

Ymddiriedolaeth Gerddi Hanesyddol Cymru Welsh Historic Gardens Trust

Ceredigion Branch

Chairman's Report 2013-14

The Ceredigion Branch commenced the year with the AGM on 9th March 2013, at which we recorded our thanks to long serving Committee member Peter Davis who retired from the Committee. Two new members, Prof Colin Eldridge and Mr David Barnes, allowed their names to be put forward and were duly elected to Committee. The AGM was followed by an illustrated lecture on Heritage Trees Wales by photographer, author and tree enthusiast Archie Miles.

On 8th May members revisited Lodge Park with Ros Laidlaw and viewed the gardens of the historic house, Bushell's Well and the traces of the former deer park still visible on forestry and private land. Following the meeting an excellent tea was served at the Wildfowler, at Tre'ddol.

On 5th June Penny David organised a coach trip to Llysdinam Gardens, Newbridge on Wye, where a private family trust employs gardener Becky Keeble-Payne and maintains the gardens to a very high standard. The links between Llysdinam and Penllergare, as exemplified by the ownership of both sites by Sir John Dillwyn Llewellyn in the 1880s and the presence of the Rhododendron Pengaer Red' were explored.

On 11th September the branch again reached slightly outside the county boundaries to visit Maesycrugiau in Carmarthenshire and view the strangely truncated mansion and bizarre early 20th century gazebo in the garden. Penny David, led the trip. She is working on a book on historic gardens in Carmarthenshire to be published by the county WHGT branch.

In June the Hafod Trust celebrated the opening of Mrs Johnes' Garden at Hafod with a tea party in the garden for 150 guests from near and far. WHGT Committee attended.

The Committee met twice to organise the programme. The Committee has agreed to organise the National WHGT AGM weekend in Ceredigion in 2015. This will be held on Sat-Sunday 6-7 June at Lampeter with visits planned to Llanllyr, Strata Florida, Hafod and possibly Falcondale. The Committee has also been asked to man the WHGT stand at the Royal Welsh Show on Wednesday 23 July 2014. Members willing to help should contact ~~the~~ any Committee member. Helpers will get free access to the show in return for a couple of hours on the stand.

There were no planning issues directly affecting Cadw listed sites in Ceredigion this year, but there is concern at the successful applications for single huge wind turbines (as big as 70m tall) which are being granted outside the areas formerly designated for potential wind farm development. One such is to be erected at Penlanlas, Rhydyfelin and another within a short distance of Derry Ormond Tower.