



CALL FOR PAPERS

The National Botanic Garden of Wales, in partnership with Women's Archive Wales, Carmarthenshire Antiquarian Society and Bangor University's Institute for the Study of Welsh Estates is pleased to announce:

ARCHIF MENYWOD CYMRU
WOMEN'S ARCHIVE WALES



PATRIARCHAL PARADIGMS?

THE ROLES AND EXPERIENCES OF WOMEN ON THE LANDED ESTATES OF WALES



PRIFYSGOL
BANGOR
UNIVERSITY

The National Botanic Garden of Wales
Middleton Hall, Carmarthenshire

Sunday, 25th November 2018



Abstracts should be emailed to iswe@bangor.ac.uk by
Monday, 21 May 2018.

For generations, women played a critical part in the social and cultural life of Wales' landed estates. Through their familial roles and networks, and as landowners in their own right, heiresses, cultural patrons, domestic servants, tenants and agricultural labourers, women were central to the functioning of estates and country houses. They often exerted profound influences on the identities and fortunes of individual estates, and could play a significant role in shaping the nature of interactions between the country house, local communities and wider aspects of society. The extraordinary biographies and achievements of elite women such as Lady Llanover, the Davies sisters of Gregynog, Catrin of Berain and the 'Ladies of Llangollen' are increasingly recognised as important parts of the story of Wales. Similarly, the widespread interest in family history over the last decade has played its part in fostering a recognition of the lives of the thousands of women who were employed as domestic servants – maids, cooks, housekeepers, charwomen and wet nurses – by the landed proprietors of Wales. However, in general, the contributions made by women to the wide-ranging social, political, cultural and religious roles and impacts of estates in Wales have been severely overlooked by the established historiography, which tends to be dominated by portrayals of the patriarchal experience.

This one-day conference has been set up to redress the balance. Its objective is to establish a frame of reference for the next generation research into how the experiences of women can contribute towards a more comprehensive understanding of the history, culture and landscapes of Wales.

This conference forms part of a weekend celebration and exploration of the experiences and contributions of women on the Middleton estate in Carmarthenshire, including the life of the suffragette Alice Abadam (1856-1940).

20 minute papers (in English or Welsh) are invited which test and explore perceptions of the roles and experiences of women in the history of Welsh estates and country houses. Contributions are welcome from across academic disciplines, the cultural heritage sector, archives and family and local historians, including papers drawing upon personal memories and experiences or oral history accounts. Themes and subjects may include:

- Matriarchal identities and female estate owners: status, authority and agency
- Gender roles and the country house: perception, performance and protest
- Matrilineality, kinship networks and the construction and continuity of dynastic identities
- Marriage strategies, husbands and familial roles
- Shaping spaces: fashion, leisure and material goods
- Portrayals of elite women: praise-poetry, portraiture and funerary monuments
- Women as cultural patrons, collectors and philanthropists
- The experience of domestic service: hierarchy, relationships, duty and disobedience
- Women and employment on Welsh estates

- Immigration, emigration and the country house: cultural impacts and experiences
- Rural protest, religious dissent and campaigns for reform
- Heritage interpretation: portraying 'life below stairs'
- Women and the 'landlord-tenant' relationship
- Women in estate archives

Please send 250 word abstracts outlining the title, subject, argument and significance of your talk, together with brief information about yourself, including any institutional affiliations and relevant research experience.

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All papers should be accompanied by PowerPoint presentations.

<https://botanicgarden.wales>

<http://iswe.bangor.ac.uk>

www.womensarchivewales.org

<http://www.carmants.org.uk/>

