



welsh historic gardens trust
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Two twentieth century gardens in crisis:

Aberystwyth University Campus
and

The John Summers Garden
at

The Shotton Steel Headquarters building.

Caroline Palmer and Glynis Shaw

The John Summers Garden



Hawarden Bridge Iron Works, later Shotton Steelworks was established in 1895-6 by John Summers & Sons of Stalybridge on the N bank of the River Dee



John Summers Garden



A new Headquarters building 1907 by architect James France, in Freestyle with Continental and Art Nouveau influences







Image from Google Maps



Image from Google Maps





This is a garden in an industrial landscape, providing recreational social benefit to employees, as pioneered by Lever at Port Sunlight.

York stone pedestal supported a plaque, recording the presentation of the garden and recreation facilities by Henry Summers to the Headquarters Office staff, on his seventieth birthday in 1935.



















Landscaping before 1938 when the chimneys came down

















1951 John Summers & Sons was nationalised and became part of the Iron and Steel Corporation of Great Britain.

In the 50s there were 10,000 working on the site.

Brenda Colvin landscaped the site.



















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further work by Colvin & Moggridge in 1970-71 is recorded in Colvin's notebook









'This tree given to Shotton Works by HRH the Prince of Wales was planted by the Work's Director Mr. John H Powell on 24th March 1979'

In March 1980, British Steel axed 6,500 jobs at Shotton Steel.

Steel making in Shotton ended.

Today Tata Construction process steel products on the site. It manufactures metallic coated and pre-painted coil steel goods for the construction and manufactured coil steel goods markets.



"Trees for Town and Country", 1947, written by a committee including Brenda Colvin, saw trees as an essential part of post-war reconstruction. Beautiful technical drawings showing scale.

The Headquarters Office is now on the Victorian Society endangered list.

In 2010 Pochin Goodman paid £5m for 200 acres of surplus land from Tata, including the general office and four other buildings

and

John Summers Garden