

Ymddiriedolaeth Gerddi Hanesyddol Cymru  
Welsh Historic Gardens Trust  
Ceredigion Branch

Chairman's Report 2005-2006

I am pleased to report that our branch publication, *Historic Parks and Gardens in Ceredigion* is now sold out. While we believe it has now reached most of its core audience, it still sells steadily through two Aberystwyth bookshops and at lectures. However the committee believe that a wider audience could yet be reached if the book were distributed more widely through the Welsh Books Council. It has been resolved to reprint 750 copies of the book, with minor corrections. As these sell, the Branch should more than recoup the outlay on printing costs. We believe the continued availability of the book is an important component of the WHGT mission to increase public awareness of the importance of local historic gardens.

The Branch has held five very successful events this year

At the AGM we enjoyed a stimulating lecture from Mr Ken Murphy, Principal Archaeologist, Cambria Archaeology on the new discoveries of Picturesque paths and features at Piercefield, Monmouthshire.

On 25 June the Branch, in conjunction with the Hafod Trust, hosted a very popular reception, lunch and Study Day at Hafod which was attended by 50 WHGT members from all over Wales and beyond.

On 16 July 12 members of the Branch and 6 Carmarthenshire members were guests of John and Patricia Hegarty at Llwynywormwood. On a fine afternoon, we explored their picturesque park, the beautifully restored and highly productive walled garden, and were entertained to a lavish tea. On Sunday 11 September the branch visited Hamilton House, Brecon, home of Dr Thomas Pinhorn where the garden is being restored, with insight from pollen analysis, to a Georgian planting scheme complementary to the period of the house.

On Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November John Savidge led an exploration of the setting of Trawscoed. Though we were not allowed access to the arboretum and gardens, there was a great deal to see in the wider landscape.

Ros Laidlaw has been monitoring planning applications affecting historic gardens. At Trawscoed the application for construction of new dwellings in the walled garden was taken to appeal and rejected on the grounds that the proposed works would not preserve the setting of a listed building and be harmful to the character of the Grade II Historic Garden. Subsequently the house was put on the market. She has also responded to proposals to build creative units adjoining the Arts Centre, and a Health Centre and Creche on Penglais Hill. These proposals have impact on the university campus and Penglais mansion gardens, all of which are listed Grade II\* on the Cadw/ICOMOS register.

Arising out of the Health Centre and Creche proposals, the Branch has formed a partnership with the newly-formed Greener Aberystwyth Group to lobby for the restoration of the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century garden within the Penglais Dingle as a public resource for Aberystwyth.

The Committee has met twice this year. Our long serving Treasurer and fund-raiser Michael Norman, formally tendered his resignation in August but kindly agreed to prepare the end of year accounts for the Branch. We record our great debt to him for many years of service to the Branch.

Caroline Palmer