

Ymddiriedolaeth Gerddi Hanesyddol Cymru  
Welsh Historic Gardens Trust  
Ceredigion Branch Chairman's Report 2010-11

The Branch has had a successful year and membership has risen to 76 members from throughout the county. I apologise to those whom I have not yet managed to welcome personally. The central WHGT recently been making efforts to update its membership database. A few members may still be paying at the old subscription rate or have got behind with subscriptions. Letters from Kate Beech and Membership Secretary Ann Sayer should have reached you to address these problems. Please let us know if you think we have failed to process your details correctly.

The committee has worked hard in furtherance of the Branch aims. It has held one lecture and four very successful excursions for members. The Committee met twice during the year, and also went on a visit to Lovesgrove at the invitation of Prof and Mrs Garnett.

At the AGM on Saturday, 12th March at the Waun Fawr Community Hall, Dr Toby Driver, Aerial Investigator, RCAHMMW, gave a fascinating illustrated talk on Landscapes and Gardens of Ceredigion from the Air.

On Wednesday 21 April The Branch revisited Glandyfi Castle at the invitation of Maureen and Peter Holmes, to see the early rhododendrons, and were given a lavish tea.

On Saturday 22 May The Branch visited Trawscoed mansion where life members Stephen and Suzana Edwards hosted a fundraising strawberry and champagne tea in support of the national WHGT. Trust Chairman Gwyneth Hayward was among the guests and cut the ribbon on the newly restored summerhouse. Everyone was much impressed by the progress which has been made in reviving this important garden. Also present were representatives of The Fountain Society, who are interested in historic and new fountains throughout the UK.

On Sunday 11 July The Branch visited Crugiau, Rhydyfelin and were entertained to tea by the owners Mr and Mrs Arthur Newman. Caroline Palmer gave a historical digest of the rather obscure ownership history of the house since the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century. In the sloping kitchen garden, Arthur's fruit and vegetable gardening was a tour de force, and all the ornamental parts of the garden were meticulously tended.

On Wednesday 15 September Penny David led an exploration of the gardens of Falcondale Mansion and gave an illustrated lecture on its history. After an excellent tea, members joined her on a visit to the ruined site of Peterwell Mansion, which is on private land and invisible in a clump of trees.

The Branch publication *Historic Parks and Gardens in Ceredigion* continues to sell steadily in small numbers. It is available to booksellers through the Welsh Books Council, and also to members by application to the authors.

Ros Laidlaw has continued to respond to planning applications affecting historic gardens. She has also made representations to Ceredigion District Council on the details of the Local Development Plan which will soon replace the Unitary Development Plan as a planning tool.

Caroline Palmer attends Greener Abersytwyth Group (GAG) meetings as an observer and contributes where green landscape issues concern historic landscapes in Aberystwyth. The two organisations have collaborated re the Penglais Health Centre and the drafting of a management plan for the Llanbadarn Cemetery.

Caroline Palmer 9/2/2011