artistic lady who created 1,000 pictures of plants in coloured cut paper, copying plants so exquisitely that they appear to be paintings. Working at the end of the 18th Century, she was copying plants newly arrived in this country, given to her by famous explorers and botanists.

Mrs Delany's work is to be the subject of an exhibition at the British Museum this winter, details of which we will carry in our next issue. At that time we will also review the new edition of Mrs Hayden's book published to coincide with that exhibition. Meanwhile it may be of interest to our Branches to note that Mrs Hayden lectures on Mrs Delany's life and work. Her two lectures are: Mrs Delany, C18th Botanist and Collagiste Extraordinary and Mrs Delany in 18th Century Society. Interested parties can contact Mrs Hayden at 40 Cranwells Park, Weston Road, Bath BA1 2YE

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

We are most grateful to the members who are prepared to pay their subs through bankers orders and, particularly, covenants. Not only do the latter allow us to claim that little extra cash to support the work of the Trust that would otherwise have gone to the Treasury (and what use would that be!), but also it cuts down the admin. work at this end - not least the threatening letters from Avril to tardy payers!

A lecture will be given on the subject

ART IN THE GARDEN

by D.B. Clay Jones, O.B.E., B.Sc.,
Horticultural Journalist and
broadcaster.

Under the auspices of the Art and
Craft Committee of the National
Eisteddfod of Wales
Ceredigion/Aberystwyth in the
Lecture Theatre of the Art and Craft
Pavilion on the Eisteddfod Field at
Aberystwyth.

On Wednesday, 5th August, 1992 at
2.0pm.

Chairman: Donald Moore,
R.D., M.Ed., F.S.A. a member of the
Art and Craft Committee.

The lecture will be given in Welsh,
but simultaneous translation into
English will be available on
headphones for those who wish. All
interested are welcome.

SLIDES FOR LECTURES

The Chairman is extremely grateful
to all those members who have
allowed him the run of their
collections of slides to illustrate his
lectures.

However it is high time (as
some of the aforesaid owners have
pointed out!) that the Trust started
its own collection. So, knowing that
the Trust has amongst its members
some really expert photographers
(amateur and professional) what we
propose is this :-

In the hope that we will get
sponsorship to cover expenses we
invite you to get in touch with the
Trust Office and register your
interest in taking part in building
our library, with the theme:

*All too many of the finest gardens
and landscapes in Wales, once
renowned for their beauty and
splendour, now lie neglected or
forgotten, the victims of
indifference, ignorance or
unsympathetic development; but
they are as much a part of the Welsh
heritage as the buildings and natural
landscapes and as worthy of
conservation for generations to
come.*

A meeting will then be called to
decide how we will approach the
programme - which sites, what
features and under what conditions.

If you are interested, please
leave a message with the Trust
Office, **PREFERABLY TODAY!**

And once we've got this
pilot scheme under our belts we can
start thinking about our next
Imagery project!

STANLEY SMITH HORTICULTURAL TRUST

This Trust makes grants to advance
horticulture and has a particular
interest in assisting the education
and training of young
horticulturalists when sponsored by
bodies such as the National Trust
(and presumably ourselves)

Among its objectives is
assistance to the creation,
preservation and development of
gardens to which the public are
admitted. Applications should
indicate:

- a detailed description of the
project, including plans as
appropriate;
- an estimated budget, showing
funds received from all sources and a
breakdown of the proposed
expenditure;
- an indication of the staffing of
the project (if any).

The trustees consider awards twice a
year and applications should be
submitted by mid-March to Mid-
October to;

James Cullen, D.Sc
The Director,
Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust,
P.O. Box 365
Cambridge CB2 1HR

Branches are encouraged to apply to
the Stanley Smith Trust for
assistance, though it would be wise
to check with our own Trust Office
to ensure that we don't overwhelm
the system!

THE TRUST GAZETTEERS OUR SITE BIBLES

You will probably remember that
the statement of the Trust's
Conservation Policy, agreed by the
Policy Committee last autumn,
called upon Branches to compile
inventories of sites within individual
counties. Such inventories (or
gazetteers) would not only include
the (Proto) Register sites, but also
places of historic, cultural, aesthetic,
archaeological or ecological interest
and importance in the more local
context. The scope can therefore be
broad but should certainly include
'amenity value', as well as take into
account 'the feel of the place'.

The value of comprehensive
County gazetteers will be enormous;
firstly to give the Branch itself a
comprehensive listing and evaluation
of its own 'holding' and to develop
members' skills in archival research
and surveying/analysis; then the
end-product will be welcomed by
planning departments (who will be
encouraged to take careful note of its
contents when dealing with planning
applications), as well as record
offices, archaeological and wildlife
trusts and the public at large. The
publicity value of such an exercise
should also be borne in mind, as
indeed the possibility that Local
Authorities might be prepared to
assist in underwriting the exercise.

Finally, there can be little
doubt that recruiting of new
members (especially those who feel
attracted to the more practical
aspects of our work) will benefit
enormously and it is to be hoped
that many of them will be the
owners of the sites themselves.

We are making preliminary
plans to get what could be a
three-year programme under way
this autumn and we are grateful to
the Countryside Council For Wales
for supporting the scheme. The
project will be based on individual
branches, but with back-up from the
Trust centrally.

In the meantime two
preparatory actions are in hand:
Firstly, there is a seminar for Branch
Conservation Officers on Friday 4th

September at Plas Tan-y-Bwlch to work out the methodology to be adopted by each branch and to set initial objectives for the programme. If you are interested in being kept in touch please contact your own Branch, or the Trust office.

Secondly we want to appoint a Gazetteer Coordinating Officer to be responsible for:

Training of volunteers in archival research, surveying and gazetteer methodology.

Ensuring that participants achieve the requisite standards.

Liaising with Cadw, national and local archives, conservation agencies and individuals to ensure that all relevant data are assembled and assessed.

Liaising with local authorities, both to encourage participation and funding, as well as to ensure that the gazetteers will be valued planning tools.

Overseeing production and issue of the finished gazetteers to the requisite standards.

Devising routines for subsequent revisions.

At present it looks unlikely that we can find funding for more than out-of-pocket expenses and travelling, of which there would be a great deal, throughout Wales. However it could well suit someone who has recently retired (or a couple) with a managerial background and willing to devote about three days a week on what promises to be a bench-mark project for the Trust.

CONSERVATION STUDY WEEKENDS

As noted in the last issue there will be two Conservation Study Residential Weekends in the Autumn and you might like to have some more details to enable early bookings.

The dates and locations will be as follows:

4-6 September 1992, based at PLAS TAN Y BWLCH, the Snowdonia National Park Centre at Maentwrog

and the site of what were reputedly amongst the finest C19 gardens in Britain.

13-15 November 1992, based at OLD GWERNYFED COUNTRY MANOR, near Brecon, a Grade I C16 house and on the site of what might be a unique remnant of a Renaissance garden (the gateway of which is depicted in the Trust's unofficial logo!).

Each Study Weekend will start with supper on the Friday evening and end at lunchtime on Sunday.

In both Weekends we will introduce you to the techniques of archival research and site survey/analysis, so that you can assist with the Trust's Advisory Service and compilation of the County gazetteers. We will also look at development planning law, habitat conservation and practice the use of the Trust's survey form.

However the emphasis throughout will be on learning through practical example and application on sites of special historic interest. We also plan to work at least one other site; probably Glynllifon in the first instance, and either Buckland House or Pencerrig in the second.

No special expertise is called for; the work will be equally suited to beginners and the more expert. We hope that the outcome will be both invigorating and enjoyable in an atmosphere of relaxed scholarship in wellies!

Because of generous support by the Countryside Council for Wales the cost to members, inclusive of full board and tuition, will be only £50. However the nominated Conservation Officer in each Branch will be charged only £25 for attendance on one or other of the Weekends. Non-members may apply for vacancies on the stand-by list and will be charged £70 if they attend.

Vacancies are limited to 15 on each Weekend and early reservations are strongly recommended, preferably by telephone initially - an answering machine operates outside office hours.

ADVERTISEMENTS

MEMBERS WANTS

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If interested please send SAE for details to: Margaret Mason, Bryn Brith, Carmel, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL54 7SL

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