

Leeswood - "sad mausoleum of fugacious wealth"

by Sara Furse

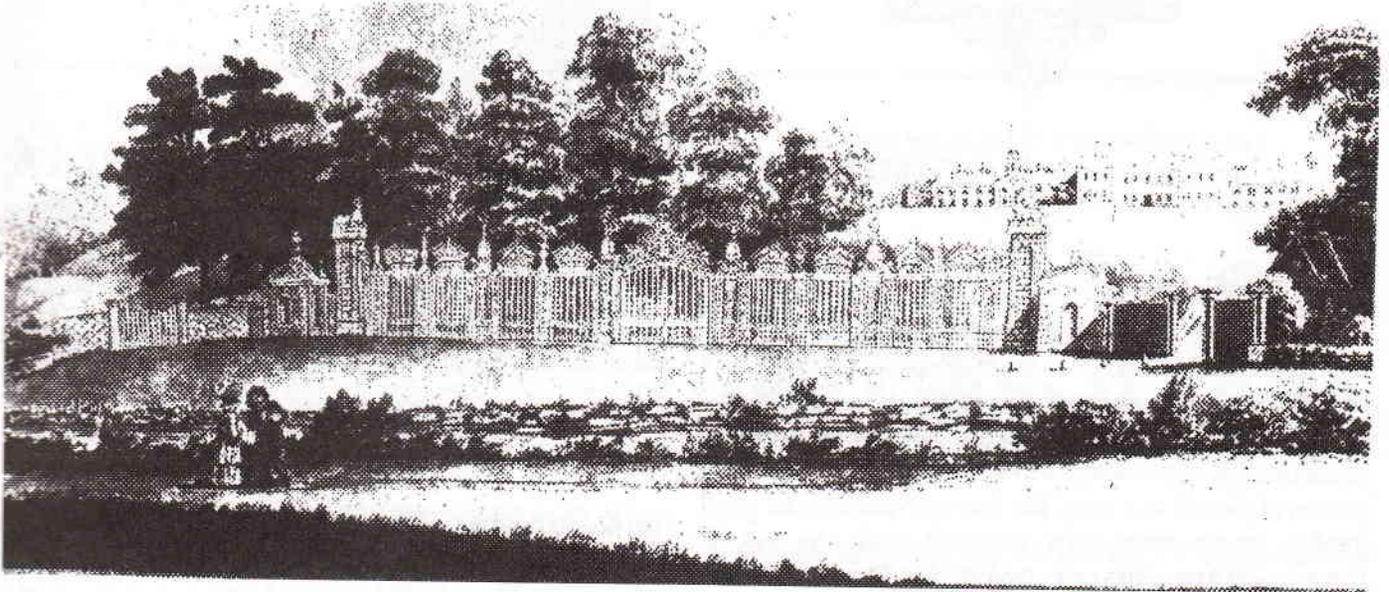


Fig. 1 A watercolour showing the famous White gates of Leeswood. These are now maintained by a separate Charity, The White Gates Trust.

George Wynne (1700 - 1756), created a baronet in 1731, inherited the Leeswood estate from his grandfather, his father John having been provided for with property in Nerquis. His mother died when George Wynne was a small boy and it must be significant that the children had a guardian, Evan Lloyd of Cilcain. Evan Lloyd's son Hugh, Vicar of Mold from 1716 to 1749, acted as trustee for the Wynne aunts, one of whom was mother to Richard Wilson, the painter. George Wynne and Richard Wilson were thus first cousins.

Leeswood lies two miles to the south-east of Mold in Flintshire in the wider part of the Terrig Valley. Many people know of the place only because of the White Gates, one of the Seven Wonders of Wales, and do not realize they are the outward and visible sign of what was once a very fashionable and ostentatious composition. The gates (fig. 1) were attributed to the Davies Brothers of Croes Foel Forge near Wrexham, but are now thought to be by Robert Bakewell of Derby. The Hon Daines Barrington, a friend of Thomas Pennant and of Gilbert White of Selborne, whose legal work brought him on circuit to Chester and north-east Wales, wrote in his *Archaeologia* for 1786: "The most magnificent and extensive ironwork next to that of Hampton Court is perhaps the gates and rails of Leeswood near Mold in Flintshire, the gardens there laid out by Switzer (author of *Ichnographica Rustica*) in Bridgeman's first style."

It isn't easy to imagine Switzer's intersecting visual axes through and across George Wynne's estate uniting the landscape of grazing and planting; the buildings and their setting. Bramham Park near Wetherby in Yorkshire still has such a layout, with the tall hedging to the rides concealing the woodland which in the eighteenth century would have been regularly coppiced as small timber for estate use and for fuel: "Beautiful is useful" was the eighteenth century dictum and the converse held true. However, apart from one very small area, the woods and boundaries at Leeswood lie on the land as they did in Switzer's day. The woods today contain hardwoods amongst much undercover, with limes planted by the nineteenth century owners, and there are superb hornbeams at the northern limit of their distribution, but so well established as to be reseeding naturally. The paths shown on the 1912 edition Ordnance Survey map are more or less central to the original rides but now very overgrown.

The estate was split up in the 1980s when large death duties had to be paid, but the present owners of the Hall and the nucleus of the estate have reclaimed much of the walled gardens and rebuilt a considerable portion of collapsed fruit wall. The area near to the house is maintained. Sadly, the garden sheds and small-paned greenhouse are in a sorry state and uneconomic to repair.

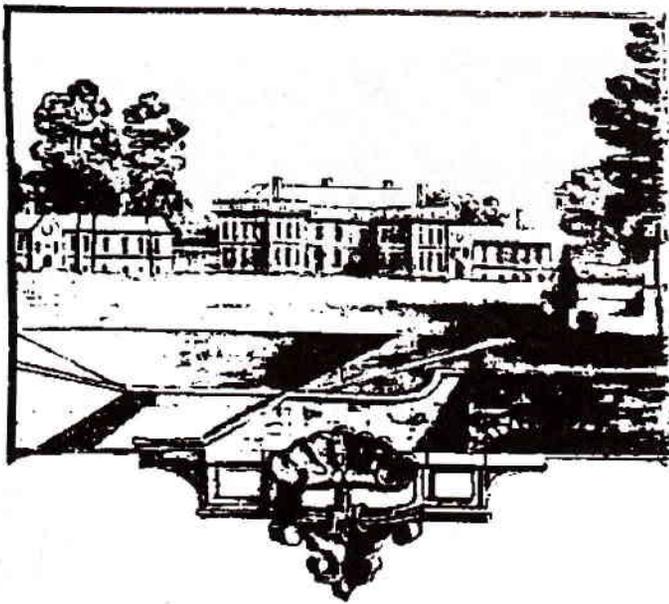


Fig.2 Leeswood c.1772 by Moses Griffith for Thomas Pennant's "Tour in Wales". Pennant insisted on accuracy from his illustrator.

Leeswood Hall itself (Fig. 2) was judged "outstanding" by the Historic Buildings Council for Wales. It is listed Grade II* and has had a series of grants towards essential repairs under the 1953 Town and Country Planning Act. The westerly and remaining side of the eighteenth century stable block, the small portion of the old east wing, the later outbuildings and small garden house have been repaired with the aid of Conservation Area grants under the 1990 Act. They have reverted or have been converted to residential use and will, hopefully, provide income for the continuing restoration of the Hall and its landscape, which is listed Grade I in the CADW/ICOMOS Register of Historic Parks and Gardens of Wales.

George Wynne probably felt he didn't need to practice economy. His mother had left him a small piece of land on Halkyn Mountain which in 1715 was found to have a huge deposit of lead. Around 1725, as a very rich young man about town, he set about rebuilding his grandfather's house in the most fashionable and ostentatious manner. The house, attributed to Smith of Warwick, consisted of a U-shaped block with detached service wings flanking, but set back from, the central portion. Thomas Pennant in his *Tour of Wales* describes Leeswood in 1778 as "rising palace-like along a fine slope on the south side of the vale, surrounded with woods and lawns." George Wynne chose Stephen Switzer, the noted theorist, to design the setting and wider landscape to his new house. The largest single sum of money ever paid into Switzer's account was George Wynne's £53.5s.0d in 1734. But a letter in the Flintshire Record Office tells of an outstanding bill from Switzer in 1739. George Wynne ran into financial difficulties on the failure of his lead mine. He was thrown into the King's Bench Prison for debt. He died, intestate, at Lee in Kent in 1756.

According to a hostile political tract George Wynne spent £40,000 on his house and garden. An old watercolour of Leeswood

with its flanking wings shows obelisks and a statue in front of the house. Not everyone even in those days gilded their lead rainwater heads but traces of gold leaf were still discernible 260 years later. Leeswood must have been truly magnificent in its day. No wonder that Thomas Pennant in the fuller editions of the *Tour of Wales* refers to it as a "sad mausoleum of fugacious wealth."

The estate passed to George Wynne's daughter Margaret who married but had no children. Eventually in the nineteenth century it was sold to John Wynne-Eyton. He altered the house by filling up the U, drastically altering the fenestration to fewer, larger sash windows, turning the entrance back to front and suppressing the

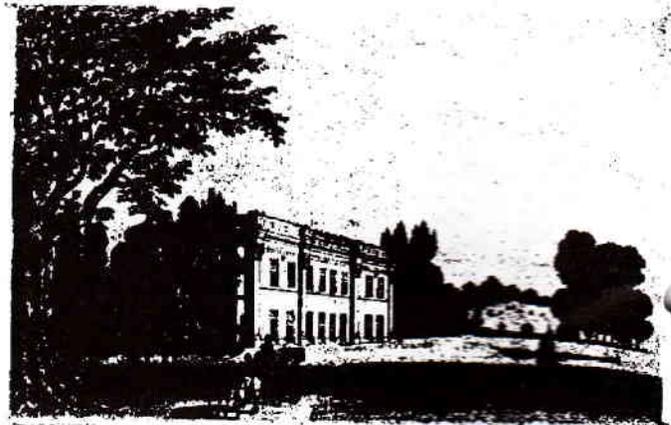


Fig. 3 A lithograph of Leeswood by I Shaw, taken after the alterations by John Wynn Eyton

top floor behind the parapet. There is as yet no proof as to when the wings were demolished but it may well have been at this time (1820-30) for Moses Griffith drew the house in its original state in the 1770s. The alterations the Wynne-Eyttons made to the garden and woods however were superficial. Switzer's framework still exists, with the prospect of further evidence to be found beneath the leaf mould and garden soil. He wrote extensively of his theories and was one of the first designers in Britain to advocate "borrowed" landscape - a point the Inspector remarked on at the Public Enquiry on Leeswood in 1995, when the then owner of the upper park tried unsuccessfully to get permission for a breaking and schooling business for Welsh ponies.

Various elements of the old gardens remain. There is a fine mount with an associated vista through one of the walled gardens; a badly vandalized ice house, and a ruined Victorian building, maybe on top of George Wynne's summer house of 1732. The American garden of azaleas and rhododendrons lies within the vastly overgrown yew hedging of a possible bowling green: there are traces of fish ponds deep in the woods; the earliest ha-ha in Wales; the long Victorian drive and its ironwork leading down to the pair of pavilions which may have been moved from positions flanking the White Gates. The Black Gates, which stood until recently between these pavilions on the old Mold to Wrexham road, have been moved to Tower where they are looked after and protected by a Maintenance Fund. The badly vandalized sundial has also been repaired. The Black Gates would appear to have had a peripatetic existence; gateposts for their original position as entrance to the Hall from Leeswood hill were unearthed fairly

recently. The Wynne-Eytons may have moved them downhill from there but now in their third or fourth position they look very fine on the approach to Tower, whilst the pavilions are shabby and neglected but act as excuse for a sort of house. George Wynne's carefully sited dovecote is also in a bad state, the roof off and water able to penetrate the brickwork.

The splitting up of these integral designs inevitably results in piecemeal management. Leeswood is no exception. It is sad that management plans for outstanding buildings and landscape can't be thought out and agreed before an estate is split up.

Clwyd Branch's Study Day on 18th March 2000 is to be held at Leeswood Hall.

Sara Furse lives at Nerquis upstream of Leeswood. She is Chairman of the Clwyd Branch of the Trust and a member of the Historic Buildings Council for Wales. Her daughter Jane (Jenny), a landscape architect and member of the Yorkshire Gardens Trust, wrote a report for the Garden History Society with David Jacques (author of Georgian Gardens etc) on the gardens and landscape at Leeswood. Corroborating evidence was found for Daines Barrington's assertion of Switzer's involvement in the design. This report was taken into account when the CADW/ICOMOS Register of Historic Parks and Gardens for Clwyd was published. The landscape was graded I, and is said to be the most unaltered design by Switzer still to exist in Britain.

More Members for the Millennium!

by Carrie Dalby

The Trust has been in existence for ten years during which it has become an academically recognised authority. Its work has covered the length and breadth of Wales, helping to recover and conserve our gardening history for posterity. There is much more to be done, but this will require the help and support of the membership as a whole. If every member made a resolution to make the name of the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust more widely known, increasing the membership would be much easier. We are proud to be members, let's share the privilege with other like-minded people.

In common with all charitable bodies, the Trust needs more money to go forward and the best way to secure a regular income is to increase the membership. However, before this can happen, potential members need to know that the Trust exists. It is a myth that publicity is expensive. Word of mouth is free. How many of us mention the Trust in conversation with friends and neighbours? Have we invited them to join? One only has to consider how many people watched the story of Aberglasney on television to appreciate the amount of interest in our subject.

Each Branch holds lectures and demonstrations throughout the year. Why not open them up to all-comers and advertise extensively? You can charge extra for non-members. Enthusiastic promotion of forthcoming visits, for members only, to places not open to the public at these gatherings would whet the appetites of potential members.

Local newspapers are always looking for good local stories and will publish copy free: take a look at the village reports in a local paper. Writing a report of each and every event that the Trust holds: the lectures, talks, visits, workshops and research work, is not beyond the scope of every Branch. Mention what the next event is about and add the secretary's phone number. Brevity is the secret - the Editor likes short, punchy material that is cheerful to read. His readers will not dwell on lengthy academic articles: save them for the Bulletin! (One of the advantages of being a member.)



Local radio stations are similarly interested in happy local news. They will advertise your event on their notice board: free to charities. They particularly like interviews: someone to go and chat to a presenter about an event that they have just enjoyed. Explain the work of the Trust and forthcoming attractions. Give a phone number for enquiries. Most DJs like this kind of informal approach to a field of interest and are very good at asking the right questions to help put the subject across. This facility is also free - like newspapers, they need copy.

All public libraries have a free notice board: does the one near you advertise the WHGT? Why not? Are there any Trust membership leaflets in their racks? Or the Gateway Project leaflets? Please put that right. Once a year, each Branch could mount a display showing what they have been doing. Market research shows that more people join things when asked face-to-face. We are reticent about answering an advertisement for joining things unless we already know someone there.

Let us all make a determined effort to further the cause of the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust in this new millennium - a new decade in the field of Garden History in Wales.

Carrie Dalby, Bryn Awelon
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Powys, SY16 4AF
01686 625613
post@dalby.enta.net

Editorial

- An attached document would be bliss!

The assembly of a Bulletin is surprisingly fiddly and time consuming, collating as it does information from so many sources. Some comes in hand manuscript, some perfectly typed. Other items are wrung with difficulty from the Branches by telephone request, and jotted down incorrectly spelt, by me, on the backs of odd envelopes. While every means of communication is valued, E-mail communications are undoubtedly, of enormous help, arriving as they do accurately, instantly and without needing to be retyped. I can cut and paste any section out of an E-mail and into The Bulletin in a flash. From basic E-mail it is but a very small step to sending a whole file as an attached document. Your E-mail menu will invite you to do so by simply clicking on the paperclip sign and then telling it the name of the file in which your magnum opus is stored.

Attached documents appear on my screen just as they did on yours, and can almost eliminate the need for proof reading. A floppy disc in the post is almost as good, but slower and will have to run the gauntlet of postal delay and the jaws of my far-from-floppy dog.

Email me ideas, news, completed articles at caroline@aber64.freemove.co.uk

Caroline Palmer

Obituary - Hilda Williams

Hilda Williams, who died at the end of November, was Vice-Chairman of the Brecon & Radnor branch and an active member of the trust Committee and in both capacities her strong, practical mind and wide experience were invaluable. Born and educated in Wales, she spent her working life in London, in the Civil Service, the GLC and, latterly, at the Royal Festival Hall and when she and her husband Peter returned to their roots for what, in less energetic people, might have been called retirement, she brought with her an extraordinary range of administrative skills. The voluntary work she undertook was immense. She was active in politics and in the Red Cross, as well as WHGT and, in her own hilltop garden, was creating what she liked to call her museum of roses. Yet nothing ever seemed to be too much trouble. The old axiom that if you want something done, ask a busy woman, might have been coined with Hilda in mind.

At first sight, she could be formidable: the combination of that penetrating gaze and the sometimes uncomfortably shrewd and direct intelligence behind it had no mercy on sloppy thinking. But in any trouble or difficulty no one could be kinder and, as a vice-chairman, she was a dream: sensible, supportive, challenging and unfailingly helpful. However unlikely the problem to be dealt with, Hilda would subject it to dispassionate consideration and usually come up with a solution. She could hold her own in argument without growing pig-headed and differ without rancour. Above all, and often when least expected, she could light up with a warmth and humour that were irresistible. We shall miss her sadly.

All Trust members will wish to extend their sympathies to her husband, Peter, our Membership Secretary.

Anne Carter

From Strength to Strength - The Gateway Project

Just occasionally I have to pinch myself when I realise that a year ago we didn't know whether or not the HLF would give us any money to set this astonishing project up. With the first month of the New Year we are looking at a situation where every one of the 2,500 garden visit places have been allocated, we have a waiting list for 92 groups and Sharron has already got someone interested in a visit for 2001! The take up on this project has been heartwarming and heartrending - we hate to turn anyone away. So we have applied to the HLF for further funding for 2000 to double the number of visits we are offering. Keep your fingers crossed and keep those sponsorship forms coming in. Thank you, everyone who has been so generous so far. There is now over £1,000 in the Sponsorship account - generating an additional £3,000 of matched funding.

Other people have been extraordinarily generous too - we have received donations of £1,000 from the Laspen Trust, £2,000 from the Lloyds TSB Foundation and £2,500 from HSBC. We have other irons in the fire, so watch this space. One other cheering piece of news is that S4C has included The Gateway in their list of Millennium projects which will have the benefit of a video being made over the year. We don't know all the details yet, but it will enable us to record as many of our garden visits as possible. It will also provide an invaluable record of what we manage to achieve, and give us material for a fund-raising video when we apply for funds for future years - there is no doubt now that the garden gate will be held open for disadvantaged people in Wales for some years to come.

Everything and anything you can do to help will be so much appreciated. Ceredigion and Gwynedd have set up dates for Potting Shed Sales. Sharron and/or I would be happy to come and talk to branches everywhere - there are garden visits planned from Pembrokeshire to Pen Llyn. This is the most brilliant publicity for the WHGT, so let's fly that flag, attract new members and make people realise what wonderful historic gardens we have for everyone to appreciate.

Bettina Harden

Bettina Harden, M.B.E.

The announcement in the New Years Honours List that Bettina Harden has been awarded the M.B.E. has been a source of great pleasure and delight to her friends. Substantially, the award is for her heroic efforts and success with The Gateway Project, a project very much of Bettina's creation. Her efforts in the voluntary and charity sector go back many years. When we first met over eleven years ago, Bettina was very involved with fund-raising for the Hospice at Home in Gwynedd. I vividly remember then, her remarking that, "The trouble with fund-raising in Wales is that people can't think past a Noson Goffi" (Coffee Evening). It is the incredible energy that Bettina puts into all her voluntary work that makes this award so well deserved. Indeed it is the same energy that has transformed the gardens at Nanhonon. The news hoarding outside the newsagent in Pwllheli a couple of weeks ago read "Pwllheli woman gets M.B.E.". I don't think anyone who has known Bettina has quite thought of her as "Pwllheli Woman". The Gateway Project is proving to be an enormous success, and such has been the uptake for garden visits, that funding is now being sought to keep the project at full strength for at least the next three years. The British Empire cannot have had a more energetic member.

Nigel Pittard

News from the Branches

BRECON AND RADNOR

At the Branch AGM, held at Llanry, Llandrindod Wells on 10th November 1999, Anne Carter retired as Branch Chairman and was succeeded by Robin Whalley. The evening was made memorable by a riveting lecture on Some North Wales Gardens by the Trust Chairman, Bettina Harden, and much enjoyed by all those present. Future plans include a local garden visit and possible plant sale in late spring and a summer outing to Aberglasney.

CEREDIGION

Saturday 25 March 2000 Visit to Penllergare, Site Tour 2.30pm Numbers Limited. Please contact Michael Norman (01558 650735) to reserve a place.
Sunday 28 May Potting Shed Sale in support of The Gateway. Llanerchaeron (donations please - any kind of garden related material except plants) to coincide with the National Trust Llanerchaeron Volunteers Spring Plant Sale.
Weekend 9 or 10 September Gardens of the Cothi Valley. Provisional notice. Contact Penny David 01570 422041

CLWYD

Saturday 19 February 2000 12.30pm Lunch at Highfield Hall, Northop Hall
Saturday 18 March 10.30am Leeswood Hall, Mold Study Day on Kitchen Gardens and Ferns, and AGM. Speakers: Susan Campbell author of Charleston Kidding (A History of Kitchen Gardens), and Sally Beamish Head Gardener at Brantwood.
Saturday 20 May at 2.00pm Visit to Plas Ucha and Garthwin near Llanfair Tathaiarn (both gardens on Cadw/ICOMOS register).
Sunday 18 June 2.30pm Visit to Huxley Old Hall Garden near Waverton, tea at The Candle Workshop Burwardstley.
October (date to be arranged) An Autumn landscape walk.

GWYNEDD

Thursday 16th March, 2000. Branch AGM at Noon followed by 1 p.m. Lunch and 2.30 p.m. Guest Speaker. The development of the Gardens at Maes y Neuadd Venue to be arranged.
Thursday 6th or 13th April. Lunch Talk on Monet's Garden Venue to be arranged.
Saturday 29th April. WHGT Annual Plant Fair, Crug Farm, Griffiths Crossing, Bangor from 4 p.m. £1.50 Free parking & Free Entrance to Crug Farm Walled Garden, Country Fair and Specialist Nursery.
Sunday 7th May. Potting Shed Sale in aid of The Gateway, Nanhonon, Pwllheli 2p.m.
Saturday 20th May. Visits to two gardens in the Portmadog area. Final details later.
Sunday 25th June. Anglesey Garden Day. Coffee from 10.30 a.m. onwards at Pandy Treban. Gwyndy Bach, Llandrygan. 2 p.m. Marian, Taiwrn. 3.30 p.m. Plas Rhiwlas. Teas available. A map showing the route to these gardens will be available when the booking form is received.
Outline plan from July is as follows:

During period 19-23 July. Visit to Tattion Park Show.
Sunday September 10th Visit to National Trust property Plas yn Rhiw. Sandwich lunch. Price will include drinks Coffee, tea.
Friday September 29th Michaelmas Luncheon. Llanrwst, Bias y Fwyd. Details available in second mailing
8th October. Autumn plant sale. Venue to be arranged. Anyone interested in attending any of these events please contact Margaret Mason on 01758 721577 to receive final details of venues, costs, etc.

PEMBROKESHIRE

Monday 21 February 7.00pm. Cottesmore. Richard Gilbertson will talk on Some gardens of Cumbria and S.E. Scotland.
Monday 20 March 7.00pm. Queen's Hall, Narberth. Tom Lloyd will talk on West Wales Gardens in Art and Literature.
Monday 17 April 7.00pm. Cottesmore. AGM and talk by Michael Norman on Penllergare A Victorian Paradise.

WEST GLAMORGAN

Elizabeth Belcham reports that the Branch, further weakened by the sudden and unexpected death of loyal and active member Dennis Smith, has been unable to muster a full Committee. Talks leading to a merger with the South and Mid Glamorgan Branch are under way.
Meetings and Outings
 Dan Clayton Jones has invited us to visit Middleton before he relinquishes the chair of the management committee and the Gardens are officially opened in April. The date and format of the expedition are yet to be arranged but we will be notifying our members and the secretaries of neighbouring branches as soon as they are. The rest of our spring and summer programme has yet to be devised but we have to hold ourselves in readiness to help with the implementation of the Gateway Project.

WEST GLAMORGAN

The few stalwarts who do all the work continue to struggle on but their December meeting was cancelled because of illness and the one on Jan 17th because all the committee members were stuck at home in a freezing fog. Now that Patricia Moore is back in harness and as soon as the flu and the weather permit we hope to make progress. We have had no communication from West Glamorgan so that no progress has been made on the proposed merger.
 As far as on going work is concerned
 a) **Craig y Parc** The second garden viewed on the Edwardian weekend. This garden belongs to a charity which trains people with cerebral palsy and similar problems during the week. The garden has been adapted for wheelchairs but is otherwise relatively unspoiled. However they do need help with clearing and some replanting as well dealing with the trees on and outside the boundary which obscure the views the garden was designed to exploit. We are exploring methods of providing this help.
 b) **Rookwood** This hunted hospital is in diminishing use by the health service and may close in the foreseeable future. It is built in the grounds of Rookwood house which was in turn built on the gardens of Llandaff house. The remains of these gardens are still identifiable including the listed summer/icehouse. Fortunately the summer/icehouse is some way from the later developments but it is sadly neglected. We are starting to photograph and map the remains of the gardens so as to be ready if the estate is put on the market.

SOUTH AND MID GLAMORGAN BRANCH

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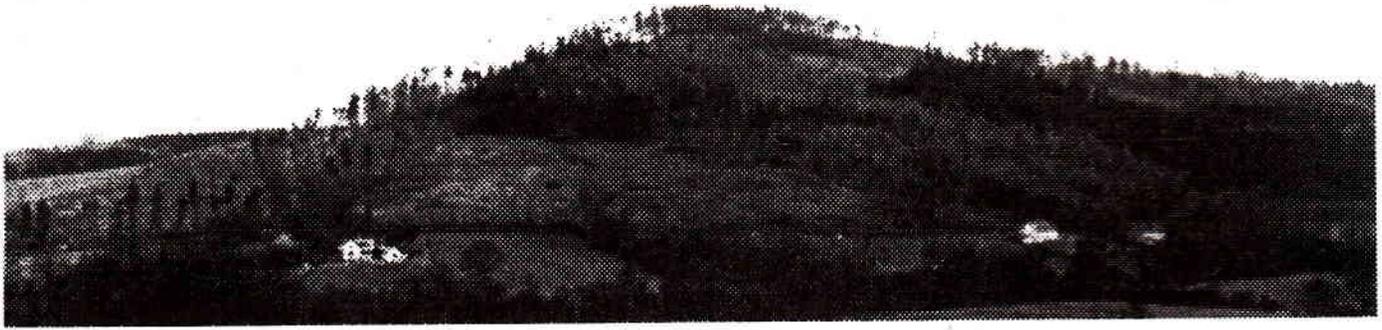
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Coed Craig Ruperra - an Ancient, Woodland Place

by Pat Moseley



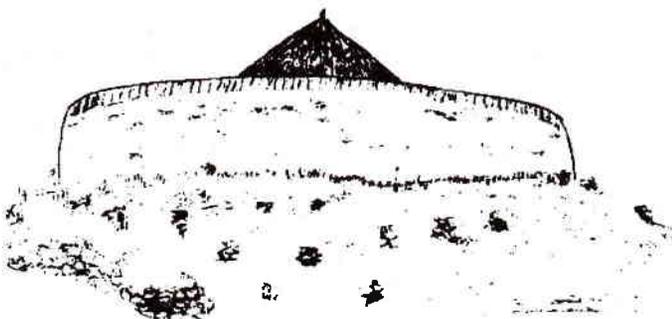
Craig Ruperra from the Newport - Caerphilly Road

Readers of Elizabeth Whittle's article on Ruperra Castle in the autumn edition of *The Bulletin* will surely be interested to know about the plans of the Ruperra Conservation Trust for the acquisition and restoration of 61 hectares of ancient woodland at Coed Craig Ruperra.

Coed Craig Ruperra lies to the north of Ruperra Castle in Draethen, west of Caerphilly, and was once part of the Ruperra Estate until it was sold in the 1950s. An early map of the Estate dated 1764 shows that the woodland was at that time an integral part of the landscaping surrounding the castle grounds. A woodland walk led from the back of the Castle grounds up on to the ridge with 'lights' cut into the trees below giving a view of the Castle and the countryside as far as the Bristol Channel and beyond. At the top of the ridge is a mound where in 1764 a summerhouse was built "for the family to drink tea in the summertime". This area has recently been placed on the Cadw Register of Parks and Gardens in Wales.

The mound was in fact a Norman type motte, whether built by the Normans to keep out the Welsh or the other way round is not known. Intriguingly when excavations were being carried out for the summerhouse, an erect skeleton was found in a square stone room. There are many theories as to its origin.

The mound itself was placed on the site of an Iron-Age Hillfort. The accompanying banks and ditches are very hard to determine because of the encroachment of the undergrowth even now when the slopes have been clearfelled. The whole of the summit is a scheduled Ancient Monument.



The Summerhouse taken from a photograph about 1920-30

of the century, on the site of the original, made of slatted wooden posts with a thatched roof and benches inside. Today the site can be reached by a spiralling path with ruined walling up to an atmospheric enclosure housing the floor, possibly cobbled, of the summerhouse. A fascinating collection of stonework is attached to the uprooted underside of a large tree which leans perilously over one wall. The summerhouse was still intact in the Second World War when soldiers billeted in the Castle used the woods as a short cut to the nearby village of Machen.

In the 1820s a carriage way was built leading from the Castle and skirting the foot of Coed Ruperra to emerge on the Draethen to Michaelston road. From there it proceeded across the Rhymney River over the specially built Iron Bridge (dated 1826 and listed) to Lower Machen Church where the Morgan Family and all their servants attended Church on a Sunday. It is still a public footpath.

Ruperra Conservation Trust which was formed originally to raise money to purchase and conserve the whole of the original Ruperra Estate turned its attention to Coed Craig Ruperra when the castle and 17 acres of surrounding land was sold privately in July 1998. Taking the view that the woodland has an even older history than the castle, the trustees aim to restore it as far as is possible to its 'ancient' status thereby offering a sympathetic habitat for the plants and animals that went away in the last 50 years. It is intended to reinstate the landscaped walk up to the summerhouse with the lights through the trees but also to create a living woodland landscape for the 21st century and to provide a suitable setting for the Castle. In collaboration with Caerphilly County Borough Council the history of the scheduled monument will be properly researched and it is hoped to create a public amenity where the heritage of this wonderful place can be properly interpreted and enhanced.

For this, money is of course needed. The trust has already raised £44,000 for the purchase but there is a shortfall of £16,000. In order to secure some of the funding, the contract must be signed by the end of February. Trustees would be very heartened were the readers of this article to feel constrained to put their hands in their pockets and help achieve the desired target!

Please send a cheque to Ruperra Conservation Trust at Hillside, Rudry, Caerphilly, CF83 3EB.

Tel no 01222 885849

(Registered in Cardiff No 03186952)

Registered Charity No 1054796

Another summerhouse was built probably around the turn

Preoccupations of the Past Phrenology for Gardeners and their Patrons by Thomas Jones

published in *The Gardeners Magazine*, December 1843.

Annotated Extracts by Caroline Palmer

The new science of phrenology was held to allow the divination of mental faculties through close inspection of the physiognomy, and especially of the cranium. Great possibilities were foreseen in 1843: *Allow me therefore to recommend phrenology to gardeners, as a science that will aid them in their choice of apprentices, journeymen and labourers; and to masters, as an assistance in the choice of gardeners..... Phrenology is destined, at no distant period to effect the most important changes in the system of education, and in the choice of all servants, whether public or private, and, let me add, also in the choice of husbands or wives, and friends, I will refer you to the progress this science is making throughout Europe, and especially in Germany.*

Self assessment for gardeners was a priority. *I shall commence by recommending gardeners to endeavour to ascertain the defects of their own temperaments and organic conformation. Having arrived at this knowledge they will be enabled, to a certain extent, to guard against the errors to which, by their particular variety of constitution, they are most prone.*

An understanding of phrenology would also teach head gardeners, *not only how to chose workmen of different kinds, but how to manage them. Men and women of no education, or without that substitute for it, the cultivation which is given by constant intercourse with educated people, must necessarily be slaves of their temperament; and therefore a head gardener may tell pretty well what he has to expect from a garden labourer as soon as he sees him. He will foresee his faults and virtues, and shape his treatment to him accordingly.*



Fig. 129. Broad Chest, and Broad Forehead.



Fig. 130. Narrow and Contracted Chest and Narrow Forehead

Gardeners might employ the same insights should they be in the fortunate position of selecting a master. *Gardeners out of place are not likely often to have a choice of situations and masters; but sometimes they have; and it must be useful to them to know that, all other circumstances, such as duty, wages, prospects &c., alike, the lord or the lady with a broad full chest, broad erect forehead, and not much exceeding the middle size (fig 129) will naturally be the most kind and generous to them, provided the servant does his duty. In such a case as I am contemplating, an intelligent gardener would not willingly chose to live with a master having narrow shoulders and a contracted chest, (fig 130) or a defective facial angle (fig 131) instead of the angle of intelligence (fig 132).*

One might worry that pigeon-chested gentlemen with receding chins would be in serious want of a gardener. However, the employer with a defective facial angle may have undergone improvement: *the inestimable blessing of education and the*



Fig. 131. Defective Facial Angle



Fig. 132. Angle of Intelligence

intercourse of high and polished society, neutralise or counteract the former to such a degree as to put its possessor almost on a footing with a man of native strength of mind.

Jones also commends these principles for their eugenic implications: *if this kind of knowledge is important to a gardener in the choice an employer or of labourers, it is of still greater importance to him in the choice of a wife. Nothing good is to be expected of an uneducated woman, unless she has an ample chest and attenuated extremities. All other things being equal a man should make choice of a wife whose form and extremities come as near as possible to those of the Venus de Medicis (fig 133) and a woman should choose a husband of a form, and with extremities coming as near as possible to those of the Apollo Belvedere (Fig 134). Full size statues of these models of beauty and perfection ought to be in every garden, and in the hall of every gentleman's house; and casts of them (which may be had very perfect of their kind at 7s each) on the chimney piece of every cottage, as a beau ideal to operate on the imagination.*



Fig. 133. Venus, or Ideal Female Beauty



Fig. 134. Apollo, or Ideal Male Beauty

Little is known about the author Thomas Jones, but it may be safely speculated that he was a man of larger stature. In a footnote he quotes French research (*Annales de la Hygiene Publique*) on the tendency of long continued wars to degenerate the human race, by laying hold of the tallest men, and those possessed of the most robust health, and sweeping them off without their leaving offspring. *It would be much better for the human race to select for soldiers none but little men; or to admit all capable men, and then when the capacity was equal, to take little men in preference.*

In the light of tracts such as this one, garden statuary should be seen not merely as a focal point to draw the eye along a vista, but as a manifesto commending the coupling of tall athletic men with young women possessed of ample bosoms and long feet.

Potting Shed SALES

In support of the Gateway

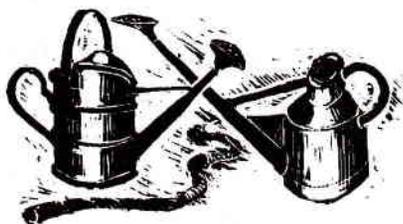


Sunday 7th May 2000 2.00pm
Nanhoron, Pwllheli.

The Gardens will also be open to the public.

Sunday 28th May 2000 2.00pm
Llanerchaeron, Aberaeron.

In conjunction with the
Llanerchaeron Plant Fair.
Gardens also open to the public.



*Members' Contributions of items for sale to
Nanhoron, or to Llanerchaeron on any Thursday*

The National Gardens Scheme

MILLENNIUM ART EXHIBITION CEREDIGION GARDENS

UNIVERSITY OF WALES, LAMPETER
1 - 21 JULY 2000

Paintings and engravings of 50 Wales based artists illustrate
the Gardens of Ceredigion.

All paintings will be for sale.

The Old Hall 1 - 21 July, Monday - Saturday 11 - 5pm
& Sunday 2 - 5pm.

ALSO

Part of the University's collection of rare European Herbals
1 - 20 July, Monday - Thursday 2 - 4.30pm

Admission free

GALA OPENING
SATURDAY 1 JULY 2000

2 - 5pm

**Mega plant sale: Tea: Live
entertainment**

Entrance to Gala Afternoon £2.00 adults, 50p children

Further information - County Organiser, Ceredigion. Tel/fax
01654 781203

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W.H.G.T. EVENTS

STUDY DAY

Knots and Parterres

Robin Whalley and other speakers

Saturday 3rd June, 2000,

at St. Fagans

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

and Lecture by the distinguished Irish

Garden Restorer Belinda Jupp

"Garden Restoration in Ireland"

Saturday 10th June 2000.

Venue in South Wales