

Ymddiriedolaeth Gerddi Hanesyddol Cymru  
Welsh Historic Gardens Trust  
Ceredigion Branch

Chairman's Report 2008-2009

The Branch membership remains steady at 66 members from throughout the county. There have been some losses and some new members during the year. The committee have worked hard in furtherance of the Branch aims. It has held one lecture and three very successful excursions for members. The Committee met twice during the year, and also went on a research visit to Mount Pleasant, Goginan at the invitation of Mrs Pauline Vivash.

At the AGM on Saturday, 8th March at the Waun Fawr Community Hall, Hilary Thomas gave us a slide lecture on the gardens described in the South and Mid Glamorgan branch book *Historic Parks and Gardens of the Vale of Glamorgan*. Copies were for sale. Glamorgan has followed and expanded on Ceredigion's lead in producing a county book.

On Saturday 17 May. The Branch spent a day visiting the gardens of Trawscoed at the invitation of the new owners Stephen and Suzana Edwards. All were impressed by the substantial amount of work which had already been accomplished in the garden, and by the hospitality and enthusiasm of the owners.

On Tuesday 10 June. The Branch made an afternoon visit to Glandyfi Gastle gardens, at the invitation of new owners Peter and Maureen Holmes. After exploring the woods, kitchen garden and ornamental garden, members were treated to a lavish tea in on the lawn, a particularly remarkable feat when the castle lacks electricity and is enrobed in scaffolding.

On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September members joined with the Cardiganshire Horticultural Society on a coach excursion to visit Abbey Cwm-Hir house and garden, which had recently featured in an article in *The Bulletin* by Paul Humpherson.

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.

The branch has also made progress with the York based, lottery-funded national UK website [www.parksandgardens.ac.uk](http://www.parksandgardens.ac.uk) Information and pictures about Cadw register gardens and a number of other sites now total 22 good entries for Ceredigion. The branch intends to add further information, and new sites in the coming years. Peter Davis' extensive postcard collection for the whole of Wales is being scanned for images relating to gardens, and these will be available to county branches of WHGT for research. Many of the images will be posted on the website.

Ros Laidlaw has had a busy year monitoring planning applications affecting historic gardens. Major planning applications have been lodged for changes at both Nanteos and Trawscoed, where in addition to formally responding to the planners, she has been invited by owners or architects to comment at a preliminary stage. During the year she has also opposed applications for a workshop adjoining the Lodge at Trawscoed, for a new build house within Trawscoed walled garden, and responded to an application for the conversion of outbuildings to a dwelling at Bronpadarn mansion, recommending landscape conditions.

Caroline Palmer 28/2/2009