

# **Gardens of England and Mystical Wales**

# Wales –

- Mountains and sea on 3 sides
- Llandudno- resort town on Irish Sea
- Two promontories
- Alice in Wonderland

# Snowdonia –

• Largest National Park, Mt Snowdon

# Climate –

- Gulf Stream Warm and cold season plants
- Lush growth
- Little stress
- Roses
- Hydrangeas
- Large trees

# Unique Pruning Styles – luxury resulting from better growing conditions

- Topiaries
- Pollarding
- Interwoven hedges
- Surprise seating

#### Language –

- Welsh is one of six surviving Celtic languages.
- Rich vocabulary with distinctive sounds, no equivalent in English
- Town in Wales, longest place name (one word) in the world, 58 letters
- Directional and street signs in Welsh and English

# Signs of a Different Culture -

- Walking paths and stone walls must allow, must maintain, stiles and bridges
- Respect their buildings homes, pubs, barns, mills and factories
- Industry Slate best in the world, mountainsides, work in mines

- Castles Edward 1, about 600 spaced every 20 miles
  - Conwy Castle with wall around city
  - Caernarfon Castle well-preserved, museum-quality displays
    - Ideal spot to build new castle, Roman architecture
    - Welsh myth of Macsen Wledig
- Stone Circles Castlerigg, older, no burial mounds, rectangular area

### Worthwhile Destinations in Wales -

- Portmeirion designed by Welsh architect to "Show how a beautiful site can be developed without spoiling it".
  - Name, when built, purpose
  - o Dinnerware
  - Motto "Cherish the past, adorn the present, and construct for the future."
- Plas yn Rhiw
  - Location on penninsula
  - Renovated by Keating sisters in late 1800's
  - o Current home of Snowdonia environmental center

# Worthwhile Destinations in England -

- Gresgarth Hall Gardens-
  - Home of Lady Arabella Lennox-Boyd, a renowned landscape and garden
  - Open one Sunday a month
  - Stream can be heard throughout 12-acre property
  - Main features are rare plants, exquisite gardens, innovative kitchen garden, and pebble mosaics.
  - Property was "Once bleak and daunting like Wuthering Heights". House built in 1330.
- Dalemain
  - Located in Cumbria
  - 12<sup>th</sup> century mansion, a deer park with fallow deer, an Elizabethan cobbled courtyard and stone barns
  - A Ha-Ha, a sleeping dragon topiary and mud lady sculpture, stumpery, and extensive gardens to explore.
  - The Marmalade Festival, 3500 entries from around the world each year.
    - Festival was started in 2005 to bolster the depressed local economy after the Mad Cow epidemic.
    - Marmalade must contain some citrus.

Other Fascinating Gardens-

- Holker Hall
- Japanese garden at Tatton Park
- Fernery and Italianette garden at Tatton Park
- o Bodnant Gardens
- Other treats pollinator garden

Helping people become better gardeners through the website, radio show, and garden tours. -Alice Longfellow

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**Alice Longfellow** 



































































