

Ymddiriedolaeth Gerddi Hanesyddol Cymru
Welsh Historic Gardens Trust
Ceredigion Branch

Chairman's Report 2009-2010

The Branch membership remains steady at 65 members from throughout the county. Some members have left the area, but we welcome eleven new members who have joined in the course of the year. The committee has 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 visit to Cardigan Castle at the invitation of the volunteers who are gardening parts of the grounds.

At the AGM on Saturday, 21st March at the Waun Fawr Community Hall, Anne West, Chairman of the Cambrian Mountains Society introduced their film, **Secret Wales**, and led a lively discussion of the challenges facing the area.

On Sunday 17 May Caroline Palmer and Penny David led a visit to the gardens and kitchen garden of **Monachty**, Pennant by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Symons Jones, who also hosted a most excellent tea. Hardy members remained after tea for an extensive exploration of the estate and were taken to see Dinerth castle, and Pont-y-dau-brodyr on a tributary of the Afon Arth.

On Sunday 27 June Ros Laidlaw led an afternoon visit to **Ty Glyn** walled garden, and to the setting of Ty Glyn mansion, which has recently changed hands and is undergoing renovation. The excursion was followed by tea at the Ty Glyn Aeron hotel.

On Sunday 13 September Jennie Macve led a day visit to the **Three walled gardens of Hafod**: the walled kitchen garden and its restored greenhouses, Mariamne's Garden, and the recently cleared Mrs Johnes' garden.

The Branch publication *Historic Parks and Gardens in Ceredigion* continues to sell steadily in small numbers (about 25 per year). It is available to booksellers through the Welsh Books Council, and also to members by application to the authors.

The national UK website www.parksandgardens.ac.uk now holds information on 22 Ceredigion gardens, many of them detailed entries with both modern and historic photographs. The branch can continue to add further information, and new sites in the coming years. Peter Davis' extensive postcard collection for the whole of Wales has been scanned for all 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 continued to monitor planning applications affecting historic gardens. Her representations are highly professional and are respected by the Planning Department. During the past year she has represented the historic garden interest at Plas Hendre (Waun Fawr) the Penglais campus, Nanteos, Tanybwlech and Trawscoed.

Caroline Palmer 16/2/2010