

AUTUMN ISSUE 1994

# Editorial

In his message to members printed in our last issue, the Chairman proposed three targets for the Trust in the coming year. First of these was the need for a reorganisation and streamlining of our administration, and steps are already being taken to bring this about. Once the main action-base of the Trust is established in its branches, this will mean a corresponding diminution in the amount of work that must be carried out centrally. This, in turn, should enable us, administratively, to live within our income—basically derived from membership subscriptions—in order that money raised from outside sources may be devoted to the active work of the Trust. Sadly, in our present circumstances, this means that we have been obliged to part with the Trust Executive who leaves us to set up his own consultancy. Michael Norman, as many of you will know well, has worked indefatigably in the Trust Office and we wish him every success in the future. For anyone who may wish to contact him, his new number can be obtained from the Trust Office.

The Trust Office, too, has a new address and telephone number. It was, in any event, becoming necessary for the Trust to move from Plas Tyllwyd and new premises were being sought. The timely and generous offer of accommodation in the house of the Secretary, Col. Gilbertson, for which the Trust is most grateful, will enable us to continue our economy drive without inconvenience to members. This is not expected to be a long-term arrangement, and our ultimate aim is to establish ourselves in a more convenient location in mid Wales. Our new address, from the time of going to press, is Coed-y-Fynnon, Lampeter Velfrey, Narberth, Pembrokeshire. The telephone number is 0834 83 396; calls will be welcome up to 11 pm and, should a human voice be unavailable, answering machine and fax will be on line daily. This information is repeated in the Contacts list on p. 8.

The Chairman's second objective—funds, is also being addressed. We have received generous sponsorship in the past and we can reasonably hope that this will not fail when our approach is made on a project-by-project basis. We also need to create a capital reserve, and current general appeals are partly to this end.



*The Rock Park Spa, Llandrindod Wells, in its hey-day. See page 7.*

Prof. Pritchard's third point concerned the Trust's standing in Wales. This is something which time and the effectiveness of our actions must determine, but that there is a serious need for garden conservation in the Principality cannot be doubted.

It is ironic that, as the raising of public consciousness begins to make gardens throughout Britain an important element in the leisure industry of the nineties, the threat to vulnerable sites can now come as much from over-enthusiasm as from neglect. Arguments such as that presently raging over the restoration of the landscape at Kenwood, in north London, are given prominent cover in the broadsheets.

Welsh gardens, for a variety of reasons, some geographical and some historical, remain comparatively undiscovered. Here, there is still time, but not much. Development can move extremely fast.

The nature and degree of restoration which can or should be undertaken at a given site is more than an academic question. Large sums of money may be involved and the need to make the right decisions is imperative. Features once obliterated may be lost for ever. Yet money frequently demands haste and haste is the enemy of good research.

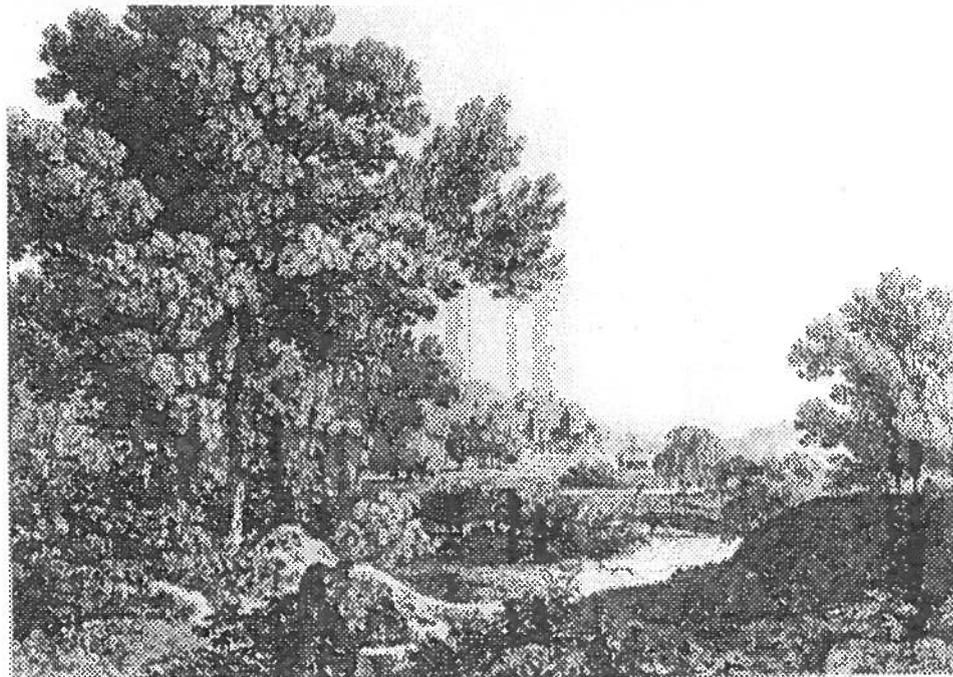
Through its branches the Trust has the opportunity to amass the most detailed knowledge of gardens of all descriptions in every part of Wales. And precisely because we are not a 'heritage body' with manifold responsibilities, we are free to put gardens first. No one else is so well placed to guard and to speak up for them.

Anne Carter

# NEXT DOOR TO WALES

by Phyllis Guskin

## *Visions of Georgian Herefordshire*



Benjamin Pouncy after Thomas Hearne: An "undressed park"  
from Richard Payne Knight's *The Landscape: A Didactic Poem* (1794)

*The Picturesque Landscape; Visions of Georgian Herefordshire.* Edited by Stephen Daniels and Charles Watkins. Department of Geography, University of Nottingham, in association with Hereford City Art Gallery and University Art Gallery, Nottingham, 1994.

This stimulating and well illustrated set of essays, which accompanies a catalogue of the exhibition held earlier in Hereford and currently on display in Nottingham, is full of valuable material for all interested in the history of attitudes towards landscape. It challenges simplistic concepts of the rise of the picturesque by exploring the genesis of the ideas of the two primary theorists of the picturesque, both Hereford landowners, Uvedale Price of Foxley and Richard Payne Knight of Downton. Price's *Essays on the Picturesque* and Knight's *The Landscape* were both published in the same year (1794), and this exhibition celebrates their bicentenary. Both men were strongly influenced by the special characteristics of the Hereford countryside, with its rich agricultural land, its wooded valleys, and its winding rivers, set against the dramatic backdrop of the hills of mid-Wales. Estates in Herefordshire were mostly owned by well-established gentry families, whose interest in the productivity of the land was often combined with a knowledgeable involvement in the arts and sciences.

Both exhibition and catalogue remind us that Price and Knight were no mere 'wanton connoisseurs' but influential thinkers who tried to combine the useful and the beautiful in their attitudes to land. It documents their appreciation, in some ways very modern, of the environment as a rich harmony of traditional use and commercial development, an appreciation sensitive to the natural world of trees and plants, and the topographical individuality of each place. Price, for example, dispraised the 'tame cultivated country' of East Anglia, and the 'barrenness [sic], desolation and deformity' of such popular tourist destinations as Snowdonia, in favour of the variety of the

wooded valleys and the human scale of his home shire.

The editors of the catalogue initially give us a succinct and solid discussion of the picturesque landscape and its Herefordshire connections. David Whitehead's essay, 'Sense with Sensibility: Landscaping in Georgian Herefordshire', explores the history of landscaping owners in the county, from the 'Man of Ross' to the young widow Frances Scudamore, sketching the context for later developments. Two brief but innovative contributions, one by Beryl Hartley and one by the editors, consider the intellectual influences on the Price family, both Robert and his more famous son Uvedale, while Tom Wall in 'The Verdant Landscape; The Practice and Theory of Richard Payne Knight at Downton', provides an illuminating discussion of Knight's views, ranging from his balanced attitude to gravel walks ('The comforts of cleanliness are perfectly consistent with picturesque beauty: it is only affected neatness and glitter that is incompatible with it.') to the conservationist implications of Knight's attitudes to the natural environment:

Your favourite plants, and native haunts protect,  
In wild obscurity, and rude neglect;  
Or teach proud man his labour to employ  
To form and decorate, and not destroy;  
Teach him to place, and not remove the stone  
On yonder bank, with moss and fern o'ergrown;  
To cherish, not mow down, the weeds that creep  
Along the shore, or overhang the steep;  
To break, not level, the slow-rising ground,  
And guard, not cut, the fern that shades it round.

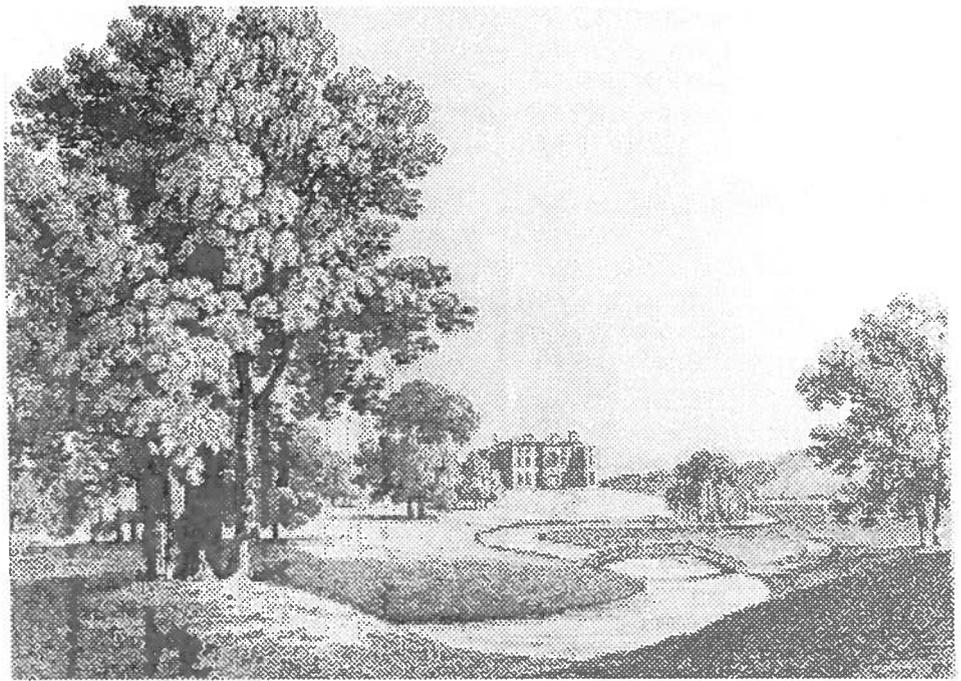
(p. 57)

The philosophical, political and psychological implications of Knight's major poem *The Landscape* are considered further by Andrew Ballantye, while Repton's work in Hereford is usefully summarized by Hazel Fryer.

The political and economic implications of the picturesque

movement are emphasized by a number of contributors. The land agent Nathaniel Kent worked at Foxley and his theories of 'connection' suggested ways in which an estate could be socially stable (particularly important towards the end of the eighteenth century), economically viable, and aesthetically pleasing. Woodlands related in significant ways to all these goals, and both exhibition and catalogue consider the importance of trees in contributing to prosperity and to landscape effects.

The exhibition had on display some striking drawings by Thomas Hearne, including a splendid set of twelve watercolours of features of the Downton Gorge, and others of ancient trees in Moccas Park. These drawings were given additional interest by the same viewpoints. Drawings by Claude that formed part of Knight's collection, and a sketch by Gainsborough of beech trees in Foxley Park, emphasize the interrelationships of art, nature and landscape during this period. Estate maps, editions of works by Price and Knight, Repton's Red Books for Ferney Sufton, and Garnons, and drawings and watercolours by both professional and amateur artists, all added to the viewer's pleasure. One would definitely like to know more of the Charlotte



Benjamin Pouncy after Thomas Hearne: A park "dressed in the modern style" from Richard Payne Knight's *The Landscape: A Didactic Poem* (1794)

Davenport whose six watercolours of picturesque cottages in the mid-nineteenth century (which are in a private collection) showed scrupulous honesty and aesthetic sensitivity in a nice balance.

If you missed the exhibition itself, the catalogue offers a stimulating equivalent, beautifully illustrated, well produced, and incidentally remarkably good value.

## Laburnum Hedges by Patricia Moore

Many thanks to all who wrote or sent messages on laburnum hedges in Wales and on similar planting in Ireland, West Shropshire and in the Lake District. Briefly:

The earliest Welsh references found so far come from Walter Davies's 'General View of the Agriculture and Domestic Economy of North Wales' (1810) and '... of South Wales' (1815). Davies commented on the presence of laburnum and on the fact that its leaves made good forage for cattle and sheep. He also noted that hares chose to browse on it (presumably on young plants) and that laburnum raised from seed could successfully distract their attention from other seedlings.

A more recent writer, Arthur Chater (1991), reports that most of today's Cardiganshire trees are of *Laburnum anagyroides*. The later-flowering *L. alpinum* also occurs, less frequently, but is sometimes planted alternately, presumably to extend the flowering display.

Several correspondents comment on the positioning of many of these hedges on raised banks. Coppicing every 20 years or so is the most usual management (Chater). The trees may act as a wind break, and ornament, but do not provide an effective barrier to stock.

Planting in hedgerows suggests propagation by cuttings.

Laburnum strikes easily, and stakes used in hedging was suggested by one farming contact. Self-sown laburnum are rarely seen (Chater), perhaps hares still browse or slugs get busy. Farmers report few problems with animals from the poisonous seeds. If there is poison in the leaves perhaps cattle acquire immunity to its effects, as with yew in some continental countries.

Davies (1810) likened the wood to mahogany, as it had a good colour and a close grain. It was used for inlay, but no archaeological evidence for its use in tool-making has been traced.

There have been some hedge losses in recent years (in a letter Chater cites destruction at Pentregat) but most hedges seem to be well maintained and appreciated for their beauty. Botanists in some areas have been recording their location. Perhaps WHGT members might use their influence to encourage the continuation of an attractive landscape planting.

Archival and botanic evidence identifies planting in the 1840s and 1860s. Could members search for earlier references, in the late eighteenth century and early nineteenth century? Laburnum could have been a garden plant in the seventeenth century, but the origin of the hedges remains obscure. Every mention found is important.

## CAMARTHENSHIRE BRANCH

Sept 10th Garden Workshop, 11 am, with Ivor Stokes at the kind invitation of Dr and Mrs Walters at their home Plas Glanrhyd, Pontantwn, Kidwelly. Bring a picnic. £5 p.p.

Contact: Gwenydd Walters 269 860380.

Oct 8th Tour of Hafod with Dr Andrew Sclater. Joint transport arrangements.

Contact: Andrew Sclater 0558 685567

Nov 11th Open Meeting, Golden Grove Arms, 7.30 pm, with Exhibition of Trust and Carmarthenshire Branch activities. Plus entertainment.

Contact: Barrie Downes 0269 850351

Dec 19/20/21 Carol Singing in Llanelli, Carmarthen and Llandeilo in aid of local gardens.

Contact: Andrew Sclater 0558 685567

It would be helpful (but not essential) if you could let the contact name know that you are coming a week in advance.

There will be ongoing work at Aberglasney. Can you spare any time to do some renovation work there? We are also now involved with the National Trust in the restoration of the Victorian Garden at Dynevor Park, Llandeilo. Many areas of help will be needed from research to planting. Please contact Barrie Downes on 0269 850351 if you can help with either of the above projects.

## CEREDIGION BRANCH

### Hafod

Members of the Branch continue to serve on the Hafod Working Party. Archaeological investigation has been carried out prior to further reinstatement of the 'Ladies Walk'. Much clearance of brushwood has been done by a Ceredigion Training team, and a new forest design plan is being prepared by the Forest Enterprise. The next step will be to conserve the Alpine Bridge abutments with the aid of a grant promised by Cadw.

It has recently been learned that Dwr Cymru: Welsh Water is about to carry out maintenance work on its waterway which runs through the Hafod estate. Its excavations will be monitored by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust, assisted as needed by HWP.

## News from the Branches

The Chairman of the Hafod Working Party and the Trust Executive gave radio and television interviews at Hafod in July.

### Trawsgoed

The first recording project (mainly concerned with trees) has been completed and a report is being prepared, which will also deal with wider considerations.

### Provisional Register of Historic Gardens in Ceredigion

Efforts are now being made by Ros Laidlaw and Branch committee members to make a small selection of sites for early investigation out of the 150 or so on the first list.

### Event at Llanerchaeron

The Branch arranged a stand, supervised by Ros Laidlaw, at the Annual Garden Fete of the National Trust on 7 July.

### Lectures

The Branch Chairman, as Vice-Chairman of the Trust, addressed the annual conference of the Garden History Society at Bangor on 21 July on 'Historic Gardens of Wales'.

### Events

(No reminders will be sent re visits.)

Friday 23 September: 7.30 pm. Branch Committee, Penrhyn-coch.

Sunday 25 September: Afternoon visit to Nanteos house and grounds, near Aberystwyth, followed by tea. A rare opportunity to visit a site not accessible for many years. Numbers limited. Please send £5 per head by 19 September to Mrs Cecilia Barton, Culmore, North Road, Lampeter SA48 7HZ (Tel. 0570 422347). Muster in front of house 2.15 pm.

Sunday 23 October: Afternoon visit to Falcondale gardens, near Lampeter. £2 per head, incl. tea (pay on site). Telephone Penny David, 0570 422041 to book places. Meet at hotel 2.30 pm.

Saturday 19 November: 2.15 pm Branch

AGM at Ceredigion Museum, Aberystwyth, followed by a lecture 'Nanteos, the house and its families' by Gerald Morgan. Note new AGM date.

## CLWYD BRANCH

### Wynnstay Park

After the study day at Wynnstay Park in April, it had been hoped to get the authorities of Lindsfarne College, who occupy the house, interested in the Capability Brown elements of the park, but sadly the college has now gone into liquidation. The estate is in divided ownership and the future of the Capability Brown part of the park is undecided. The trustees of the Wynnstay Estate run the outer park land to the Wynnstay Lodges, the Monument and Belan Tower. The Bath House has been sold.

### Hawkstone Park

An excellent day was had at Hawkstone in May. This park was planned and started by Sir Rowland Hill in 1748 and added to over the years by other members of the Hill family. The area consists of a series of hills rising from the Shropshire plain on which are fascinating grottoes and follies. In 1992 a massive renovation programme was started and a large part of the work completed by this year.

### Garth Gynan

The June outing was to Garth Gynan, a grade 2 house owned by Mr and Mrs John Harrop. The house spans four periods and has an interesting hidden garden with remains of a banqueting house built into farm buildings and a raised walk. The farm buildings are eighteenth century. Our hosts were very welcoming and provided an excellent tea.

**Gazetteer** Work is in progress on the Gazetteer but more volunteers are needed.

**Colomendy** The grotto and a Davies gate have been discovered. However there is still more work to be done. It is to be put on the register.

**Gwysanney** As part of the Delyn Festival there will be a visit to Gwysanney, a wonderfully sited Grade 2 garden near Mold, on Saturday 9th October.

## **GWENT BRANCH**

The Nelson Summer House Garden was open for the fourth time on Sunday, 21st August. Help has been provided on previous occasions by the Nelson Society, The Monmouth Clive Society and the Monmouth Field and Antiquarian Society. On this Sunday Gwent Branch members were responsible.

**September 15th.** There will be a visit to Raglan Castle, led by Mrs Whittle, to see the site of the renaissance garden, starting at 10.30 am. In the afternoon we visit Dingestow Court Victorian garden.

**October 13th.** Mrs Anna Tribe, a descendant of Admiral Lord Nelson, will give an illustrated talk on 'The Nelson Factor', followed by a meeting and buffet supper. 7.30 pm at Penpergwm Lodge, nr Abergavenny. Tickets £6. Enquiries to Mrs Boyle, 0873 840208.

The branch has been asked by The Steel Company of Wales for advice on restoring the gardens of their property, Mathern Palace, and we have been in touch with them. Our advice has also been sought on the garden restoration at Kemeys Manor near Usk. We are fortunate in having on our committee Mrs Elizabeth Whittle who has been able to help in both cases.

## **GWYNEDD BRANCH**

**Thursday, 29th September.** Michaelmas Lunch, at Ye Old Bull's Head Inn.

**Thursday 27th October.** Talk by Peter Hayden on 'The Imperial Parks of St Petersburg'. 7.30 pm. Plas Glynn-y-Wedd.

**Thursday, 10th November.** Branch AGM at the University Botanic Gardens, Treborth, Bangor, with a talk on the history and work of the gardens from their Director, Nigel Brown.

## **MID & SOUTH GLAMORGAN BRANCH**

**Pompeii Garden, Duffryn**  
South Glamorgan County Council has applied to Cadw for permission to demolish and rebuild Thomas Mawson's Pompeii Garden (listed grade II) at Duffryn. The Pompeii Garden is at present closed to the public as the 1960s

County Council concrete repairs are splitting.

The Branch welcomes the proposal to rebuild, but fears that the timing of local government reorganisation might see the demolition of the garden and the demise of the County Council (or exhaustion of its funds) before reconstruction starts.

## **Italian Gardens, Penarth**

The Branch is adding its voice to the local opposition to the addition of 1990s-style, whimsical, blue-painted, wave-simulating railings (actually quite witty) to the Edwardian-style Italian Gardens on Penarth promenade. The railings had been installed as an 'enhancement to a conservation area' and no planning permission was required, merely committee approval.

The modern railings and trivial gate pillars are completely inappropriate to the site. It is felt that the Vale of Glamorgan Borough Council should remove these and find another use for them elsewhere. Around a modern children's playground, for example, would be ideal.

## **Apple Day, St Fagans, 22 October**

Saturday 22 October will be Apple Day at the Welsh Folk Museum, the culmination of a week of apple-related activities.

## **Apple Day, Penarth, 22 October**

A group of enthusiasts in Penarth intend to stage an Apple Day at Penarth Public Library. Residents are invited to bring examples of apples from their own gardens. Identifications will be offered if apples are left with the organisers.

## **Tree Surveys**

Would any members with a good knowledge of trees please contact the Branch Chairman, Peter Elmes, on 0222 512102, if they could advise in two proposed Branch projects? Help is needed for 2 or 3 days (or more) this autumn.

## **MONTGOMERY BRANCH**

Members have been continuing with their restoration work on the Victorian Rock Garden with otter holt at Broneirion, Llandinam.

A scheme of work was drawn up initially and is being followed carefully. The tree surgeon has been and trimmed

a large overhanging oak tree; paths have been weed killed; over 100 assorted ferns have been planted and existing plants marked and noted. A list of all plants found, wild and cultivated, has also been made. A further planting of appropriate period plants will take place in the autumn.

## **PEMBROKE BRANCH**

Two very enjoyable visits have been held:

On 12th June a small group heard a clear and detailed talk on the history of Colby Lodge house and garden, by Mr Tony Scurfield-Lewis. We then walked around the grounds of the house and those of the adjoining National Trust.

On the 26 June we had a visit to Kilgetty House. Mr Thomas Lloyd told us that the garden was probably abandoned at an early stage of its development when the owner inherited the much grander Picton Castle and transferred his gardening activities there.

From Kilgetty we moved on to Merrixton Farm to the perfect contrast—a once well tended garden being brought back to life by M. Owen Jones and his family.

## **Winter Programme**

Visit to Hafod, Sunday 25 September, 12.30.

The winter lectures will be held at Cottesmore, Haverfordwest. Many thanks to Miss Charlotte Kelway for once again allowing us to use her home, probably starting at 7.30 p.m. prompt.

**October 17** Mr Thomas Lloyd

**November 21** Mr St. John Stimson 'The English Landscape Garden'

**December 19** Informal gathering when members will be invited to bring to the attention of the group any gardens they have discovered in their own areas.

## **WEST GLAMORGAN BRANCH**

7th December. Social Event for everyone. Christmas Gardens Quiz. 7.00 pm. Neath Old Town Hall. Licensed Bar.

Enquiries to the Secretary, Elisabeth Belcham. 0639 721868

## CASTLE HALL PROJECT PEMBROKESHIRE

A feasibility study was carried out by Land Use Consultants in September 1993. It was approved and accepted by all concerned; the developers, Preseli Pembrokeshire District Council, the Countryside Council for Wales, the Welsh Development Agency, the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust and the Castle Hall Heritage Group. Progress then stopped, due to changes in the Trust at national and Pembrokeshire level, and in the Castle Hall Heritage Group (CHHG).

Once these changes were sorted out, Michael Norman, with the CHHG and the Pembrokeshire Branch, arranged a meeting chaired by Peter Holden on 1st August 1994. It was attended by representatives of CHHG, WHGT, Steve Taylor for Preseli Pembrokeshire District Council, George Davies for Waterfront Developments (Pembrokeshire) (the developer) and graced by the Mayor of Milford Haven, Cllr D. Adams, who permitted the use of the Town Hall for the meeting.

It was decided on the advice of Michael Norman, to set up a Steering Group to make a plan of action towards creating a 'Castle Hall Limited Company' under the chairmanship of Mr Peter Brakespear, vice-chairman Caren Dudley, secretary Martin Rowlands (the two last from CHHG). The remaining persons present agreed to serve on the new committee. The first aim would be to set up a partnership of local people to conserve and manage the important nineteenth-century garden under the watchful eye of the Pembrokeshire Branch of WHGT.

HRH the Prince of Wales visited Milford Haven in June and was keenly interested in the display put on by CHHG; he recalled that he was the Patron of the Trust and impressed the accompanying local dignitaries! The Chairman of the Port Authority and the Chairman of Preseli Pembrokeshire District Council also expressed their willingness to help with the scheme on that occasion.

Sylvia Thomas-Ferrand



## The Restoration of the Turret Roofs at Newton House, Dinefwr

by Donald Moore



*The second turret roof being lowered into place.*

*Photo: Donald Moore*

It was a privilege—and an exciting one—to attend a spectacular event recently at Dinefwr Park, near Llandeilo, as Vice-Chairman of the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust. Four new turret roofs were to be hoisted into place on top of the present mansion. Many members are familiar with the two seventeenth-century paintings showing the old house of Newton Dynevor with its splendid formal gardens, and even more are acquainted with the marvellous designed landscape which replaced those gardens. The house itself has undergone many changes over the centuries, and in recent years it has appeared as a low, rectangular, stone-faced structure of three storeys, representing what remained of the Victorian restoration. It was by no means as prominent in its surroundings as one would expect, because four tapering turret roofs had been removed for reasons of safety in 1934, when low crenellations were added instead.

Newton House (excluding the courtyards and walled garden) was acquired in 1989 by the National Trust, which has pursued an energetic programme of restoration ever since. The most urgent task was to repair the roof, and it was judged best to attempt a restoration of the original design of R.K. Penson. No detailed documentary evidence survived, but there were old photographs, personal memories

and other comparable designs by the same architect on which to base the work.

On 27 July last, visitors to Dinefwr were confronted by an enormous crane, installed in front of the house by the contractors, which was to be used to lift a complete prefabricated roof to each of the four corner turrets. The assembled guests were on tenterhooks as each turret roof, weighing six tonnes, rose imperceptibly through the air, to be guided to its resting place on its stonework socket 51 feet above the ground, thus creating a total height of 77 feet for the whole elevation, including the ornamental ironwork on top. Each turret roof cost £16,250, and the present project was financed by contributions from a galaxy of national and regional bodies, as well as individuals.

The nineteenth-century fountain garden on the west side of the house is being excavated and restored to its pre-1939 aspect under the supervision of the National Trust's archaeologists. The Carmarthenshire Branch of our own Trust has been invited to collaborate.

It will be some time before the house itself can be opened to the public, but in the meantime visitors are welcome in the park, provided they keep to the marked paths.

## PUBLIC PARKS—Have we cherished them?

Could members please help Elisabeth Whittle (who is compiling the Cadw/ICOMOS Register of Historic Gardens) with information on their local parks? It is not necessary to send very detailed information or a complete history of the park (unless you have one readily to hand), just a brief note of its name, location, present state, and any features (past or present) which you think significant.

Public parks of note are being included in the Register—for example, already in the Glamorgan list is the still-flourishing Roath Park, Cardiff, which celebrated its centenary this year.

However, just as important is the information on less-flourishing parks, for their creation in Victorian and Edwardian times formed part of a great movement for the provision of amenities.

Many municipal parks have been allowed to deteriorate in recent years; staff wages have risen, and so has the level of vandalism. The park attendant, in uniform, has vanished.

The results of a survey carried out in England have been published in 'Public Prospects' (available at £5 including postage from the Victorian Society, 1 Priory Gardens, London W4 1TT). The booklet contains much dismal reading. Statues, fountains and gates have been vandalised or stolen, glasshouses no longer have a pane of glass, bandstands have been swept away and labour-intensive flower beds have been abandoned;

litter and graffiti proliferate. Green grass and open spaces have disappeared under macadam and leisure centres, as public habits and recreation requirements change.

What will the picture in Wales reveal? Please help, and send your information to Mrs Elisabeth Whittle, Cadw Welsh Historic Monuments, Brunel House, Fitzalan Road, Cardiff, so that she can compile a list of public parks for consideration. You Branch Secretary or Gazetteer Officer will be glad to receive the same information.

Patricia Moore



*An insensitive brick planter in a Victorian park.*

ADVERTISEMENT

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*planted a garden. And indeed it is  
the purest of human pleasures.”*

— Francis Bacon: Essays

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## The Beauties of Creation – 4



FOXGLOVE

Is a large flower, resembling a thimble worn on the finger: from the root grows a stalk, two, and sometimes three feet high; and is hairy, and of a reddish colour:

### HEART'S-EASE

This flower, by the Latins, is called *Viola Tricolour*, from being adorned with three colours. It bears stems which have a tendency to creep along the ground; and are full of leaves, and rather oblong: the stems branch into boughs; at the top of which grow the flowers, which are placed under the species of Violets, composed of five leaves, from bearing a cup divided

the leaves are oblong, and pointed at the end; covered with a little hair; indented on the edges: the outside is a brownish green, and the inside of a silvery white. On one side of the chief stem sprout several footstalks, which support single flowers that are wide at top and are cut into two lines: their colour is generally purple, although they have sometimes a mixture of hues. In the middle of the cup is a chive, which adheres to the hind part of the flower. A light soil agrees best with this plant. The seed being very small, should be thinly sown in September. Fox-gloves flower in June. Being tall plants, they are only adapted for the borders of beds, where the larger species of flowers are set or planted.

into five parts: each flower is white, blue, and yellow-coloured. It is multiplied by seed sown in beds as thinly as possible. When sufficiently raised, it is removed into pots, where it makes a more agreeable appearance than it does in its native humble situation, where it is lost and overlooked, like modest merit, amid its greater and more splendid neighbours.



## CONTACTS

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The Bulletin:	Miss Anne Carter, Betrws Mill, Hundred House, Llandrindod Wells, Powys LD1 5RP (0982 570 279)



## Notes for Members

### PLAS PARC PALIARIS, LLANDEILO

For the last five years this Palladian House, dating from the early 1700s, has been undergoing a meticulous programme of repairs, to the building and to its estate.

The owners have kindly agreed to open the house and grounds on the afternoon of Saturday 3 September, and interested members will be welcome. Enquiries to Peter Holden (0646 685 476).

### SPIRAEA IN MERIONETH

William Condry in 'The Natural History of Wales' (1981) comments on the laburnum hedges of West Wales: Cards., Carms, and Pems. He also notes the prevalence of spiraea in the hedges of the Bala/Festiniog area. He traces its introduction on the Rhiwlas Estate to the landowner of the 1870s.

Can members comment on other characteristic introductions in other parts of Wales?

Patricia Moore

### SITUATION WANTED

Professional horticulturist with keen interest in history, seeks landscape/restoration or custodial work.

Qualified in landscape design plus NCH in amenity horticulture, with 17 years practical gardening experience (8 years as head gardener).

For further details:  
Mr D. Willson,  
The Bungalow,  
1 Stoneleigh Road,  
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