

Ymddiriedolaeth Gerddi Hanesyddol Cymru Welsh Historic Gardens Trust

Ceredigion Branch

Chairman's Report 2012-13

Membership stands at 66. The central WHGT at Aberglasney is now resuming responsibility for membership reminders and the database. It is hoped that confusions over membership will now cease, but please speak to a committee member if you have not received publications and notices as you should have done. If you are on email please let us have your address so that we may update you on Branch events.

The Branch AGM was held on Saturday 3 March and heard a fascinating lecture by Penny David on the unpublished 1897 diary of Thomas Northwood, a gardener involved in running the extensive heated glasshouses devoted to tender fruit and ornamental flowers at Gogerddan. The diary was discovered and transcribed by Northwood's granddaughter Margaret Williams, who works for the NT at Llanerchaeron.

There were three field meetings during the summer.

On 23 May the Branch again visited Glandyfi Castle as guests of Maureen and Peter Holmes. This was the third visit in six years and corresponded with the opening of the castle as a boutique B&B. The gardens are being well cared for and some new planting and thoughtful alterations have taken place. The walled garden is not yet cultivated. A delicious tea was served in the glassed atrium covering the courtyard.

On 22 July the Branch visited Nanteos, which has undergone lavish restoration. The walled garden has been almost cleared of Japanese Knotweed and grassed, paths reinstated on historic lines, and an area on the south side of the garden levelled with a view to siting a marquee. Some members also walked the Lover's walk, seeing the ancient trees, and new deciduous plantings under the Forestry Commission's *Better Woodlands for Wales* scheme. We enjoyed the formal Nanteos Tea.

On 12 September, Penny David led a visit to the privately owned Tivyside mansion, Plas Treforgan, where we met the gardener, and Linda Marsh, the housekeeper, allowed us to look inside the historic house. We then took tea at the recently refurbished Hammet House (formerly known as Castell Maelgwyn), just over the river in Pembrokeshire.

The committee met twice to orchestrate the programme. Ros Laidlaw continues to monitor planning applications, and has kept in close consultation with Planning and the Forestry Commission where various draft proposals for small scale hydroelectric turbines set in the Hafod landscape have been under discussion. At Hafod the Branch was also delighted to record the planting of a new 'American Garden' in the restored Mrs Johnes' Flower Garden at the core of the estate. Caroline Palmer continues to attend Greener Aberystwyth Group meetings and the Branch hopes to continue a useful dialogue with the University Estates Dept concerning the Grade II* landscape of the campus and adjoining land.