We continue to Plas Tan y Bwlch, a spectacular Victorian garden nestling in dramatic mountain scenery within the Snowdonia National Park. Much of the garden as seen today was originally laid out for William Edward Oakeley by Head Gardener John Roberts in a period lasting from 1879 until 1912. Lunch will be available here (not included).

We later continue to Portmeirion, the famous Italianate village. Sir Clough Williams-Ellis acquired the site for Portmeirion in 1925 for less than £5,000 as it was then "a neglected wilderness - long abandoned by those romantics who had realised the unique appeal and possibilities of this favoured promontory but who had been carried away by their grandiose landscaping and 'improvement enthusiasm' into sorrowful bankruptcy." Over the course of 50 years the village was developed in a unique and wonderfully eccentric style, while at all times staying in harmony with the natural surroundings. We return to the hotel in time for dinner.

**Tuesday 2 July**

Today following breakfast you are free to explore the World Heritage Town of Caernarfon. There is plenty to do including a visit to the Castle towering on the river’s edge, or for the more adventurous of you, you can fly past the waterfront on a Menia Strait boat trip (entrances not included). Alternatively, join our optional excursion, a relaxing and highly scenic railway journey on the Welsh Highland Steam Railway. Dinner is served at the hotel in the evening.

**Wednesday 3 July**

Following breakfast we depart for our visit to the gardens of Nanhoron, set around a house which was completed in 1803. The West Garden contains many fine azaleas and rhododendrons. In recent years the Long Border has been revived and replanted with yew buttresses dividing it into compartments and the pergola around the pool carries wisteria and roses. This pool was extended to form a rill and water feature at the round of 2006.

In the afternoon we visit Plas yn Rhiw, a delightful manor house with an ornamental garden and wonderful views. The house is 16th-century with Georgian additions and was rescued from neglect and lovingly restored by the three Keang sisters, who bought it in 1938. The garden contains many beautiful flowering trees and shrubs, with beds framed by box hedges and grass paths. The views across Cardigan Bay are among the most spectacular in Britain. Lunch will be available here (not included).

We return to the hotel in time for dinner.

**Thursday 4 July**

Sadly our time in Wales has come to an end and following breakfast this morning, we will check-out of our hotel and begin our journey home, with time for one final visit to the gardens of Chirk Castle.

A magnificent mediaeval fortress on the Welsh Marches, we will explore the award-winning gardens which cover five and a half acres of manicured lawns, clipped yews, herbaceous borders, beautiful rose, shrub and rock gardens, and a wooded pleasure ground. Don’t miss the terrace overlooking the 18th century ha-ha at the bottom of the garden, with stunning views over the Cheshire and Salop plains. There will also be an opportunity to see the lavish interiors including a 17th-century Long Gallery, a grand 18th-century saloon with rich tapestries, servants’ hall, and the restored East Range, containing the library and 1920s style Bow Room showing off Chirk Castle’s connections to high society. Lunch is available here (not included).

We then continue with our return to Cambridge, stopping en-route for refreshments (not included) before we arrive back at our original departure point, where arrival is expected early in the evening.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS MAY NOT BE THE FINAL ITINERARY AND IS SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT**

The Friends’ annual holiday will be taking us to Wales travelling by coach from Cambridge. We will be staying at the Celtic Royal Hotel in Caernarfon where dinner will be provided each evening. During our seven day stay we will be visiting a variety of beautiful and interesting gardens including the gardens of Dorothy Clive, Crug Farm Plants. We will also be visiting Penrhyn Castle, the very famous Bodnant Gardens, Plas Cadnant (a Welsh Lost Gardens of Heligan), Plas Newydd, Plas Brondanw, an Italianate garden, Plas Tan y Bwlch, Portmeirion, the creation of a King's College man Sir Clough Williams-Ellis, Nanhoron and Plas yn Rhiw. Some free time has been built into the programme including Beaumaris and Caernarfon and there is an optional excursion, a relaxing and highly scenic railway journey on the Welsh Steam Railway.

**Information and Registration Form**

**Friends’ Holiday to the Gardens of North Wales**

**Friday 28 June - Thursday 4 July 2019**

*From £885.00 per person*  
*(Single Room supplement £210.00)*

Included in the price
♦ 6 nights’ dinner, bed and breakfast at the Celtic Royal Hotel, Caernarfon
♦ Comfortable coaching throughout  
♦ Visits to Crug Farm Plants, Penrhyn Castle, Plas newydd House and Garden, Portmeirion and the gardens of Bodnant, plas Cadnant, Plas Brondanw, Plas Tan y Bwlch, Nanhoron, Plas Yn Rhiw, Dorothy Clive and Chirk Castle  
♦ Services of Tony Russell as tour manager

Not included (per person)
♦ Single room supplement **£210.00 per person**
♦ Insurance (2019 prices on request)
♦ Optional excursion on West Highland Railway—price to be confirmed once timetable and rates for 2019 are available
REGISTRATION FORM
Gardens of North Wales Friday 28 June - Thursday 4 July 2019

Please return completed form to:
Friends’ Office
Cambridge University Botanic Garden
1 Brookside
Cambridge CB2 1JE
by 30 November 2018

Please note, this form registers your interest but it is not a booking form

I should like to register ............ (no.) place(s)

PLEASE PRINT (excepting email details)

1st Name (lead) :________________________________ Membership No: __________
Address:_______________________________________________________________
Telephone No.________________  Email:____________________________________

2nd Name:  _____________________________________________________________
Accommodation:  Double/ Twin/ Single (delete as appropriate)
I am willing to share a twin room if required: Yes / No (delete as appropriate)
I agree not to contact Brightwater Holidays until I receive confirmation of a place
from the Botanic Garden
I understand that this holiday may be physically demanding and that I am responsible
for my own luggage

Signed: ____________________________ Date: ______________________

Please do not send any money with this form.

The closing date for registration of interest is 30 November 2018

Places are limited and will be allocated by ballot. Please do not contact Brightwater Holidays until
your registration has been confirmed by the Botanic Garden Friends Office which will be after 30
November. After confirmation of your reservation, all bookings will be handled by Brightwater

Proposed Itinerary
Friends’ Holiday to the Gardens of North Wales
Friday 28 June - Thursday 4 July 2019

Friday 28 June 2019
We depart Cambridge by coach and head for Wales, breaking our journey with a visit to the
gardens of Dorothy Clive, near Market Drayton. Whatever the season, this garden’s 12 informal
acres are worth visiting for the wonderful woodland garden; alpine scree; gravel garden; fine tree
collection and spectacular flower borders. Lunch is available here (not included). We continue to
North Wales and our comfortable accommodation at the Celtic Royal Hotel, built around 1794 by
the 2nd Earl of Uxbridge, it is situated within walking distance of Caernarfon’s walled town and
castle. The hotel also boasts a swimming pool and sauna. Dinner is served in the evening.

Saturday 29 June
This morning, after breakfast, we travel to Crug Farm Plants, near Caernarfon. Every October
Blededyn Wynn-Jones and his wife Sue trade their home comforts at Crug for a tent and trekking
gear. They are the only plant collectors in England and Wales to hold a permanent collecting
licence with the exception of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.
Following this we visit Penrhyn Castle - built by Thomas Hopper between 1820 and 1845 for the
wealthy Pennant family, who made their fortune from Jamaican sugar and Welsh slate. The
castle is crammed with fascinating items including an outstanding collection of paintings and a
one-ton slate bed made for Queen Victoria. Lunch is available here (not included).
We later travel to Colwyn Bay where we visit Bodnant Garden situated above the River Conwy
spanning some 80 acres looking across the valley towards Snowdonia. The garden has two parts
– the upper garden around Bodnant Hall, which consists of the terraced gardens and informal
lawns, and the lower garden – known as the “Dell”, formed by the River Hiraethlyn and
containing the wild garden. We return to the hotel in me for dinner.

Sunday 20 June
This morning following breakfast we visit Plas Cadnant, a hidden historic garden which is slowly
being uncovered – a Welsh ‘Lost Gardens of Heligan’. Three different gardens have been
discovered, including an unusual walled garden with curving walls and a pool, a secret valley
garden with three waterfalls and a river, and an upper woodland garden with stone outcrops and
the remains of a 19th century folly.
Following our visit we will transfer to nearby Beaumaris where we will have some free me and
an opportunity for lunch (not included). You may wish to visit Beaumaris Castle which is an
impressive though unfinished castle built in 1295 by Edward I as one of the ‘iron ring’ of North
Wales castles (entrance not included).
This afternoon we will visit Plas Newydd. Set amidst breathtakingly beautiful scenery on the
Menai Strait, this elegant house was redesigned by James Wyatt in the 18th century. The 1930s
restyled interior is famous for its Rex Whistler association, containing his largest painting, a
magnificent trompe l’oeil mural.
We return to our hotel where dinner will be served in the evening.

Monday 1 July
Following breakfast we depart for our visit to Plas Brondanw, at Croesor, Gwynedd. This
Italianate garden was created by Sir Clough Williams-Ellis, who inherited the house from his
father. On entering the cobbled stables courtyard the outside world seems to disappear. All you
can hear is the sound of running water from the “fireboy” fountain and the bleating of sheep in
the nearby fields.