

Ymddiriedolaeth Gerddi Hanesyddol Cymru
Welsh Historic Gardens Trust
Ceredigion Branch Chairman's Report 2011-12

The Branch has had a successful year and membership stands at 79 members. Most members have now amended their standing orders to the correct subscriptions.

The committee met twice during the year and has worked hard in furtherance of the Branch aims. It has held one lecture and four very successful excursions for members.

We are sorry to record the death on 1 May 2011 of Donald Moore, the founder Chairman of the Branch. We sent our condolences, and two members of Committee attended the interment ceremony at St David's cathedral.

THE AGM was held at Llanerchaeron on **Saturday, 12th March**. Kevin O'Donnell, The Head Gardener gave a fascinating illustrated talk on his career "From County Clare to Ceredigion"

On Saturday 7 April 14 members of the Branch visited the gardens of Gogerddan mansion and the parts of its landscape now accessible via the Gogerddan Trail in the Forestry Commission woodland.

Paul Evans of the University Grounds Department guided us around the garden, and Penny David gave us tantalising extracts from the writings of a Thomas Norwood, a gardener employed at Gogerddan in 1897.

On Saturday 29 May ten members of the Branch made a day excursion to St Brides, Haverfordwest where we joined Pembrokeshire members and were guided through the medieval and more recent history of the old site and the nineteenth-century mansion by historian Ann Sayer of the Pembrokeshire WHGT.

On Tuesday 12 July 33 members joined us for an exploration of the gardens of Ynyshir hall, followed by tea on the lawn. We were lucky to be accompanied by Mrs Reen, the manager/proprietress, and by Penny Condry whose knowledge of the garden goes back a very long time.

On Wednesday 14 September 17 members gathered for lunch in the new conservatory café at Rhos-y Gilwen followed by a tour of the arboretum and the walled gardens in the company of organic gardener John Thomas. Tea was served at the end of the tour.

The Branch purchased a powerpoint projector and this has greatly assisted at least three members of Committee in giving talks about historic gardens. These occasions also draw newcomers' attention to our publication: *Historic Parks and Gardens in Ceredigion*.

Ros Laidlaw has continued to respond to local planning applications affecting historic gardens. She was a key speaker at a WHGT conference *Planning to Save Heritage Landscapes* held at Wrexham to enhance planners' awareness of Historic Parks and Gardens. She has successfully made representations to Ceredigion County Council on the details of the Local Development Plan, which replaces the Unitary Development Plan.

Caroline Palmer attends Greener Aberystwyth Group (GAG) meetings as an observer and contributed to their subcommittee seeking to improve the effectiveness of Planning Enforcement in the Ceredigion.

Caroline Palmer 24/1/2012