

The Bulletin

SUMMER ISSUE 1996

Introducing the Database

by Bettina Harden

1996 is a crucial year for the WHGT for many reasons, not least that, with our help, the Cadw/ICOMOS Register of historic parks and gardens in Wales should be completed. The Registers for Gwent and Clwyd are published, that for Gwynedd is about to be submitted to Cadw, plans for Dyfed are well advanced, Glamorgan following hard on its heels, and the contract for Powys on its way.

So that it is hoped that all the counties of Wales should be ready by the end of the financial year 96/97. The gardens listed in these Registers will be Grade I and Grade II and, in due course, will be subject to statutory consultation in the same way as listed houses are (those Registers which are published are already subject to voluntary consultation by the local authorities concerned). It should not be thought that listing is necessarily prescriptive or excessively bureaucratic. Listing will be of great help in protecting gardens and parks from unsympathetic development, whether it comes from the commercial sector or through strategic and local planning. It will add weight to grant applications from private owners, it means that listed parks and gardens will be exempt from inheritance tax, and shows the way forward for developing, restoring and conserving such properties with care and respect for the past.

1996 is also going to be critical for the WHGT with the advent of our liaison with the Royal Commission for Ancient & Historic Monuments in Wales, jointly creating a database for what might be termed Grade III parks and gardens. While the great and glorious gardens stand on their own and are hard to ignore—Powis Castle, Bodnant, Tredegar Park—it is often the smaller and more idiosyncratic gardens and parks that create the distinctive handwriting of an area and go a long way to creating what people call to mind as being 'typically' Gwynedd, Pembrokeshire or Carmarthen. It is local sites, with their memories and associations for people in the neighbourhood, that are prized and valued by the community. For several years now it has been an ambition of the WHGT to create a *Gazetteer of Gardens*, but for various reasons it has been very hard to get started. By joining with the RCA we will be able to start building the bottom layer of a pyramid that, all being well, will



April in a herber. From The Medieval Garden by Sylvia Landsberg (see article on page 5).

peak with a series of County Guides, a vast bank of knowledge which can be used by historians and planners alike, and, perhaps, a successor to Tom Lloyd's excellent work on houses, *The Lost Gardens of Wales*—the possibilities are infinite and fascinating. But to get back to that bottom layer, or bottom line. First of all, what are the aims of the RCAHM and what can they offer us?

The scope and nature of the Royal Commission's duties are set out in their Warrant:

... to provide for the survey and recording of ancient and historical monuments and constructions connected with, or illustrative of the contemporary culture, civilisation and conditions of life of the people of Wales.

... by identifying, surveying, interpreting and recording all buildings, sites and ancient monuments of archaeological, architectural and historical interest in Wales.

The Commission's database (the Extended National Database) is already impressive. Its diverse documentation draws upon OS maps, progressively catalogues its own archive (the

National Monuments Record), and incorporates copies of the Sites and Monuments Records held by Welsh Archaeological Trusts. These include details of archaeological sites, castles, monastic and church sites, vernacular architecture, and industrial features.

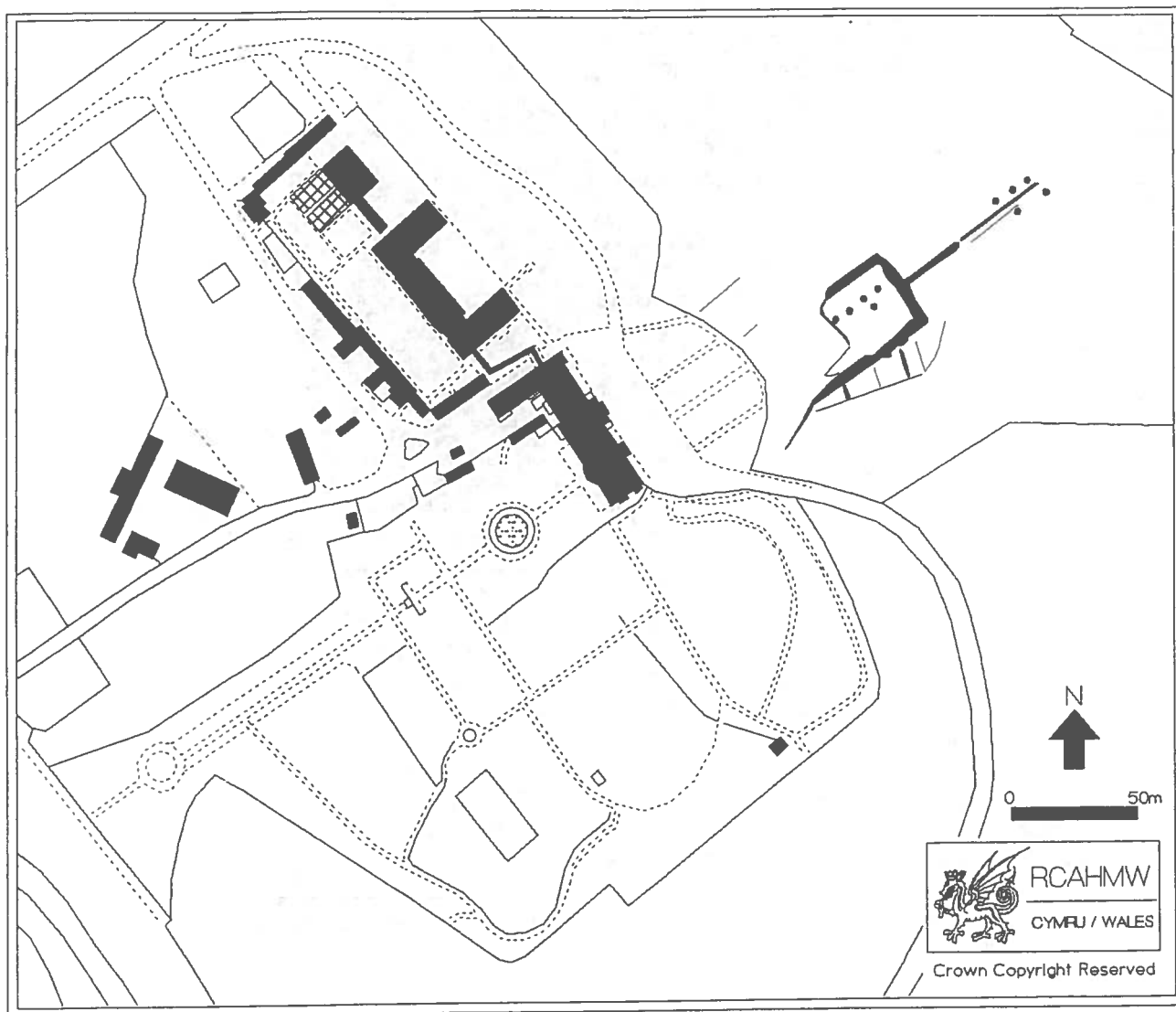
Besides vital locational and definitive detail such as OS map references (core data) the database is equipped with a graphic digitised mapping programme known as *Fastmap*. This enables the customising of thematic maps and plans on to a digitised OS map base, as well as the adoption of visual images (at present only one per site). Ideally, all gardens could be planned as several period overlays into *Fastmap*, though at present such an ambitious project as could depict all periods of all gardens in this way is limited by manpower.

The idea is to contribute garden research to this database on a basis which will enable full recognition and acknowledgement of our own work.

As it is currently set up in Aberystwyth, the Information Technology thus available to the WHGT is first-class, up-to-

date and, provided we do our share of the work, FREE! Our input to the work of the RCAHM in recording historic gardens and other sites is seen as of obvious mutual benefit. Members of each County Branch will be able to start research on the gardens in their area at their own pace, and submit the results of their labours for inclusion on the database. This material would be freely available to the Trust for its own purposes as well as rendering a service to the Commission's. There are many fringe benefits available to us through such an association—the marrying of garden information with other data contained in the records such as aerial photographs, details of ancient buildings on a site, cross-referencing and so on.

We will be exploring the possibilities of applying for joint resourcing on specific research or recording ventures, and hope to collaborate on projects like printing and making available county garden handlists, if not of publishing more ambitious illustrated studies and guide books. The Commission already carries out an extensive aerial photographic programme taking account of known garden sites, the fruits of which are available



Trawscoed (Ceredigion) mansion and gardens; plot from aerial photographs showing construction of avenue along original 17th century axis. (Transcribed by T.G. Driver.)

to us. In future, sites will almost certainly be recognised and re-discovered as a direct result of queries raised by WHGT-informed research and local observation.

The important thing to realise is that the WHGT is now in a position to create an invaluable addition to the study of Wales' greatest asset, its landscape. With the information we are able to generate and log, we will be able to provide the new Unitary Authorities in Wales with a handbook on sites throughout the country that they can build into their strategic planning. It will also be a tool for all County branches in protecting valued local sites which might not have come to the attention of the great and the good. None of this will happen overnight, but we are making a start.

So, where do we start? Most Counties have appointed a Gazetteer Officer—in Gwynedd we have a small working party made up of an archeologist, the County Archivist, the person currently compiling the Cadw Register, and myself. Initially we need to make a detailed assessment of the primary record sources in the county to come up with a list of sites where historic gardens might have been. Gardens already known to you will be incorporated in this list. *Primary record sources* sound daunting but are actually straightforward. They include maps—the First Edition Ordnance Survey 1" map of the county, the OS 2" manuscript surveyed c. 1815–20, the OS 25" maps in the three editions of the 1880s, 1900s and 1915–20s. The modern OS 25" maps are also useful as they often show what remains of a garden site. In addition, the second edition of the OS 6" maps show the extent of parklands. Comparing successive maps can provide a mass of information from garden structures to the line of a prospect laid out in woodland, now lost to view.

Books on your county come next—Pennant's *Tours of Wales* is only one of a plethora of 18th and 19th century guides, and many of them have pearls to offer. For example, when researching the gardens at Glynnllifon two books were able to help us show that the elaborate gardens we know today were not laid out, as often thought, at the end of the 18th century, but rather begun in the second quarter of the 19th century: John Evans, writing his *Beauties of England & Wales* (1812) stated that 'the park is spacious, tho' exhibiting little variety...or artificial decoration', but by 1828 William Catherall from Manchester, in his *History of North Wales* remarked on all the changes put in hand by the second Lord Newborough following his Grand Tour of Europe, concluding 'His Lordship has also made many improvements....principally by enlarging the park about which he is building a lofty wall: the planting, draining...are also carried out upon different parts of the estate.'

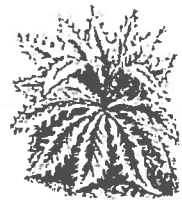
Every county will have books which deal with it specifically—histories of houses past and present, and so on. General books of great use would be *Houses of the Welsh Countryside*, Smith (2nd edn 1985, HMSO), *Bibliography of British Gardens*, R Desmond (1984) which includes a county checklist, and Tom Lloyd's *The Lost Houses of Wales* (2nd edn 1988). The Penguin *Buildings of Wales* series now covers three counties, Clwyd, Glamorgan and Powys, while the Royal Commission's *County Inventories of Ancient Monuments*, begun in 1910, are full of facts, in spite of a somewhat snooty attitude to anything later than the early 18th century!

Inventories and sale catalogues are another great source of information. Your County Archive should have a lot, and the National Library of Wales at Aberystwyth has a huge collection.

The County Archive is a goldmine, from estate maps for the larger parks and gardens to the dealings of local historical societies over the years. None of this should be intimidating. Broken down into individual sources and farmed out to members who have a good deal of Sherlock Holmes or Autolycus, that 'snapper-up of unconsidered trifles', in their make-up, this kind of research can happily fill those wet or bitterly cold Sunday afternoons when working in one's own or somebody else's garden would be intolerable. Some gardens may only occur in one source, others will crop up all over the place, but once you have established your list you are on the launch pad for further research and survey work. The material generated by this first search of the records is all gold for the database. In some counties, such as Clwyd, a lot of work has already been done, including detailed site surveys. This work will also be incorporated into the database. The important thing is that none of us be deterred from making a beginning.

I would like to suggest that we set up a meeting of all Gazetteer Officers (or similar) and anyone seriously interested in research and archive work so that, together with Dr Stephen Briggs who is supervising the garden research for the Royal Commission, we can work out a form to be completed and establish a basic working pattern for ourselves. Anyone interested in taking part should contact either myself, Bettina Harden, Nanhoron, Pwllheli, Gwynedd LL53 8DL, telephone 01758 730610, or Dr Stephen Briggs, RCAHM, Telephone: 01970 621209.

GLANSEVERN HALL GARDENS



Glansevern Hall was built in the Greek Revival style for Arthur Davies Owen Esq. He chose a site romantically positioned on the banks of the River Severn with gentle hills rising in the background. The House, faced with Cefn stone, was the seat of the Owen family from 1800 until after the Second World War.

Thirteen years ago Neville and Jenny Thomas acquired the property and started to develop the gardens, respecting the plantings and features of the past, but adding a vast collection of new and interesting species.

The gardens cover some thirteen acres and include a large number of unusual tree species planted in the last century. The rock garden, dating from around 1840, has recently been replanted and incorporates a wonderfully exciting and well-preserved grotto. A four-acre lake, surrounded by woodland, is fed by a network of streams which form the basis of the water garden.

The gardens are open on Fridays and Saturdays until 28 September from 2–6 pm. They lie on the left side of the A483, 4 miles SW of Powis Castle. There is a tea room, shop and gallery and all plants for sale are home grown.

The Annual General Meeting

Sylvia Landsberg on Medieval Gardens



The speaker at the Annual General Meeting, which was held on 11 May 1996 at the Royal Welsh Showground at Llanelwedd, Builth Wells, was the garden historian, Dr Sylvia Landsberg, who has been responsible for the recreation of several gardens of the thirteenth to sixteenth centuries, notably Queen Eleanor's Garden at Winchester and the garden for the yeoman farm house, Bayleaf, in the Weald and Downland Museum at Singleton in Sussex. The substance of her lecture, *Medieval Gardens*, which was illustrated by varied and fascinating slides, is reproduced below.

Remains of medieval gardens on the ground are virtually non-existent, but there are three ways in which we can bring them to life again. The first is by documentary research, John Harvey being the outstanding figure (*Medieval Gardens*, Batsford 1979). Here, scraps of information from building accounts, poetry, plant lists, paintings and woodcuts, food,

medicine and so forth, and also plans (although these are very rare), can be pieced together to produce a picture.

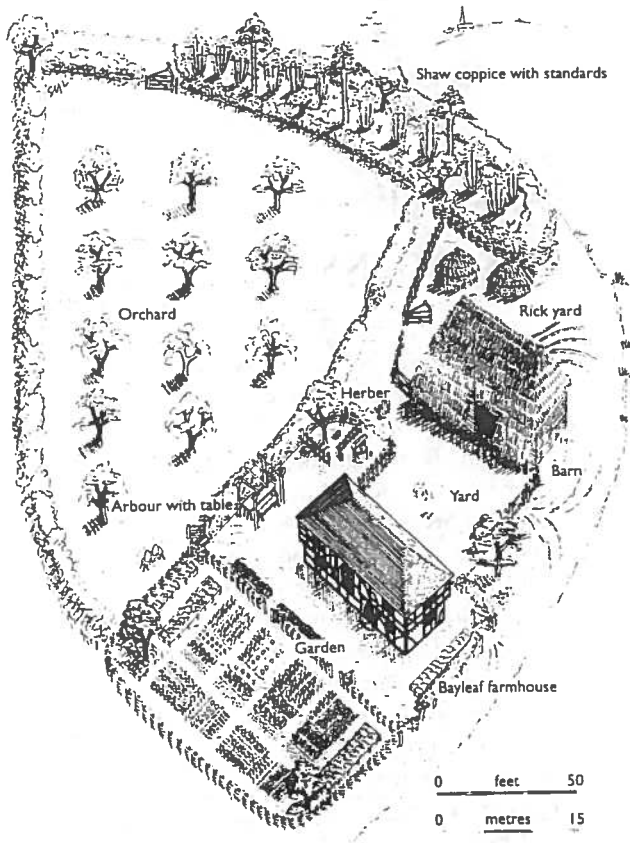
Second is archaeology, excavations or analysis of 'humps and bumps' ('lost' medieval villages, for example, or sites such as Bodiam Castle in Sussex, or Somersham Palace in Cambridgeshire) and surveys of fish and mill ponds. This expanding field of research is revealing lakes, parks etc. unequalled until the work of Capability Brown in the 18th century.

Thirdly, there is re-creation, in which all our knowledge from other methods can be pieced together as a living jigsaw. Since there is insufficient knowledge of the past for any one site to be restored in detail, features and plants known from many sites are drawn together to produce a real garden which can be experienced through all the senses.

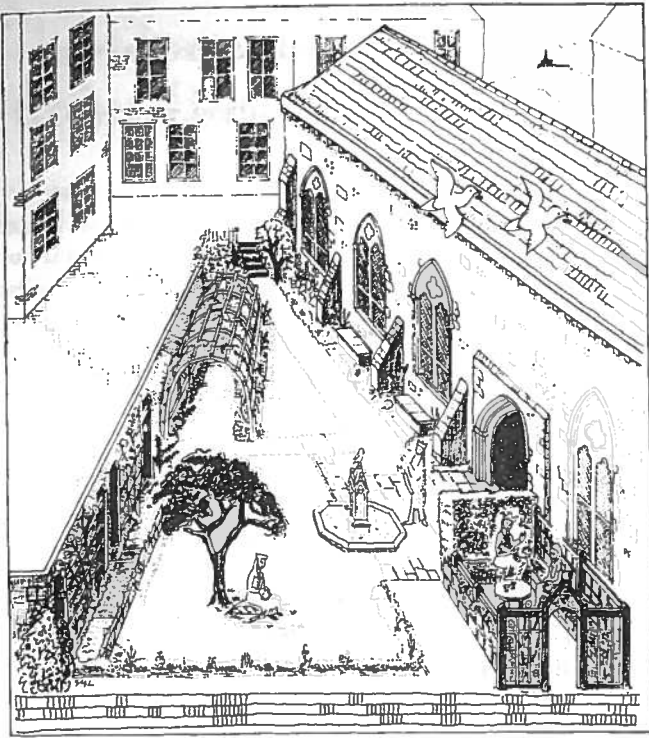
This latter is the way I have approached the discovery of medieval gardens. (Queen Eleanor's Garden in Winchester being the prime example). In my lecture, the process can be demonstrated by slides of maps, manuscript and painting illustrations, photos, artists' impressions and pictures of plants. The social status of the property owner has to be taken into consideration, even down to the design of paths—a peasant housewife will hitch up her skirts and do her gardening on an earth path; a queen in silken shoes will require clean gravel etc. The designer has to imagine herself as the owner.

At the lowest social level, village garden plots and boundaries can be seen on plans like those of Padbury and Wharram Percy. A Brueghel painting, showing a housewife picking cabbages in a tiny, wattle-fenced garden plot, a woodcut of a gardener digging a leek bed, a sixteenth-century drawing, showing the layout of garden plots at Wilton, in Wiltshire: all these give clues regarding the utilitarian nature of such gardens. A wealthy yeoman's garden, such as Bayleaf, in the Weald and Downland Museum at Singleton, near Chichester in Sussex, can be further embellished from plant lists known to have been grown at that social level. Orchards and wide woodland hedges which provided building timber are also recorded at this level.

Coming on to royalty and the nobility, households were continually on the move, transferring, for various reasons, to different properties from season to season. Thus no grand ornamental style was developed but rather features accrued, peculiar to each site. Some castles were known for their water features (Kenilworth Castle had a huge lake across which guests were rowed to a double-moated garden). Others, built within a restricted town setting might only have tiny ornamental gardens crowded in between castle buildings, as at Winchester. An exciting recent proposal is that the unexcavated earthworks of Somersham Palace may represent the first planned layout of a bishop's estate, occupying some thirty acres. Monasteries equalled royalty as the wealthiest institutions. A plan of Canterbury Cathedral of 1165 shows an orchard cemetery, a physic garden,



Artist's impression of Bayleaf. The house and shelterbelt shaw of useful wood are typical of the Weald. Most of the garden is filled with vegetables. The leisure element is limited to a turf area in front of the house, a honeysuckle arbour giving shade over the trestle table and turf bench, and a tiny herber for small children fenced off from animals.



Queen Eleanor's Garden, Winchester. This artist's impression of the re-created 13th-century royal castle garden shows the Great Hall, fountain and channel, tunnel vine arbour, trellised 'Queen's herber' with turf-topped benches, stone benches and herbaceous borders.



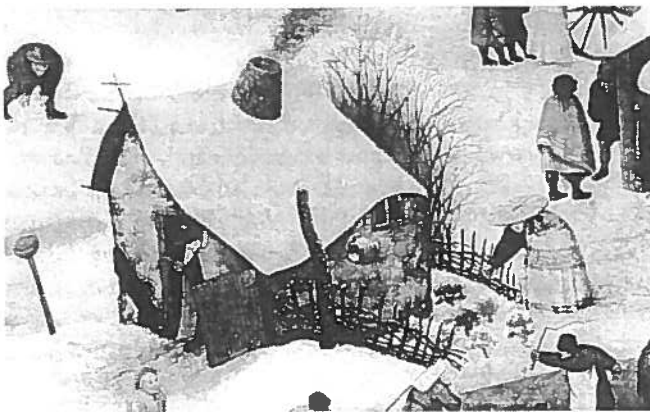
The Gothic style fountain at Queen Eleanor's Garden, based on a description from Charing Cross Mews, c. 1275.

the abbot's ornamental garden, a 'village green' surrounded by servicing buildings and cloisters. Beyond the precinct were the cellarer's vegetable gardens. Several of these monastic features have been re-created in miniature at the Shrewsbury Quest, which has been established as a Brother Cadfael information centre.

By talking to rural craftsmen who still use medieval methods and materials, it has been possible to interpret the detail of medieval illustrations. Features made from crude wattle, forked poles, thatch etc. are shown in the re-created Bayleaf yeoman's garden, but features of a more sophisticated finish are particularly displayed in a 15th century courtier's garden at Tretower Court, near Crickhowell, designed by Elizabeth Whittle, and Queen Eleanor's Garden at Winchester Castle—a tiny 13th century royal garden laid out in memory of the two Eleanors, of Provence and Castile, wives of Henry III and Edward I, who

dwelt there. The photograph and artist's drawing show the fine detail of stone and turf-topped seats, an arched tunnel arbour with vines and roses, a carved fountain based on a known, written description, a water channel, a pentice or lean-to, roofed with traditional oak tiles, and white doves. Its borders and arbours are planted with authentic plants of the period, slides of some of which were shown—vine, symbol of everlasting life, roses, red and white, (*r. officinalis* and *r. alba*), the madonna lily (*lilium candidum*), columbine, pansy, sweet rocket, herbs such as hyssop and wildflower turf plants, such as wild strawberry, speedwell and daisies, to name but a few.

Sylvia Landsbergh's book, *The Medieval Garden*, published 1996, British Museum Press, £12.99, will be reviewed in our next issue.



Detail from *The Numbering at Bethlehem* by Pieter Brueghel the Younger.

GERDDI

The WHGT journal, hitherto somewhat confusingly titled *The Newsletter*, is receiving a facelift. From now on, under the title of *GERDDI, The Journal of The Welsh Historic Gardens Trust*, it will appear once a year in a new format, under the editorship of Bettina Harden. The first issue of *GERDDI* is scheduled for this autumn and will comprise the report on the Trust Conference, *Towards the Millenium*, held in October of last year, with additional papers, bibliography and information package which will make it one of the most useful, all-round tools available to planners and others concerned with the conservation of landscape, parks and gardens.

What do you know?

Are you actively studying an area of garden history?

Do you have specialist knowledge in a particular field?

Would you like to register your interests?

At a recent meeting the committee agreed that it would be helpful if a register of interests, knowledge and research was made with a view to it being published occasionally in the *Bulletin* or, alternatively, if funds were available, in a small pamphlet which could be mailed to branches and to members on request. The object of such a register would be for us all to become aware of the research activities within the Trust and to enable members to make new contacts within specialist areas. Such a register could also be helpful to branches where particular knowledge was urgently needed. We are all being told about the 'information highway' and this can be invaluable for those who are literally 'plugged' into it, but many members may feel their projects do not have such a wide appeal. This register is aiming to bring together those people who may not have particular qualifications in garden history but are doing original research and would be keen to know of others working in a similar field. 'Academics' in Universities have ample opportunities to share their research and publications with their colleagues, but perhaps not so for many of us who are 'beaver away' on important areas without the possible stimulus from other like-minded individuals. Apart from the articles which appear in the Trust publications there is little shared knowledge of garden research by our members. For example in my own case I have made a particular study of Edwardian gardens and the work of Harold Peto, and I would always be pleased to know of anybody who shares these interests.

Please do not think your garden research area is of no importance to others, and do not feel you have to be an expert in the field. Even if it is only a starting point then register your interests, and I am sure in time useful contacts will follow. Please write to me with suggestions: Robin Whalley, Cwm Oergwm, Llanfrynach, Brecon, Powys, LD3 7LQ

CLWYD BRANCH

The Flagstaff

Colwyn Borough Council refused Orange PCS Ltd. permission to erect a 20m telecommunications mast on the Thomas Mawson garden known as the Flagstaff (Welsh Mountain Zoo), high above the town. The appellants appealed and the inspector appointed by the Secretary of State has now finished his report.

The main issues quoted by the Inspector were whether the proposal would cause visual harm to the rural landscape, the TPO trees, the historic garden setting of the Welsh Mountain Zoo and the residential amenities of adjoining occupiers, and, if so, whether this would be outweighed by the locational requirements of the development of this particular site. He did not find the case for this single site to be persuasive in terms of the rejection of all possible alternative sites and concluded that the proposals would detract significantly from the visual quality of the local landscape, from the historic gardens containing the zoo and from the residential amenity of the adjoining property, Thurles House.

The Flagstaff is listed Grade II on the CADW/ICOMOS Register for Clwyd.

Sara Furse

PEMBROKESHIRE BRANCH

Autumn Programme

Extra Visit

Saturday, 28 September

Visit to Haroldston. Meet 1.30 pm, then to St Brides by 3.00 pm. Tour to be conducted by Terry John (National Parks, retired), who is very knowledgeable on these sites.

Monday, 21 October

Peter Hayden will be visiting us from Shrewsbury to give a talk, with slides, on 'The Imperial Gardens of St Petersburg'.

Monday, 8 November.

George J. Yeomans will be talking on 'Traditional Garden Architecture'.

Monday 16 December

The meeting will have a festive flavour. If any member would like to talk on a subject of his or her interest, please would they let me know.

If each of us could supply some tasty morsels or some wine, there will be a short party after Gerry Hudson (Recorder) has given his latest update on the Gazetteer.

Brian Rogers
Secretary

Obituaries

Clay Jones

Clay Jones OBE, who died on 4 July was a staunch friend to the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust. He was one of our earliest members and gave freely of his time and energy wherever it was needed, even turning out in bitter weather to support his local Gwent branch only two weeks before his death, when already a sick man.

A long career in the seed industry was only the prelude to the radio and television work which made him a household name, and no one who heard him speak could forget the warmth and friendliness of his personality, or the very real love of gardens which breathed through everything he said. He was known to say that, when he first announced his wish to become a gardener, it was not considered a very prestigious choice of career in Wales. He certainly remedied that.

Mr Ion Trant

We record with sadness the death of Mr Ion Trant. He was an active member of the Trust for four years and represented Montgomery on the Trust Committee. He led the way in the early stages of the rock garden restoration at Broneirion.

Ion Trant was born in 1915 and settled in Montgomeryshire after his marriage in 1945. He found time from farming to embark on a television career and became known as a broadcaster, writer and lecturer. He had a lifetime's interest in historic gardens and the garden which he and his wife Janet tended at Maesmawr was designed by Edward Kemp round about 1858, a time when Kemp was working on several gardens in the area, including Leighton Hall.

A former High Sheriff of the County and one of Montgomeryshire's best known personalities, he will be greatly missed. The Trust, and Montgomery especially, will be the poorer without his knowledge and quiet good sense.

The Opening of the Alpine Bridge at Hafod

The reconstructed Alpine Bridge at Hafod was opened on 14 June 1996 with a short ceremony on the north bank of the Ystwyth river. The pedestrian bridge, has been constructed of oak by Messrs Capps and Capps upon the earlier foundations, at a total cost of some £60,000. Dr Donald Moore, Chairman of the Hafod Trust, in his introductory remarks, gave an admirable outline of the historical background to the day's event, from which the following extracts are taken:

The proprietor today is Forest Enterprise, a government agency which is part of the Forestry Commission; it is charged with making an economic venture of its forestry activities. At one time the Commission had no brief or resources except to plant and harvest trees, but today it is obliged to provide for public access, interpretation and conservation of wild life and buildings. Some years ago it began a modest programme of restoration at Hafod, and in 1991 it inaugurated a comprehensive scheme in partnership with the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust. The role of that trust passed in 1994 to an independent body, the Hafod Trust, which now formulates proposals for Forest Enterprise. Further specialist advice is provided by the Hafod Advisory Committee.

The bridge which is being opened today was a focal point in the estate, providing access to the further bank and linking two 'Cumberland' walks—the Lady's Walk and the Gentleman's Walk.

Before attempting to restore the bridge, the Hafod Trust commissioned the Dyfed Archaeological Trust to make a complete survey of the extant masonry. Different options for building a new structure were then considered. It was established that Johnes's bridge had been at a lower level and that it had been altered at later dates, effectively raising the height of the span above the river. Here was a dilemma—should the new bridge be placed at the Johnesian or a later level? To lower the present level would have meant demolishing much masonry, and digging approaches. The last bridge, erected by the Waddingham family, offered more certain evidence of constructional detail than the earlier, and so it was decided to construct a bridge resembling the 'Waddingham' version.

This is the first completed project of the Partnership (work on the Lady's Walk is still in progress and not completed). A bridge has a practical function, but it can symbolise wider implications.

First, the bridge links past and present by rescuing the achievements of Thomas Johnes and his successors for the present generation. Secondly, it joins natural history with human history, showing how the production of timber and the protection of the red kite can continue side by side with the conservation of man-made features.

Thirdly, it has successfully linked voluntary effort with state activity, achieving what neither body could do on its own.

Dr Moore then went on to thank all those who had contributed, in whatever ways, to the rebuilding and the bridge was opened formally by Mr John Morgaň, Regional Director of Forest Enterprise for Wales.

Letter to the Editor

The Alpine Bridge

From the Chairman of the Friends of Hafod

Sir,

Some of those who attended the official opening of the restored bridge at Hafod on 14 June have since commented about the total absence from the ceremony of the officers and leading members of the Friends of Hafod, so a brief explanation of this situation may be in order.

The Friends have long been supportive of the WHGT (later Hafod Trust) scheme to rebuild the bridge. The FOH archive provided much visual and other material for the original assessment, and individual officers and members contributed significantly to the discussions which resulted in the eventual choice of design and materials for the reconstruction.

The Friends of Hafod objected however to the holding of an opening ceremony at this time, on two specific grounds. First, the ceremony would give media publicity to Hafod, and attract further visitor pressure, at a time when no provision had been made for coping with such pressure. Secondly, the opened bridge would give access to an ecologically sensitive area on the south bank of the Ystwyth well in advance of any waymarking, any provision of defined pathways, or any measures to contain random dispersal by those crossing the bridge.

In the WHGT's *Hafod Conservation Strategic Plan* (1991) it was proposed that the opening of the Alpine Bridge should be the final event of the completed Hafod project, after the walks and other features had been restored. Instead it became almost the first—a situation which the Friends found unacceptable. Hence our collective decision not to accept our invitations to the ceremony.

Peter Davis
Chairman, Friends of Hafod

NEW CITY PARKS AND GARDENS Hampshire Gardens Trust marks the Millenium

The Hampshire Gardens Trust is holding a Seminar at Townhill Park, Southampton, on 29 October. Speakers include David Lambert, conservation officer to the Garden History Society, on 'Neglected urban parks and the Lottery', and Alan Tate, president of the Landscape Institute, on 'Inspired, quality design for the twenty-first century'.

Enquiries to Mrs Rachel Bebb, Hampshire Gardens Trust, Jermyns House, Jermyns Lane, Ampsfield, Romsey, Hants SO51 0QA



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 Gwynedd: Mrs Gwennie Johnson (01766 810889)
 Montgomery: Mrs C. Churchill (01646 640283)
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CYNGOR CEFN GWLAD CYMRU
 COUNTRYSIDE COUNCIL FOR WALES



Conference

THERE BY DESIGN

Field Archaeology in Parks and Gardens

The Royal Commission on The Historical Monuments of England and the Garden History Society are holding a one-day conference at the Scientific Societies Lecture Theatre, New Burlington Place, London on Friday, 29 November 1996.

The purpose of this conference is to present to a wide audience—garden historians, archaeologists, planners and other interested parties—a series of case studies which range over the British Isles and which illustrate the breadth and diversity of fieldwork being undertaken, the excitement and novelty of what is being revealed and the breathtaking richness of our heritage in parks and gardens.

The conference fee is £25, including coffee, lunch and tea, and applications should be made to Claire Scoones, Finance Section RCHME, Kemble Drive, Swindon SN2 2GZ. Closing date, end October 1996.

Erddig Apple Festival

The Erddig Apple Festival will be on October 13/14 this year. Members wishing for information should contact the Administrator, the National Trust, Erddig.

“*G*od Almighty first
 planted a garden. And indeed it is
 the purest of human pleasures.”

— Francis Bacon: Essays

Books on garden design, studies of great gardens and gardeners, and the most important works of landscape history are offered at:

Peter J. Hadley, Bookseller
 132 Corve Street, Ludlow, Shropshire

Where a selective range of literature and works on the visual and decorative arts may also be viewed.

Open 10am-5pm, Monday through Saturday; those travelling a distance are advised to telephone in advance and ascertain any temporary deviations from these hours. Catalogues are issued, and elusive titles sought upon your request.

telephone (01584) 874441 facsimile (01584) 873027