



CLWYD BRANCH NEWS

Editor Glynis Shaw

May 2011

Wynnstay by Anna Dempsey



Inappropriate Fencing at Wynnstay

Wynnstay Hall is a Grade II* listed building. However the site is a Grade I landscape in the Cadw and ICOMOS *Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales*.

As a recent tenant at Wynnstay Old Hall I have been surprised by the leniency given to developments and the lack of conservation in regard to a Grade I landscape and setting to a listed building. Wynnstay's famous landscaping includes the last great work by Capability Brown and is therefore of both national and international importance.

The most recent act in defiance of its Grade I listed status took place in March 2011 with a fencing off an area of the Park. The fencing is straight along the double avenue of trees beside the main driveway to the hall and cuts across the parkland to the lake side. The fence posts are far too close to these ancient trees and run in an unsightly manner across the parkland.

The sheep fencing with a top and bottom strand of barbed wire is marking a landscaped masterpiece as an ordinary area of agricultural land. This is an entirely inappropriate visual intrusion to the Brownian landscape destroying the artistic intensions of its landscape design.

I immediately contacted the planning authorities only to discover that the fencing had full planning

permission inspite of objections from the WHGT and the Wynnstay Residents Association.

As a result of my inquiries it was concluded that the lake owner responsible for the fence had appropriated a considerable area of parkland he did not own and so the fencing had to be relocated.

Considering the objections to this planning application and the site's heritage status, one has to ask why this fencing was permitted.

Recent dialogue with the Wrexham Planning Authority, and in particular with Conservation Officer, Anna Irwin, has been helpful.

The result is that there will now be an audit of the whole landscape; the building issues at Wynnstay affecting Wynnstay Old Hall, the Pleasure Gardens and the Parkland.

There will also be an audit of all the trees at Wynnstay. WHGT discovered that none of the famous trees had a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) applied and the ancient avenues were totally unprotected. The Clwyd branch have requested an Emergency Area TPO whilst a full tree audit is expertly carried out.

Breaches of past planning applications are also to be considered. The intervention of the WHGT Clwyd branch has been timely - we hope the tree felling has stopped. Hopefully the forthcoming negotiations between Cadw, WHGT and the Wrexham Planning Authority will secure better management of this landscape, securing its protection and conservation for the future.

WHGT is campaigning to be a Statutory Consultee for all planning applications concerning parks and garden landscapes of heritage value.

Historical Garden Project, Dinas Bran High School

Dinas Bran Secondary High School have an ambitious plan for a historical garden project. Amanda Edwards, a teacher at Dinas Bran, approached the WHGT for assistance in developing this garden on a derelict plot next to the tennis courts.

Following initial meetings and agreeing a design brief, Garden Designer Anna Dempsey has produced the design scheme illustrated below for the wide and irregular terrace at the top of the site. Before any work gets underway with levelling the site David Toyne has offered to do a soil analysis.

This project will engage students across the curriculum and involve a number of departments.

Students will be encouraged to develop their own designs for the garden including the mosaics and knot gardens and to research suitable planting. The Dig for Victory plot is to half scale but will provide an opportunity for vegetable growing. Eventually the students at Dinas Bran will be able to gain practical

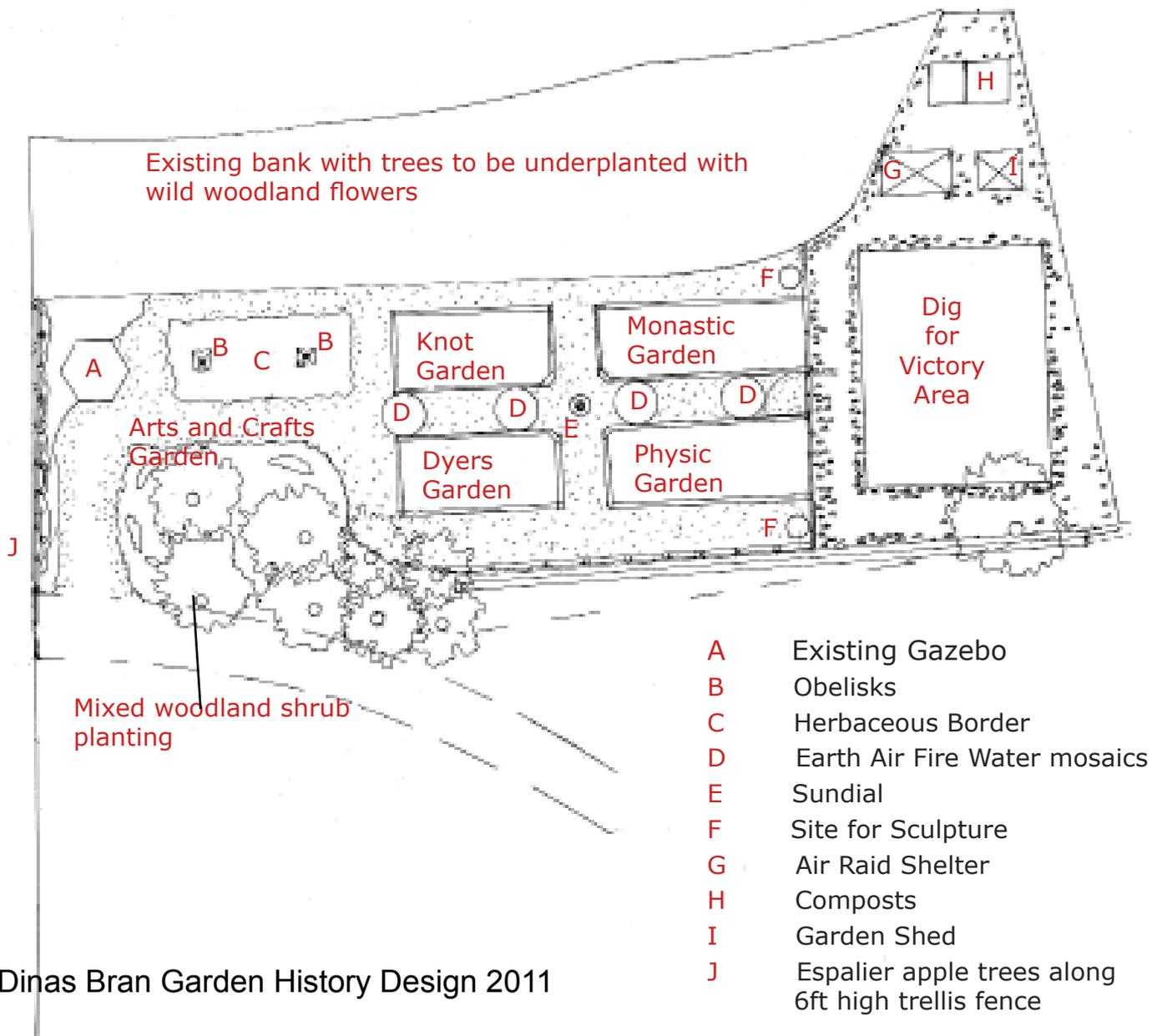
qualifications in horticultural and gardening skills.

The Design and technology departments will be involved in making features such as the trellis work, gates and fencing.

During the week of the International Eisteddfod groups of students will research nearby gardens to document and understand the different periods of garden design.

Roger Pawling from the North Wales Wildlife Trust also visited the site. Experts in the Wild Life Trust will be able to advise on the wildflower planting of the bank above the terrace and help to reclaim the bog garden and wild life area along the sunken stream.

This project is an exciting and interesting venture and not without its challenges. We will look forward to seeing its progress. Thanks to everyone who has helped with the initial stages to date.



Dinas Bran Garden History Design 2011

Strawberry Tea Wigfair Isaf

St Asaph LL17 0EN, Sunday
26th June 2-5.00pm

Ron and Sinah Harrison-Jones are kindly hosting this event at their Grade II listed house on the River Elwy.

The garden has an ancient fruit garden, a Victorian shrubbery and newly restored nineteenth century greenhouse. There is also a pond fed by a leet that once led to a mill next door. The origins of this garden have yet to be discovered.

The strawberry tea is in support of Breast Cancer Campaign and the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust.

Tickets: Members £4 non-members £5
Sinah Harrison-Jones 01745 583433
or Glynis Shaw 01745 710261



Old Orchard Wigfair Isaf

The Garden Suite' and Picnic by the Lake at Pontruffydd Hall



Bodfari LL16 4BP
Wednesday August 10th
7.00-9.30pm

**Gardens open from
7.00pm**
Bring a picnic and
enjoy!

The Garden Suite 8.00pm

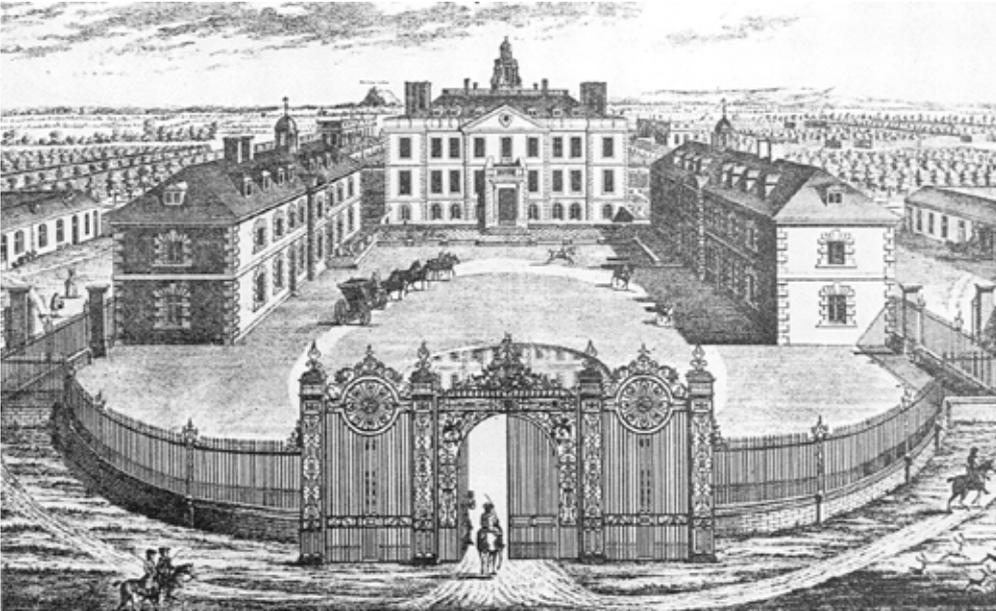
This musical evening is being kindly hosted by Bill and Sally Glazebrook.

Pontruffydd has 8 acres of 18th century landscaped gardens with mature trees, grotto, lake and waterfall. There are many rare species and herbaceous borders.

Tickets: Members £8, Non members £10
Contact Elizabeth Bartlett: 01352 758023

We are delighted that award winning musicians Dave Hopkins and Ian Stopes (who have recently played at Bodnant and Erdigg) will perform for the Clwyd branch at Pontruffydd Hall

The 'Garden Suite' is an original composition inspired by the sights and sounds of gardens of the world. This suite of music includes poems and monologues and the sounds of woodwind, double bass and acoustic guitar



Sir Thomas Grosvenor 3rd Baronet. The original formal gardens were established in the 17th century. Today the gardens reflect the different design schemes throughout the centuries. The park was originally laid out by Capability Brown and in the 1820's the terraces were designed by W.A Nesfield. William Emes, Lutyens, John Webb, C.E. Mallows, Detmar Blow and recently Arabella Lennox-Boyd have all been involved in the development of these gardens.

William Samwell designed the original Eaton Hall 1674-5

Eaton Hall Gardens

These gardens have been open to the public on certain days for charitable causes each year since 1845. This tradition continues with three openings a year

The Duke of Westminster's Eaton Hall comprises 88 acres of gardens, parkland, lakes, and a walled organic garden. Once these gardens had up to 59 gardeners assisted by 20 apprentices but today are managed by a team of 13 directed by the Duchess.

The Grosvenor family have been established at Eaton Hall since the 15th century. A substantial house, the Old Hall, was designed by William Samwell using stone from the ruins of Holt castle for

Eaton Hall by Jan Kip 1708, an earlier small moated house can be seen on the RHS

North of the house is the 1st Duke's Camelia Walk built in 1852 and extended in 1872 to create a 385 ft long glasshouse. It is reputed to be the longest of its type in the world and includes some rare and ancient varieties. The kitchen garden was also created in 1872.

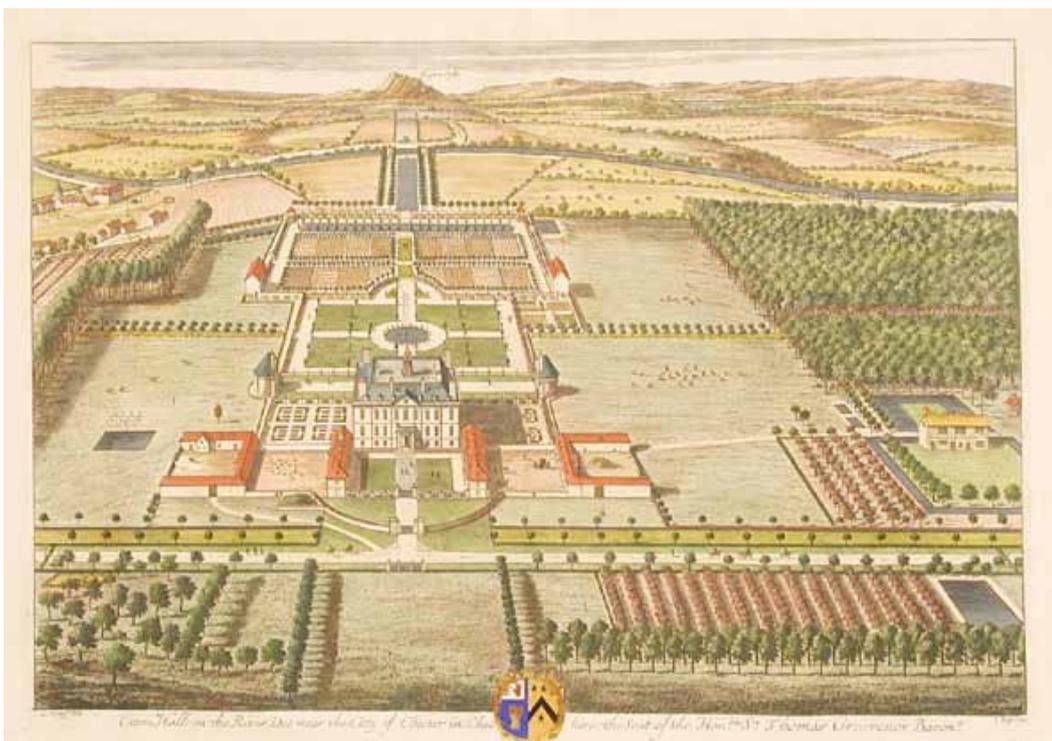
The terraces east of the house lead to the Fish Pond designed by John Webb. The middle terrace has a long rectangular pool with three fountains and rose gardens. On either side of this pool are statues by Raymond Smith made in 1852, a stag at bay and an equestrian statue, a rearing horse and hunter.

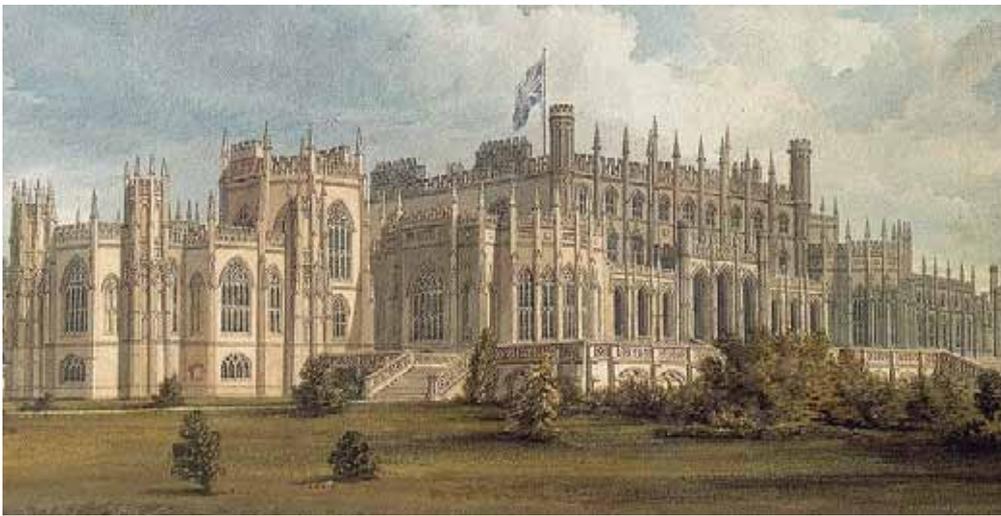
The terraces lead to The Broad Walk which has a Parrot House built in yellow terracotta in the form of a colonnaded Ionic temple at the north end and a loggia (now known as the temple) at the south end in buff and red sandstone. The temple was built to house a roman altar found in 1821 by a spring near Boughton. Both of these structures were designed

1881-83 by Alfred Waterhouse (famed for the Natural History Museum in London where he made great use of terracotta).

The huge Gothic house built by Waterhouse between 1870-1882 was demolished in the 1960's but the Waterhouse Chapel with its clock tower and the courtyard remain today.

The Dutch Tea garden was laid out by Mallows in 1905 and lies south of the loggia. The tea-house, a half-timbered building on a sandstone plinth, was designed by





west side of the forecourt are the Golden Gates.

The Golden Gates are one of the glories of this landscape. The central section with the finely ornamented over-throw was made in the early 18th century by the Davies Brothers of Croes Foel near Wrexham. This is one of the finest examples of the re-pouseé work of Robert and John Davies and includes many mythical creatures in the design such as griffins

Eaton Hall as designed by William Pordon completed 1813

and phoenixes.

John Douglas 1872. Many of the other estate buildings were rebuilt by Douglas from the 1860's. A statue of Mercury stands in the centre of the garden re-designed as a herb garden in 2001.

The Dragon garden is south of the Hall. Originally by Lutyens it was re-designed by Detmar Blow and has the famed Dragon fountain at its centre. There are also statues from the old hall here.

The forecourt is on the east of the house and has a pool with an equestrian statue of the 1st Duke riding with his falcon by G.F.Watts 1870-9. Here is also a stone urn 3m high on a circular pedestal. On the

The flat roofed modern house faced in white Travertine marble by John Denys which replaced the Waterhouse design was felt to be too futuristic for the landscape. Eaton Hall was remodelled in the late 1980's by the Percy Thomas Partnership to the French château style form you see today.

The Eaton Hall gardens continue to evolve. Committee member Jan Lomas, the Deputy Head Gardener will give us a guided tour, showing us the most recent developments.

Garden tour July 24th 10.30

Meet in the courtyard at 10.15

Entrance £5 WHGT tour £3

Eaton Hall will be open for car parking from 10.00

Garden front of Eaton Hall by Alfred Waterhouse c. 1880 photo by Francis Bedford



RHS Show, Tatton Park Knutsford, Cheshire 20 -24th July

Jan Lomas, committee member and Deputy Head Gardener at Eaton Hall is working on a garden design for this year's show. **Painting with Plants** is designed by the Eaton Garden Team with Nicola Sweeting and is based on paintings by Matisse.



Visions of Paradise

Tatton Park also has an interesting garden exhibition: Japanese Garden; Visions of Paradise until July 3rd (closed Mondays)

This exhibition celebrates the centenary of the Japanese garden at Tatton Park. Japanese items collected by Wilbraham Earl Egerton, now in the Manchester museum, will also be on show together with artefacts from Tatton's own collection.

The Tatton Park Japanese garden was developed by Alan de Tatton Egerton (1845-1920) 3rd Baron Egerton of Tatton, inspired by his visit to the Anglo-Japanese Exhibition at White City in London in 1910.

At the Exhibition the authenticity of the Japanese gardens was striking as everything - the trees, shrubs, buildings, bridges and stones were all brought in from Japan.

Following the White City Exhibition the Chokushi-Mon (Gateway of the Imperial Messenger) a four fifts replica

of the Karamon (gateway) of Nishi Hongan-ji temple in Kyoto was reconstructed in Kew Gardens where it can be seen today.

In 1996 Chokushi-Mon was restored and the surrounding Japanese landscape was designed by Professor Fukuhara of Osaka University. This is laid out in the style of the Momayama period of the original gateway.

At Tatton the garden is constructed in the style of a tea garden and its Shinto Shrine and garden features are all imported from Japan. The garden underwent a major restoration 2000-1 for the Japan Festival.

Japanese garden design and its symbolism had a huge influence on European gardens, as well as the work of artists like Van Gogh, Monet and Whistler.

The Tatton Park show garden this year will celebrate its famous Japanese garden which is considered the finest in Europe.

Edward Kemp by Elizabeth Davey

The AGM talk at Gladstone's Library, St Deiniols, Hawarden was very interesting.

Elizabeth has tried to trace the background of Kemp, the son of a Streattham tailor. It remains a mystery how he was apprenticed to Joseph Paxton at Chatsworth. He was also writing for garden and botanical publications including 'the Gardening Magazine' from 1841 before his appointment as Superintendent at Birkenhead Park in 1843.

Elizabeth has done much original research on Kemp identifying a number of private sites and gardens which he designed in the Cheshire and Liverpool area whilst continuing his role as Park Superintendent at Birkenhead.

Kemp also designed the Queen's Park in Crewe with the railway engineer Francis Webb. It is possible that this railway connection led to Kemp's involvement at Treborth, Bangor. Ninety acres of the Treborth Isaf estate was purchased in 1846 by the Chester and Holyhead Railway company for the railway link from London to Dublin. Chief Engineer Robert Stevenson, son of George Stevenson

acquired a very large site for building the Britannia Bridge and for dumping the spoils from the Bangor Tunnel.

When the the bridge was finished in 1850 Joseph Paxton was asked to design a pleasure ground covering almost 80 acres. This was called 'Britannia Park and was to be based on Birkenhead Park. The scheme included housing and also a 500 bed hotel. By 1851 the work was stopped for lack of funds and Paxton was asked for two further plans with substantially reduced pleasure grounds and more housing. The financial difficulties were never resolved and the whole scheme was eventually abandoned.

Today only the drainage tunnel designed to feed the cascade remains along with the pathways which are thought to have been originally laid out by Kemp.

Elizabeth's talk was well illustrated and those who attended were certain to have gained a wider appreciation of Kemp and his work. It would be interesting if any other other landscape involving Kemp can be identified in North Wales.

Thanks must go to Elizabeth Smart for arranging this event.

Garden Archaeology Study Day June 11th 10.30-3.30

Theatr Twm 'o'r Nant, Denbigh LL16 3DA

For study day bookings please see flier enclosed

Image © Ken Murphy: 18th century Giants Cave Piercefield, Chepstow

Our speakers will introduce the methods and techniques relating to the archaeology of gardens.

Ken Murphy, Director of Dyfed Archaeological Trust will talk on *The Picturesque landscape from an archaeologists point of view*.

Toby Driver, Air Survey Officer with the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) will talk on *Aerial photography*.

Mike and Terri Greene, members of a community archaeological group will give a talk on *Practical Archaeology* and their interpretation of the early gardens at Walcot Hall, the Georgian seat of Lord Clive of India.



New Branch Committee

Chairman: Glynis Shaw
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Good news!

We are very happy that Jan Lomas and David Toyne have been persuaded to remain on the branch committee as their enthusiasm and experience is invaluable.

We also delighted to welcome Ann Thomas, Elspeth Brelsford, Michael Kemp and Anna Dempsey as new committee members.

If any branch members have ideas for future branch activities please do get in touch with any committee member.

Many Thanks

Sincere thanks go to Elizabeth Smart and Maureen Thomas for all their hard work for the branch over the years whilst serving on the committee. We hope they will continue to be active members and enjoy branch events in the future.

Items for the Branch news are welcome at any time. Please send them to Glynis Shaw using the email above or mail to:

Castell House, Bodfari, Denbigh, LL16 4HT

Future Branch Events

Teddy Bears Picnic Thurs June 2nd 2.00-4.30
Dolhyfryd, Lawnt, Denbigh LL16 4SU
Kindly hosted by Virginia and Michael Cunningham.
Fun for bears and everyone with treasure hunt and games. Adults £3, Bears £1, Accompanying Children Free.

National AGM Saturday 4th June at Fronmon Castle.

Study Day on Garden Archaeology June 11th
Theatr Twm o'r Nant, Denbigh LL16 3DA (See booking form.)

Strawberry Tea June Sunday 26th
Wigfair Isaf, St Asaph LL17 0EN
Kindly hosted by Sinah and Ron Harrison-Jones.
This is a joint fundraiser with Breast Cancer Campaign. Members £4 Non members £5

Visit to Eaton Hall Sunday 24th July
Deputy Head Gardener Jan Lomas will give a guided tour. Meet in the Courtyard at 10.30. The car parking will be open from 10.00 am. You will be able to find your way to the courtyard from any entrance. Admission £5 WHGT tour £3

'Garden Suite' Pontruffydd Hall Aug 10, 7pm
Bodfari LL16 4BP

Bring a picnic and enjoy music by the lake
Kindly hosted by Bill and Sally Glazebrook.
Members £8, Non members £10

For Tickets, bookings and further information please contact Elizabeth Bartlett 01352 758023

From the Cottage to the Hall Thursday July 14th
Clwyd members are invited to join Gwynedd on a visit to Arfryn nr. Ruthin, a delightful hillside garden at 800ft owned by Aaron and Ruth Davies.
The group will then visit Cholmondeley Hall near Malpas. Here the garden is more formal with elegant paths leading through various themes. The pièce de résistance is the Temple Water Garden.
You can meet at the Brookhouse Mill on the A525 between Denbigh and Ruthin at 10.00am and catch the coach or make some other arrangement.
Ring Glynis for booking 01745 710261.