The Bulletin

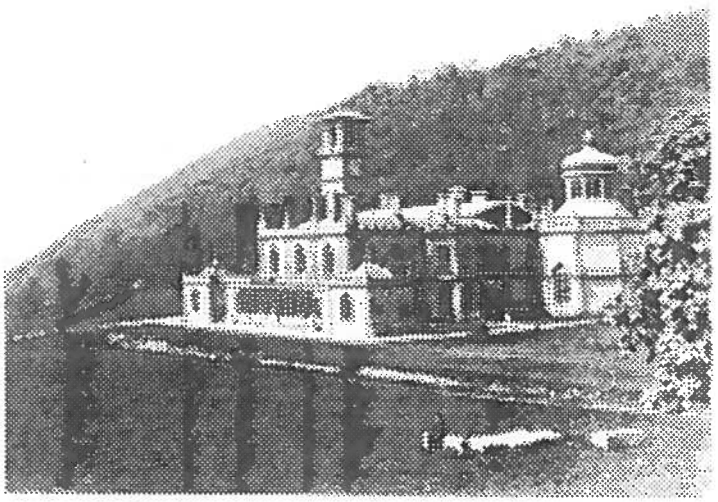
WINTER ISSUE 1993

HAFOD AFTER THOMAS JOHNES

J.R.E. Borron

It is no reflection on the admirable research that has been done into Hafod by people such as Miss Kerkham when I say that for me the interest of Hafod lies in its continuing history and not merely the dramatic transformation that took place during the ownership of Thomas Johnes.

It is misleading to think of Johnes going to an estate that was a bare desert. Hafod had been for centuries a gentry house in its established park and woodland by the Ystwyth river. Moreover the previous occupant of Hafod, i.e. John Paynter, loved Hafod and was devoted both to its landscape beauty and to the house itself. It is clear from the published correspondence between Paynter and Lord Powis that he not only greatly improved the house, and indeed he comments that he spent £400 on the house, which was a very substantial sum indeed in 1759, but he also planted a kitchen garden and generally devoted himself to improvement. The picture of the house as being derelict after his tenancy ended is at least problematical. It is hard to believe that Paynter would have invited Lady Powis and her children to stay at Hafod if the house had not been at least in a presentable condition.



Hafod in 1873. Photograph by Francis Bedford.

Whatever preceded Thomas Johnes there is no doubt that he was, in the words of the Duke of Newcastle 'the creator of this place'. The transformation that he brought about in the Ystwyth valley has been well documented and supplemented by recent research so that I do not intend to discuss it further. What followed after the death of Thomas Johnes is, however, of considerable interest.

The estate after Thomas Johnes' death in 1815 remained in Chancery until it was sold to the fourth Duke of Newcastle in 1833. The Duke's attitude to Hafod has been much misunderstood due mainly to the account of him in Peacocks in Paradise. The Duke never regarded Hafod as being other than an occasional residence in which he spent two or three autumn months. It is quite clear from his diary that he loved improvement. The fact that he realigned the drives has long been known but the transformation that he brought about in the house and the outbuildings has perhaps been less studied. It seems clear, reading the diaries, that his main attention was devoted to the house, the church and a very extensive re-building programme on the estate including the inn at Devil's Bridge. In Roscoe there is a comment to the effect that the walks were neglected in the 1830s and it is indeed likely that the garden itself became run down. The Duke only spent a short period each year at Hafod and doesn't appear to have employed more than one gardener which would barely have been sufficient to keep any kind of order in the kitchen garden let alone in the various walks. It's not possible to be categoric about this as the wages of other people may well include an element regarding the walks. The known documented feature in the grounds was his construction of the Pool Dam. This was carried out in 1837 at a cost of over £122.

The Duke's ownership of Hafod had a profound effect on the attitude with which the estate was regarded in Cardiganshire. Dukes were extremely rare in Victorian England and the fact that the fourth Duke made Hafod his residence for part of the year gave the estate an atmosphere of grandeur which lingered long afterwards.

The situation was complicated by the brief ownership of Sir Henry de Hoghton who started on the total rebuilding of the house to the plans of Salvin. It is not clear when Sir Henry decided to rebuild the house as his early correspondence with the Duke seems to suggest that he was merely intent on alterations. Nor is it altogether clear why Sir Henry should have used an Italianate style at Hafod when at Hoghton Tower he subsequently re-built it in a romantic and indeed what he considered a mediaeval style. While the desertion of his first wife and the death of his second may have contributed to his departure from Hafod it seems just as likely that his ill health, which is dealt with in his letters to the Duke, made him realise that the climate of Hafod was totally unsuited to him. Although Sir Henry did a great deal to the house and at Pwllpeiran it is probable that he didn't have time either to maintain the grounds or to carry out

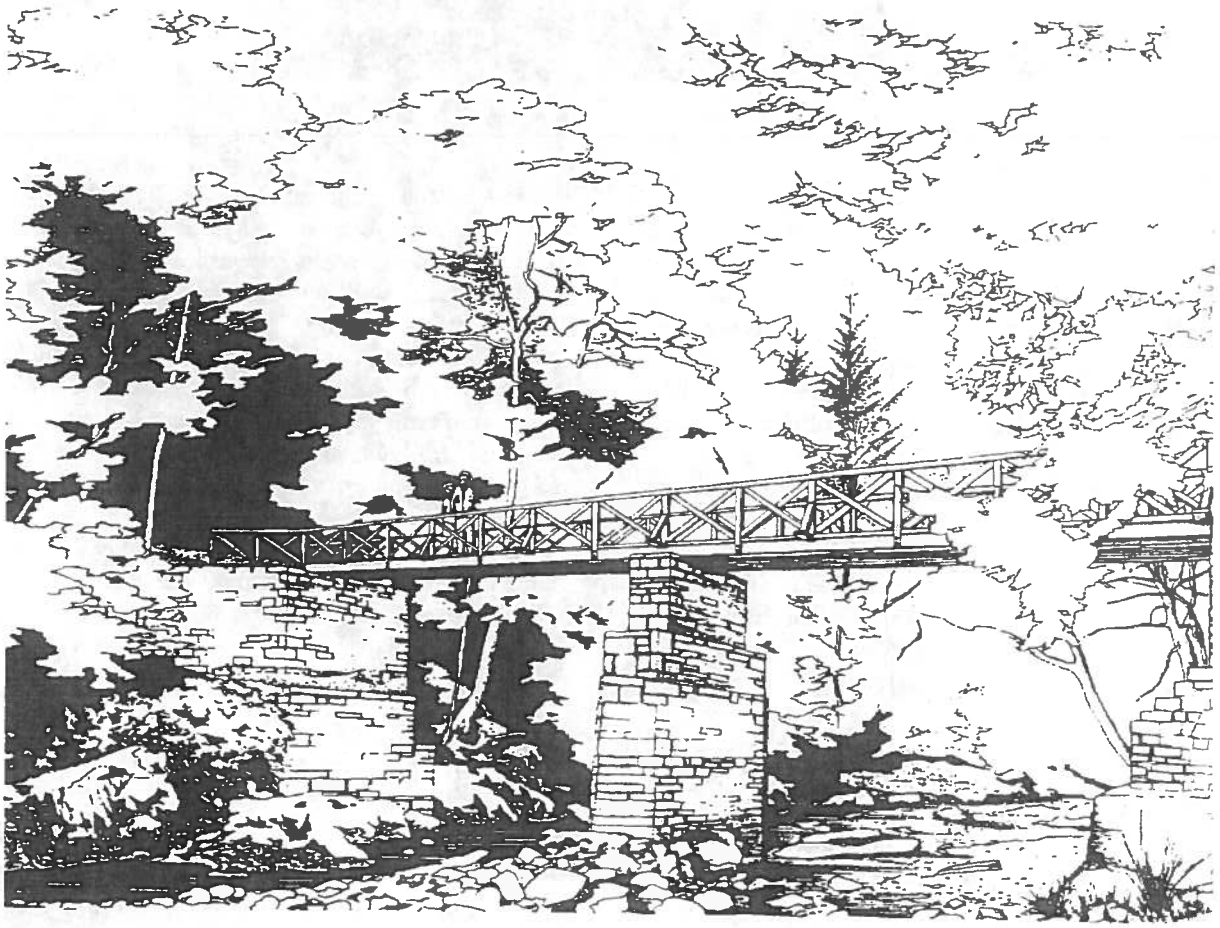
further works on the estate. It is certain that William Chambers who followed had not the money either to complete the house or to maintain the grounds.

I have dealt elsewhere with the history of Hafod during its ownership by the Waddinghams father and son. It is almost certainly due to them that Hafod survived in recognisable form and it is to be hoped that future research will uncover exactly what was done by John Waddingham and his son in their massive restoration programme of the estate from 1872 onwards. It seems likely that the kitchen garden, the walks, the bridges all had to be totally reconstructed in the same way that there had to be a massive building programme at the house and on the farms.

It has not perhaps been sufficiently understood that John Waddingham had already carried out a massive estate improvement on the much smaller estate that he owned at Guiting Power near Cheltenham in the Cotswolds. It would be fascinating to know whether there was any interchange of workmanship between the two estates. Moreover John Waddingham was a great promoter of railways and will have been fully aware of all the most up-to-date engineering techniques used on the railways. The detailed archaeological research into the various features of Hafod which no doubt will be part of the present restoration programme may well reveal a surprising degree of late Victorian activity even in those aspects that have previously been considered much earlier. Repair and maintenance continued on the estate right up until the death of James Waddingham in December 1938. Indeed the Friends of Hafod have recently discovered that the Alpine Bridge was rebuilt in 1938.

The landscaping of Hafod was, therefore, a process that extended right up until the date of the last owner of the whole estate. This was also true of the planting history of Hafod. There were two botanists of great distinction connected with Hafod. The first was Mariamne Johnes; the second was James Waddingham. He was a botanist of great distinction with a particular love of coniferous trees. There are still those who remember the beauty of the Wellingtonias and there is a fascinating anecdote that he imported some special fertilizer in barrels from South America for them. Whether this be exactly correct or not it illustrates the care that was devoted to the estate right up until its final years. It is very much to be hoped that any restoration of the whole of the landscape of Hafod will pay due attention to its long continuing history and preserve features from ages apart from that of Thomas Johnes.

THE ALPINE BRIDGE AT HAFOD



An artist's impression of the proposed scheme for the conservation and reinstatement of the Alpine bridge over Afon Istwyth at Hafod. Subject to favourable weather and the availability of funding, work on the site is expected to begin in spring 1994.

THE HAFOD PROJECT—AN UPDATE

Donald Moore

Members are well aware of the Trust's important project at Hafod Uchtryd, Cwmystwyth (Ceredigion). These notes summarise the position after one year of operation, Hafod is not a garden in the usual sense of the word, but rather a wild landscape enhanced by deliberately-created plantings, clearings and pathways. The main contributor to this creation was the eighteenth-century squire Thomas Johnes, but his predecessors and successors have left their mark also. It is true that conventional 'gardens' were established within the estate, but they were only a small part of the total experience intended. Nature herself was allowed to be the main designer, and few man-made structures were added in embellishment.

The Trust's positive involvement began when it commissioned the 'Hafod Conservation Strategic Plan' in collaboration with the present owners of Hafod, the Forest Enterprise. This plan was produced by Dr Andrew Sclater, the Trust's Consultant, after discussion with numerous individuals and bodies interested in the site. A formal agreement with the Forest Enterprise was signed by the Trust's President in October 1992, whereby the Trust undertook to prepare detailed proposals for the conservation of the historic landscape. The Forest Enterprise keenly supports the Trust's aspirations at Hafod, and set up the Hafod Advisory Committee under the chairmanship of Mr Daniel Gruffydd Jones, Registrar of the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, as an expert body to act as an independent adviser to the Forest Enterprise concerning the suitability of the Trust's (and any other) proposals. The Committee has been asked to take account of the present nature of Hafod, the historical background and sound principles of conservation.

The Trust has delegated the preparation of proposals and the oversight of operations to its Hafod Working Party, which meets regularly. Funds have been secured from several sources, and the Working Party acts within its own budget, subject to the approval of the Trust Treasurer and the Finance Sub-committee.

The Hafod Advisory Committee has recently been considering two 'work-packages': (i) the restoration of one of the paths devised by George Cumberland for Thomas Johnes in 1796, the 'Ladies' Walk', and (ii) the reinstatement of the Alpine (or Bwlchgwallter) Bridge. The bridge has existed in several different forms, and the aim has been to find a precedent which will be aesthetically appropriate for present needs, and will as far as possible utilise the existing remains. As an essential preliminary the Trust commissioned the Dyfed Archaeological Trust to make a survey of the ruined bridge abutments.

The Hafod Advisory Committee has given its approval to the restoration of the Ladies' Walk, and now, after studying a report and recommendations by the Superintending Architect of Cadw, it has agreed to proposals for reinstating the bridge.

Members are free to visit Hafod at any time. Forestry paths are open to the public, and are accessible from a car park near Hafod church. The Forest Enterprise has issued an attractive brochure on the estate (obtainable from its Llanafan office). A short history of the Trust's role at Hafod has been prepared for the Trust Committee, as well as a summary of the Strategic Plan (both available from the Trust Office). Those who wish to receive regular information about on-going developments at Hafod, and to keep abreast of historical research on the subject, are advised to join the Friends of Hafod (Secretary: Mrs Jennie Macve, 3 Trefor Road, Aberystwyth SY23 2EH). The Friends have prepared a comprehensive bibliography of the site.

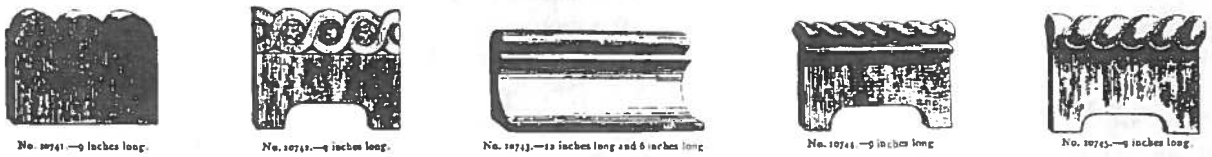
DONALD MOORE is Chairman of the Hafod Working Party.

Stop Press

The first 100 metres of the Ladies' Walk, just upstream of Mrs Johnes's Garden, has been reinstated as a pilot project to test the specification. Again, subject to availability of funding, work on the remainder of the Ladies' Walk is due to start in the Spring.

VICTORIAN PATH EDGING

GARDEN EDGING IN EITHER GLAZED STONEWARE OR BUFF TERRA-COTTA.



No. 10741.—9 inches long. No. 10742.—9 inches long. No. 10743.—12 inches long and 6 inches long. No. 10744.—9 inches long. No. 10745.—9 inches long.

Patterns of nine-inch lengths of path edging, popular in the second half of the 19th century and in the early 20th century are illustrated on page 237 of the facsimile edition of The Victorian Catalogue of Household Goods of the 1880s. The rope or cord designs, both thick and thin versions, can be seen in hundreds, probably thousands of gardens in the suburbs of Cardiff, either in vitreous-finished terra cotta or charcoal black. A buff-coloured example bounds the lawn of Kilvert's former home in Clyro, Radnorshire.

A more elaborate pattern has recently come to notice in a Penarth garden (South Glamorgan), moulded in high relief with a rose in full bloom, a thistle and a shamrock (but no daffodil or leek!) Has any reader seen this pattern elsewhere in Wales?

Patrica Moore

News from the Branches

BRECON AND RADNOR BRANCH

Members who have attended Trust events at Old Gwernyfed will be glad to hear that the planning application to develop the barns, which threatened the atmosphere and prospects for future research into the historic site has been turned down. For further information, contact Anne Carter: 0982 570279.

CAMARTHEN BRANCH

The 15th September saw members meet at the Golden Grove Arms for an informal social evening. We heard that the owners of Derwydd Mansion, Mr and Mrs Stephen Gulston, had agreed to our involvement in their walled garden and other gardens dating back to the sixteenth century. Barry Downes, a committee member, has since held a course on reconstructing stone walls at Derwydd and another on pruning old fruit trees.

An evening's Carol Singing will be held at the Cemetery Gardens in Llandeilo, with produce and plants for sale at Mrs Mostyn's antique shop, followed by mulled wine and mince pies at Carreg Cennen. Please phone Wendy Foulger (1267 231880) for information.

CEREDIGION BRANCH

The Ceredigion Branch held its first Annual General Meeting at Lampeter on 6 November, and it was followed by an illustrated lecture entitled 'Garden Features Defined', given by Patricia Moore, Archivist to the Trust.

Members look back on a varied programme of events over the past year, including lectures on 'Gogerddan' by Dr David Jenkins, 'Walled Gardens' by Dr Stephen Briggs, 'Conifers' by Dr John Savidge, and 'Estate Maps' by Robert Davies. The last was held at the National Library of Wales, where members were able to inspect many precious maps showing old gardens in Ceredigion. Members joined with the Friends of Hafod in a tour of Hafod.

The highlight of the year was 'A Summer Evening at Llanllyr', by invitation of the owners, Robert and Loveday Gee. Llanllyr, described in 1808 by Samuel Rush Meyrick as a 'venerable retired spot', was reputedly the site of a Cistercian nunnery. In the grounds of the present house is an early Christian memorial of 7th–9th century date, recording the gift of a plot of land; this pillar-stone has been imaginatively incorporated into the garden layout in a stone-built alcove. Since 1986 Loveday Gee has been skilfully renewing and developing the old garden. The splendid new rose border provided the inspiration for a lecture on 'Roses' by Hazel le Rougetel, which was given after a delicious dinner, enjoyed by twenty-eight members.

Investigations and recording work have been carried out at Llanerchaeron, and it is hoped to begin similar work shortly at Trawsgoed.

CLWYD BRANCH

Saturday, 9 April 1994, 10.30 am: Study Day at Wynnstay. Speakers: John Phibbs and Bill Pritchard.

GWENT BRANCH

The Nelson Garden: Revival of the garden continues and Lloyd's Bank have now given permission for the garden to be open four times a year. This summer's open days have been well attended.

Mathern Palace: the Trust has been invited by the owners, British Steel, to advise on the conservation and management of this important example of Tipping's work.

GWYNEDD BRANCH

The autumn is a time when many of our garden visits and outdoor activities cease, but here in Gwynedd this does not mean that members of our branch stop meeting one another and having a good time.

On 29 September we had the Michaelmas Lunch, an annual event held in venues where we can be sure of an appropriate setting and an excellent meal. This year's lunch was at Penmaenuchaf Hall Hotel, near Dolgellau, a relatively new venture, housed in a slate magnate's mansion with a lovely garden and wonderful views down the valley.

On 20 October, thanks to the generosity of Mr and Mrs Michael Preece, the branch was able to hold a Wine reception at Plas Llandyfnan, Talwrn. This was to enable members from all over Anglesey to meet one another and to introduce the work of the trust to other interested people. It was a thoroughly enjoyable occasion, well attended, and we hope to have attracted several new members to the branch. Following this success, we are planning similar functions in Aberconway and Merioneth, where members are scarce, in 1994.

Though less well attended than last year, 1993's AGM held in Llanystumdwy Village Hall, attracted members from as far away as Bangor and Anglesey, as well as the Trust Executive and Avril. The high spot came when the Treasurer reported a 400% increase in Gwynedd's monies in the bank. It is to be hoped we can repeat the progress in 1994

MID AND SOUTH GLAMORGAN BRANCH

The Branch's first AGM was held at Insole Court, Llandaff, on 14 September 1993. The evening commenced with a tour of the gardens led by Mrs Geraldine Watson of the Friends of Insole Court. The Chairman, Mr William Wilkins, gave an illustrated talk on the gardens, park and landscape of Middleton Hall, which was greatly appreciated.

The Branch's survey and gazetteer entry on The Court at St Fagans, is nearing completion. It has been enhanced by photographs of the 1930s, including views of the Jekyll garden, lent by the Llewellyn family.

Archival research is proceeding on twenty sites. Many gardens have been destroyed in recent years, or are threatened with development, as is Ty Bronna, near Cardiff, where the house was by Voysey.

During the past year visits have been made to three Gloucestershire gardens, Westbury Court, Hidcote and Snowshill, and one in Glamorgan, Craig-y-parc, Pentyrch, where the gardens and house were designed by C.E. Mallows.

A lecture was jointly arranged by the Trust and the Royal Horticultural Society at Duffryn House Conference Centre, St Nicholas, near Cardiff, on the designer of Duffryn Gardens, Thomas H. Mawson. The speaker was his grandson, Mr David Mawson, who addressed a full house of about 150. The Branch is grateful to the Conference Centre, the Trust Executive and the RHS for their support and assistance in the venture.

The Branch Christmas Dinner is to be held on 7 December at the Central Hotel in Cardiff.

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PEMBROKESHIRE BRANCH

The Branch visited the gardens at Upton Castle, with Chris Collins to conduct a Gazetteer Training Day. The gardens are open to the public on weekdays only, though well off the beaten track, behind the village of Cosheston, north of the A477, near Pembroke Dock. There is a well-restored chapel, a walled garden and water feature together with more extensive remains of waterworks fed by a stream. We found the new Survey Form hard to cope with, but it introduced a number of us to some new terms. Many fine trees. A splendid day in the sunshine.

Under the direction of the branch Chairman, Peter Holden, a Trust-led team, consisting of the Countryside Council for Wales, Preseli Pembrokeshire District Council, Waterfront Developments (owners of the site), Welsh development Agency and Castle Hall Heritage group, has completed a study of the gardens. The conclusion was that the gardens should be restored to provide a public amenity of great historic and heritage value. It was recommended that a temporary function suite be established, with a view to a permanent garden banqueting house or pavilion if successful. For further information about the project, please contact Peter Holden: 0646 685472.

Our Winter Programme is geared to further training, in preparation for a serious summer of gazetteer work next year. Members of any branch of the trust will be welcome at any of our sessions.

November 30th, Tuesday: 'The Seven Ages of the Garden'—7.30 pm at the Pembroke Power Station Engineers' Social Club; by Mr St John Stimson, a retired architect with a splendid collection of slides.

January 27th, Thursday: 'Introduction to Public Records' at the County Records Office, Haverfordwest Castle, 4.00 pm. By the County Archivist.

February 24th, Thursday: 'Archaeological Recording' with particular reference to Tenby Town Walls—by Sal Garfi and Peter Holden, at his offices, Watermans Lane, Pembroke, 7.00 pm.

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WEST GLAMORGAN BRANCH

Penllergare: under the direction of Mr Robert Parker, the Trust is leading a consortium consisting of the West Glamorgan County Council, Lliw Valley Borough Council, Welsh Development Agency, Wales Tourist Board, Countryside Council for Wales and bj Group plc in a feasibility study.

The study has already underlined the Trust's view on the importance of this hitherto under-valued and neglected early 19th century garden landscape in the Picturesque tradition now threatened by comprehensive commercial development. As a result the developers and local authorities are broadly in agreement on the importance of conserving the historic core of the site—including the walled gardens containing the remnants of John Dillwyn Llewelyn's pioneering orchideous house—as a public amenity and the study is examining the various options open of balancing conservation and amenity on the one hand, with commercial development on the other, to mutual benefit. Currently the Trust is discussing with the Borough Council and bj Group the possibility of removing a potentially serious visual intrusion of housing development into the former parkland.

For further information on this project please contact Mr Robert Parker (West Glamorgan Branch) (tel: 0792 405 860 evenings)

PICTURES IN THE SNOW

Will there be snow this winter ? If so, members should take out their cameras and record garden scenes under snow for the Trust's imagery collection. Prints in colour or black-and-white will be useful for displays, and slides for lectures.

Trust Archivist

Duffryn Gardens under snow. Photograph by Stephen Torade.

REGISTER OF HISTORIC LANDSCAPES OF WALES

The Register for Historic Landscapes has been 'hived off' from the Cadw Register of Parks and Gardens and is funded jointly by the Countryside Council for Wales and Cadw. The Trust has been asked to propose a dozen or so historic landscapes in Wales which are '...particularly significant from cultural (archaeological, historical, architectural, artistic and literary), and/or physical (landform, ecology and land-use) points of view'.

Branches have been already asked to think about this but suggestions from individual members will be more than welcome: please ring Michael Norman at the Trust Office, as soon as possible (0239 810 432 – answering machine outside office hours).

The Case for Statutory Protection

Parks and gardens of special historic interest (as listed in the Cadw/ICOMOS Register) do not enjoy protection by statute in their own right. As a result it is necessary to exercise development control by a number of informal devices, e.g. by notification to the appropriate Sites and Monuments Records and in Local Plans. However the Trust believes that a mechanism whereby local planning authorities are required to consult formally where development is proposed for the sites or their essential settings would be an acceptable, interim stage, pending legislation affording protection. Such a procedure has now been implemented by the Scottish Office Environment Department under its Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) (Scotland) Order 1992 and the Trust is continuing to press the case for its adoption with the Welsh Office.

In the meantime a working party set up by the Garden History Society has reported that:

- a modest extension to to the planning system to protect the structure of registered parks and gardens from serious, irreversible harm is desireable and feasible;
- that some kind of registered garden consent would be the simplest form for such legislation;
- the need for financial incentives to enlist support and engage interest of owners is particularly critical in parks and gardens, given the extent of management required;
- that statutory notification should be introduced via the General Development Order as a matter of urgency: i.e. the course currently being pursued by the Trust.

Again, Branches are already thinking about this important issue but if you have any personal comments or suggestions please contact Michael Norman at the Trust Office.

Planning Casework

As part of the Conservation Advisory Service the Trust Office has been assisting the Beethams (Trust members and hosts for a number of Trust events) with making a case against inappropriate development of part of the group structure at Old Gwernyfed (Powys), which is in separate ownership. The most recent application was recommended by officers but a last-ditch appeal to members of the Planning Committee through the Trust Office resulted in the application being refused by a substantial majority. The case for refusal was underpinned by the wording of the appropriate Policy in the Powys Structure Plan which had been drafted and contributed by the Trust. An appeal is being considered by the developer.

In the case of Plas Brondanw (Gwynedd) the submissions by the Branch and Trust Office arguing against approval of a car park were unavailing. Here the Snowdonia National Park Planning Committee disregarded the advice of its officers (together with that of the Trust and other conservationists) and allowed the application. Also in Gwynedd and the National Park the Trust submitted a strong case for the refusal of permission to establish a touring caravan site in the environs of Nannau. The application was turned down, although there must be considerable sympathy for the applicant who hoped to fund part of the restoration of the mansion from income derived from pitch rentals.

Structure and Local Plans

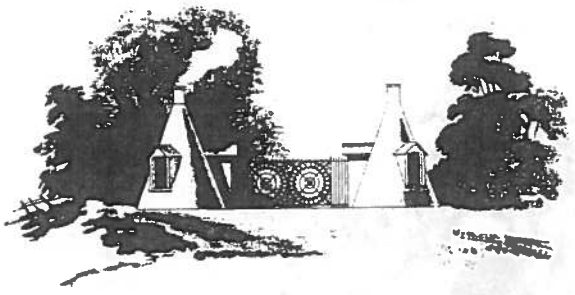
In concert with the Branches concerned the Trust Office continues to monitor and comment appropriately on draft plans. Currently the West Glamorgan Structure Plan and Rhymney Valleys and Newport Borough Local Plans are on the Trust Executive's desk.

We have already emphasised the importance of these planning documents in assuring the future of our landscapes and Branches have been asked to be alert for the issue of consultation drafts whose existence may not always be known to the Trust Office. However if individual members know anything about these documents—or have got any comments or suggestions concerning their contents—please let the Trust Executive know.

Michael Norman

SELF-BUILD

c. 1805



'Two Cones, as Lodges, to be thatched down to the ground: this would have a singular and not unpleasing effect. The Construction would be very simple and cheap. Suppose a Frame of Iron-work supporting the Thatch, and carrying the Flue of the Chimney out at the Centre. The Angle formed by the Cone inside, to be made into Closets for the use of the Inhabitant.
Lodges, 12 feet 3 inches diameter, and 9 feet high to the ceiling, over which may be a loft for stores, &c. Estimated at 150*l.* if executed with plain railing.'

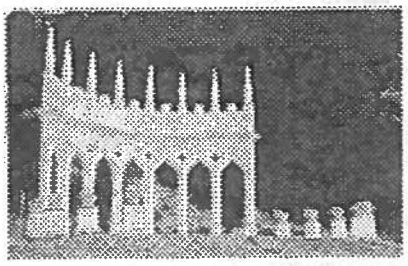
This impressive pair of entrance lodges comes from a book of *Designs for Cottages, Cottage Farms and other rural buildings: including Entrance Gates and Lodges*, by Abel Gandy, Architect, published in London in 1805. While the classical influence is still strong, and some of the more conservative examples would have been equally at home in the preceding century, others sprout pyramids and obelisks with an Egyptian flavour and one or two of the plainer sort could pass, in the sketches, for 1920s bus shelters. It would be interesting to know how many of the entrance lodges along Welsh roads were built by their owners from this or similar pattern books.

...Of Urns and Amphitheatres

Ruins: ruined chapel, the Leasowes, West Midlands (engraving c. 1770)

A Glossary of Garden History by Michael Symes. Shire Garden History. 144 pp. £6.99

Reference books, by definition, are generally associated with usefulness rather than pleasure. It is a rare joy to find one, slim and neat enough to fit into bag or pocket, which is both richly informative and a delight to possess. Michael Symes' *Glossary of Garden History* scores on both counts. The entries, from Adonis to Zoological Garden, by way of such oddities as druidical temples, fog houses (the Scottish equivalent of a moss house) and Hardenberg baskets, are admirably concise yet find room for derivations and examples, translations of foreign terms and references to contemporary writers and designers. Illustrations, some in colour, are plentiful, precisely chosen and never hackneyed, ranging from tiny details, such as frostwork on the banqueting house at Studley Royal to broad landscapes like Stourhead, a canal at Schönbusch in Bavaria and exotic buildings: orangeries, temples, exedra, a 'ruined' aqueduct in Poland and an extraordinary game larder on Tayside, standing on one leg, like Baba Yaga's cottage.



Exedra: Painswick, Gloucestershire

The emphasis is on gardens of the British Isles but the world-wide nature of garden influences makes this something of an artificial limit. Where appropriate, illustrations of styles or ornaments are taken from other countries, and terms like *jardin anglais* or *anglo-chinois*, which the French invented to describe aspects of English gardening imported into France, are also included. The latter concept, by the way, called down the wrath of Horace Walpole who declared: 'They deny us half the merit or rather originality of the invention, by ascribing the discovery to the Chinese.' He thought the French were jealous.

The Glossary is far more than a useful handbook for beginners in the field of garden history, although its appendix of major garden designers and list of books for further reading—even though missing any works on oriental gardens—makes it ideal for that purpose and no one starting out to explore our garden heritage can afford to be without it. Tiny though it is, it includes an excellent index of people and places, so that anyone anxious to locate a deershed (Wentworth Woodhouse) or a restored stumpery (Biddulph Grange) needs only to inquire within.

Book Review

It is a sobering thought, though, for those of us concerned with the historic gardens of Wales, that out of some five to six hundred entries in that index, barely a dozen refer to the Principality. Hafod is mentioned, and Piercefield, Bodnant and Powis Castle, but no reader of the book would emerge with the impression that Wales can compare with the great gardens of England and Scotland. Yet we know that this is not so. Gardens there were, and are. Michael Symes points out, in his introduction, the very recent rise of interest in garden history. As a serious academic study, it has developed only since 1945. As an enthusiasm of the general public much more recently still. In Wales there is yet much work to be done. We may be slow beginners, but we shall catch up.

Anne Carter

The Beauties of Creation – 2

SNOWDROP.

'One of the first offerings which Flora displays on the shrine of Nature, is the Snowdrop. Pallid like the cheek of Spring, are its leaves; and, like the season in which it appears, its blossom hangs languid on the verdant stem. The flower is composed of six leaves, which together form a blossom, similar in shape to a bell: the odour is as grateful as the colour is delicate, The Snowdrop, being a bulbous plant, is raised from its root, and is generally ranged with the Narcissus. Although it is a common flower, yet such is its beauty, simplicity, and cheering appearance that it generally accompanies the Crocus in all parterres distinguished for their variety or their elegance.'

Trust Hosts

Association Conference

The annual conference of the Association of Garden Trusts took place on the weekend 1–3 October, under the auspices of the Trust and based at Aberystwyth. The representatives from English Heritage Berkshire, Hertfordshire, Devon, Surrey, Hampshire, Gloucestershire, Norfolk, Wiltshire, Warwickshire, Northamptonshire, Devon, Isle of Wight and Somerset were joined from our own Trust by Sara Furse and Pru Probert from Clwyd, Richard Gilbertson (Pembrokeshire) and John Savidge (Ceredigion).

On Saturday morning Andrew Sclater described the development of the Picturesque landscape at Hafod and much of the rest of the day was spent in tramping round the demesne.

Lord Morris presided at the formal dinner and spoke to the theme of 'Green Thoughts in a Green Shade', to the huge delight of the guests. The final event, a joint Royal Horticultural Society/South and Mid Glamorgan sponsored lecture at Duffryn by David Mawson on the life and work of his grandfather, Thomas H. Mawson, was a signal success.

Chairman's US Tour.

In the first week of November, William Wilkins visited the USA, lecturing to the Royal Oak Foundation, Garden Conservancy, New York Botanical Garden and the College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, New York, on 'Great Gardens of Wales: their loss and rediscovery'. While most of the audiences had heard of Bodnant, few knew very much about any other Welsh gardens. Gratifyingly, two of these organisations are now contemplating visits to this country in the near future. The Faculty of Landscape Architecture at Syracuse, one of whose students, Marc Morfei, worked for us for a while, is keen to develop its relationship with the Trust.

Gazetteer Study Day

24 September 1993

This was well attended by Branch representatives. It began with a talk on the Register by Elisabeth Whittle and in the afternoon there was a useful discussion on the compilation of the Gazetteer and progress so far in the Branches. The need for a preliminary site form was agreed.

WHO DO I CONTACT?

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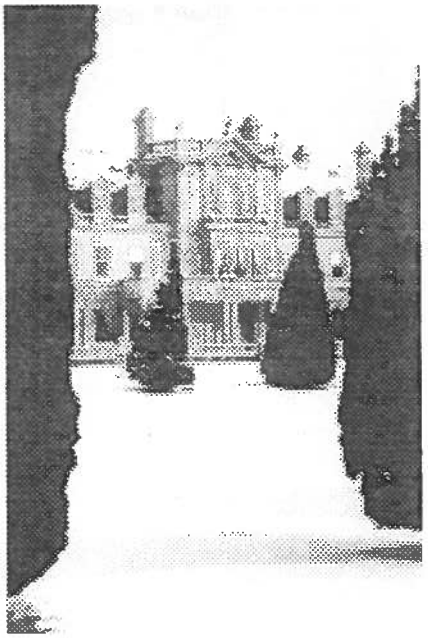
Pembrokeshire	Col. Richard Gilbertson (083 483 396)
West Glamorgan	Mr Chris Adam (0639 850 763)

Trust News

Orchards in Wales

TACP (environmental consultants) have been appointed by CCW to establish the extent, spatial distribution and values in terms of landscape, conservation and history. Branches and individual members are invited to contact the Trust Office with any information they feel is relevant, or direct to Mr Lee Jones at TACP, 10 Park Grove, Cardiff CF1 3BN (tel: 0222 228 966).



Duffryn under snow (see page 4).

Laburnum planting in West Wales

On the road between Haverfordwest and Aberaeron, and again not far from Tafarn Jem, near Lampeter, there are several stretches of laburnum hedge. This is an unusual plant to find in the countryside, especially since its seeds are poisonous. Can any reader throw light on how laburnum came to these parts ? Can it be dated ? Is it associated with a particular landowner or estate ?

Patricia Moore