

COL. ARTHUR GRANT

Arthur Grant entered the army in 1899 and served in the 12th (Prince of Wales's Royal) Lancers during the South African War. He took part in the advance on Kimberley, including action at Magersfontein.

Lieutenant Arthur Grant was decorated with the award of the companion Distinguished Service Order (D.S.O.) on 26th June 1902. In May 1904 he was Gazetted a Captain. On 17th April 1912 Captain Arthur Grant became a Lieutenant Colonel of the 5th Battalion (Buchan and Formartin) Gordon Highlanders and in May 1915 accompanied the Battalion to France.

On the morning of 18th June 1915, in the trenches at Festubert, Grant was wounded by a shell whilst returning from the support trenches to Battalion headquarters. The wound to his arm was severe enough to result in him being invalided home.

In 1917 he was stationed back in England on Cannock Chase as Commander of The Prisoners of War. He also commanded the 166th and 167th companies of the Royal Defence Corps. The 5th battalion was transferred to Brocton Camp to train fresh drafts. 500,000 men were trained at Brocton camp, to fight in the trenches. He lived at Brocton Leys with his family until 1919, when the camp on Cannock Chase was disbanded. Many of the prisoners of war died from an outbreak of influenza in 1918.

He succeeded the Title of 10th Baronet Grant of Monymusk and Cullen, Buchan (N.S.1705) on March 17th 1917. When the camp on Cannock Chase disbanded he returned to Scotland where he held office of Justice of the Peace for Aberdeenshire. He also held the office of Deputy Lieutenant (DL) of Aberdeenshire. He was invested as a commander, order of the British Empire.



COL. ARTHUR GRANT

Born 14th Sept 1879 Died 21st June 1931
Col Sir Arthur Grant was the son of Sir Arthur Henry Grant of Monymusk 9th battalion and Mary Douglas. He married Evelyn Alice Lindsay Wood on the 12th Oct 1909. They had six children;

Evelyn Mary Frances Grant
Born 4th Oct 1910

Major Sir Arthur Lindsay Grant
of Monymusk and Cullen 11th bt.
Born 8th Sept 1911 Died 18th July 1944

Elsbeth Grant born 6th Oct 1913

Sir Francis Cullen Grant of Monymusk 12th bt
Born 5th Oct 1914 Died 31st Aug 1966

Catherine Jean Grant
Born 18th Aug 1917 Died 10th Dec 2007

Christian Maria Grant
Born 3rd Dec 1920

For more details

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GARDEN CELEBRATION

2014

BROCTON LEYS





THE HISTORY

Brocton Leys was built in 1900. It was occupied by Mr Percival Harston.

We know he contracted TB during the war and he died in 1921. He lived in a wooden house in the garden to help him breathe and get the maximum fresh air. The wooden house is still there today.

During the war Brocton Leys was billeted for officers. Then in 1916 Col. Arthur Grant came to live at Brocton Leys, he was commander of the prisoners of war on Cannock Chase. He gained the rank of Col. in the service of the 5th battalion who were stationed on Cannock Chase to train fresh drafts.

Arthur Grant lived at Brocton Leys with his wife Evelyn Alice, and their six children.



THE GARDEN

The garden is Edwardian period and the design is of different rooms. You can still see today the steps and gaps in the hedges leading you into another room. The steps leading into the herb garden from the herbaceous border used to lead towards a sunken lawn at the bottom surrounded by ancient pinnacle yews that you can still see today, we believe they are over 100 years old. This area is now a herb garden based on a rose garden design, with an old English apple orchard to the side of it.

All the stones that make up the walls are sandstone, and along the wall beside the main road you can see large blocks of stone that were once part of the village school. The site now is a vegetable garden.

The garden has always been an organically managed family garden growing fruit and vegetables, and has held organic certification with The Soil Association for over two decades.



All plant material is recycled, and we rely on our own compost and green manures, plus some horse manure that comes from a local stable, to add nutrients to the soil. We do not use fertilizers pesticides or herbicides.

During the War, the chairman of Universal Grinding of Stafford, a Mr Phillips, lived at Brocton Leys, and turned the garden over for growing vegetables for the factory canteen.

The big holly trees are also a reminder of an Edwardian period garden, although they have been aged at about 200 years old and were probably part of an old boundary fence. Gradually the big old trees of Brocton Leys are being replaced with new plantings that you can see as you go round.

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