

Bryngwyn Hall

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Bryngwyn Hall is located at Llanfyllin in Powys and not far from Welshpool and Powis Castle. It has a delightful nine-acre (3.6-hectare) garden which wraps around the red-brick late 18th century neo-classical hall (designed by Robert Mylne) before melting seamlessly into a further 60 acres (24 hectares) of oak studded parkland with lakes. Both the Hall and the garden are Grade II Listed and much of the parkland was designed in the early 19th century in the style of landscape designer William Emes (1730-1803).

Considered one of the finest gardens in mid-Wales during the Victorian era, by the 1930s both the Hall and garden were falling into disrepair and lay neglected for almost 60 years, until current owner Lady Linlithgow inherited the property in 1987. Soon after, she embarked on an extensive and exciting programme of restoration of both the Hall and the garden. Today the gardens are very much back to their former glory and are an attractive mix of the old and the new.

Many interesting mature trees and shrubs remain from the 19th century plantings of Major General Arthur Sandbach, grandfather of Lady Linlithgow,



who brought plants, including several fine rhododendron species, back from Bhutan, Sikkim and Northern India.

The original garden was enlarged in the early 20th century to encompass a section of the parkland which included one of the original parkland lakes. This has become one of the main features visible from the garden today. Mown paths cross sloping lawns before falling away towards a ha-ha and the lake beyond, where a slate bench has been thoughtfully positioned upon a causeway. Since Lady Linlithgow's arrival new yew hedges have been established throughout the garden. These provide structure, foil and protection for an intimate rose garden and several attractive

Above: The gate to the 'poison garden'



colour-themed herbaceous borders packed with new plantings deliberately chosen for their heady summer fragrance and vibrant shades, as well as for botanical interest. There is also a magnificent specimen of *Eucryphia* × *nymansensis* 'Nymansay' which produces hundreds of fragrant ivory-coloured flowers in August, beloved by bees and other pollinators. Despite all of this, Bryngwyn is far more than just a summer garden.

Spring is in the air from February onwards with drifts of snowdrops and daffodils, which are quickly followed by spectacular flowering displays of camellias, magnolias, rhododendrons and azaleas. Autumn is equally attractive with

comprehensive collections of maples, cherries and birch which produce stunning leaf colours in October and early November.

Since 2014 a fascinating 'poison garden' (which is unique in Wales) has been designed and planted with over 100 poisonous plants including ricin, opium poppies, aconitum, oleander, and hemlock. Perhaps the most flamboyant of all the poisonous plants in this garden is the large-leaved *Brugmansia suaveolens*. Commonly known as Angel's trumpets, this large shrub produces beautiful pendulous fragrant flowers, but beware of getting too close as the plant has the potential to induce hallucinogenic effects described as 'terrifying rather than pleasurable'!

Left: High summer in the garden **Above:** Recently planted colour-themed herbaceous borders