

January 2009

Number 41



South and Mid Glamorgan Branch Newsletter

Janet Williams

The Branch Committee were saddened by Janet's death following a long illness. Janet joined the WHGT in 2003 and was elected to the Committee in 2004. She was a valuable member because of her experience on the local council and her continued interest in their planning policies. She will be missed by all of us for her lively mind and enthusiasm. We have lost a good friend and colleague and our thoughts are with her husband David and the rest of the family

Branch AGM 2008

The Annual General Meeting was held at St Donat's Castle on Sunday 6 July. Despite what your committee hoped would be an enticing venue, coupled with the even more enticing prospect of a guided tour of the gardens by Cadw's inspector of historic parks and gardens Elisabeth Whittle, the attendance was very disappointing, just 21, and all but two or three of those were members of your committee and their partners. **We need your support.**

At the AGM all the Branch officers (having signified their willingness to continue in office) were unanimously re-elected. Two members of the committee, Joan Raum and Janet Williams, did not stand for re-election because of poor health. Jacky Thorne was elected as a new committee member.

In his chairman's address, Paul thanked all the officers and committee members for their work and support during the year, reported on a successful launch and subsequent sales of the Branch's publication 'Historic Gardens of the Vale of Glamorgan', and outlined issues of concern to WHGT (such as the state of the Rookwood Summerhouse and the continuing saga of proposed development at Ruperra) with which the Branch continues to be actively involved.

The treasurer's report showed a small credit balance in the Branch account (excluding receipts and disbursements for the book) and was formally accepted.

After the business meeting Elisabeth Whittle gave a short introductory talk, setting the important Tudor gardens of St Donat's (Cadw/ICOMOS Grade 1) into a historical context, before giving us a guided tour. Elisabeth's authoritative informality brought these magnificent terraced gardens to life and traced their history from Tudor creation and heyday through the vicissitudes of later centuries. We walked in the footsteps of Sir Edward Carne, were awed by the engineering skills needed to create the terraces and by the scale of that work, and were given insights into the changes effected in the garden landscape by nineteenth- and twentieth-century owners who included

Dr John Whitlock Nicholl Carne, Morgan Stuart Williams and William Randolph Hearst. Fascinating! **You missed a treat if you were not at St Donat's on 6 July.**

Hilary Thomas



Branch Visit to Coedarhydglyn

At the kind invitation of Colonel Rhodri Traherne and his family, some 30 members of the Branch visited Coedarhydglyn on Sunday 21 September and were given a tour of the gardens and landscape park (Cadw/ICOMOS Grade II*), which are not usually open to the public, by the owner.

We all assembled in front of the house where we were welcomed by Rhodri Traherne and given a short talk on the history of the house and the family. Our host then led us through the gardens - the Dell with its Japanese features, the woodland glades and the pinetum - stopping at strategic points to expand on the history and development of the landscape and to identify specific trees.

The glorious autumn sunshine enhanced the natural beauty of all that we saw and provided magical views of slanting light playing through the trees. It was a real privilege to be taken around Coedarhydglyn by the owner whose care for and pride in his estate was so evident, and it was with great appreciation that our chairman thanked Colonel Traherne for a memorable visit.

Hilary Thomas



Bute Park

The debate continues about the development plans for Bute Park. The following is an excerpt from a article published recently and available at:

[lack-of-public-debate-over-bute-park-plan-could-cost-council-dear-91466-22596486 \(3\).htm](http://lack-of-public-debate-over-bute-park-plan-could-cost-council-dear-91466-22596486(3).htm)

Lack of public debate over Bute Park plan could cost council dear

Jan 3 2009 by David James, South Wales Echo

A senior Assembly civil servant has revealed that the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) is taking the public outcry over the Cardiff Council plans to improve access for articulated lorries in the city centre Bute Park "very seriously". The fund's support is crucial as it is providing £3.6m to attract more people into the Grade I listed Victorian park, a project the council has linked to its planned road works and £1.4m lorry bridge to improve access for lorries to its nurseries and major events in Coopers Field.

In a letter to campaigners on behalf of Heritage Minister Alun Ffred Jones, Mark McConkey said the fund had asked for "ongoing evidence" of the council's commitment to consult the public, community and conservation groups to ensure public support for the project. He wrote: "HLF takes very seriously the public concerns which have arisen since the summer of 2007 and have discussed with Cardiff County Council the apparent lack of dialogue with stakeholders and park users on this issue. Direct involvement by the public in their heritage is one of HLF's strategic priorities, so it is crucial for the proposed plans to restore the Park that there is a comprehensive programme of public consultation. As part of its monitoring of the grant to the council, HLF continue to keep this under review"

A Cardiff council spokesman said: "The council has followed all statutory procedures on this matter including that of consultation. "As explained on numerous occasions the access bridge will enable us to have a greater separation for pedestrians from the vehicles that need to use the park to make deliveries to the nursery and help service the hugely popular and successful events this park hosts each year. It actually means the vehicles will need to be in the park for less time than they are now as they will travel a far shorter distance and give safer and better access for pedestrians."

david.james@mediawales.co.uk

Ruperra Castle

The Public Inquiry will start on April 21st 2009 at Caerphilly County Borough Council Offices at Tredomen near Ystrad Mynach and is expected to last for four days. It will start at 10 am at the Council Chamber on 21st April. The WHGT will be represented together with other interested parties and Amenity Societies

'Grand Restorations' Conference on Saturday 28th February 2009, 10.00 am—4.00 pm Sponsored by Ruperra Castle Preservation Trust.

Our theme is the remarkable ability of talented, trained experts to conjure up 'phoenix like from the ashes' the rebirth of great historical buildings in various ways as a result of neglect in its various guises. Adrian Cook will talk about Chiswick House and Grounds, John Edwardson Cardiff Castle Restoration Project and John Thorneycroft on Windsor Castle. Also, the Viramu Jones Gallery will be available for displays from the Amenity Societies.

The venue is the Shandon Lecture theatre (capacity 208 people) in the Main Building (by Caroe) on Museum Avenue. Parking is available in the east courtyard on a Saturday. We hope to fill the theatre and raise funds for the barrister representing us at the coming Public Inquiry on April 21st 2009.

Price £15.00 Students £7.00, optional extra Buffet £6. 00

For more information please contact Elaine Davey

Cowbridge Physic Garden and HRH Duchess of Cornwall Official Opening

The official opening of the garden by HRH Duchess of Cornwall on June 26th 2008 was a landmark occasion for the project. The prodigious work of the last three years to bring about the Cowbridge Physic Garden had its ultimate reward in the visit by the Duchess, who clearly enjoyed the occasion immensely.

On the day of the Royal visit Dan Clayton-Jones, ex-Chairman of the South and Mid Glamorgan Branch of the WHGT and Chairman of the Cowbridge Physic Garden Trust thanked those organisations and people who have contributed so much to the success of this project. These included all those involved in the initial programme, from the conceptualisers, which included WHGT Branch Committee members, and contractors through to the members and the volunteers who have turned this unique place into a show-piece garden to have become today. The result is the increasing numbers of people who are visiting us annually, for in the last 12 months more than 50,000 people have been welcomed.

As time goes on the CPGT expect to build on this total and to enhance the Physic Garden further. It is already being described as Cowbridge's pride and joy. It is also clearly evident that people who live in the town and the wider Vale are bringing visitors and guests to see it as a first choice on their list of priorities, which is a truly encouraging trend.

All round, there was a cause for celebration and, with our membership steadily growing, the Trustees can look forward confidently to the future.

HRH Duchess of Cornwall agrees to become Patron

In November HRH The Duchess of Cornwall has graciously accepted an invitation to become Patron of Cowbridge Physic Garden.

Plant Fayre

The annual plant Fayre will be held in the Cowbridge Physic garden on Saturday 25th of April 2009



Official Opening of Physic garden

'Historic Gardens of the Vale of Glamorgan' edited by Hilary M Thomas

Sales of the book have been brisk during 2008 and we had sold 568 copies of the book by November 2008, one year after the launch. However we need to sell at least another 60 copies to break even financially.

The book will be available at all the Branch events this year, or can be ordered from Dan Clayton-Jones Mwyndy House, Mwyndy, Llantrisant, CF72 8PN for £25 to include postage and packing. Cheques should be made payable to WHGT

Diary

1. Study day on Planning Issues in Relation to Historic Landscapes,

Saturday 14th March 2009 at Dyffryn Gardens, St Nicholas, starting at 10.00 am.

The study day is being organised in order to involve and inform members and supporters of WHGT in South & Mid Glamorgan on impending changes to the ways in which the consultation process on planning applications concerning landscapes of historic interest will change in the future. In due course WHGT will become statutory consultees for planning applications in Wales and when this comes about it is hoped that it will be possible to increase local awareness and opinions in the process.

Speakers; Elisabeth Whittle (Cadw) and Lindsay Cuddy (Conservation Team leader in the Strategic Planning Division at Cardiff County Council). Ros Laidlaw (Planning Co-ordinator for WHGT) will run a workshop.

The cost will be £8 for WHGT members, £10 for non-members, including coffee on arrival.

Please let Jean Reader know if you are interested in attending. Either e-mail at jeanreader@btconnect.com or write to: Burdons Farm, Wenvoe, Cardiff. CF5 6BA

2. AGM at Bryngarw House, Bridgend

Sunday 28th June at 2.00pm.

After the AGM Gerry Donovan, project Manager at Dyffryn Gardens and Arboretum, who has studied and worked in Japan, will talk about Japanese gardens and will be a chance to see the Grade II garden which includes the Japanese garden planted by Captain Onslow Powell Traherne between 1910 and 1918 using Japanese and Chinese plants, informal pools and rills and oriental buildings.

Bryngarw Japanese garden



3. High Glanau Manor and Wyndcliffe Court, Monmouthshire,

Saturday 6th June 2009 at 12.00 noon.

H. Avary Tipping was the Architectural Editor of Country Life from 1907 until his death in 1933. High Glanau Manor is Tipping's last Monmouthshire home where he designed the house and garden together in the Arts and Crafts style. A talk on Tipping's life and achievements by the current owner of High Glanau Manor, Helena Gerrish, will be followed by a guided tour of the recently restored garden. A two course lunch with wine at High Glanau Manor will be provided before a short trip to Wyndcliffe Court where Tipping created another fine example of an Arts and Crafts garden.

The total cost will be £25.00 including lunch

4. Insole Court

The Committee are planning to visit Insole Court one evening in August. A chance to re-visit Insole Court, a Grade II* Victorian and Edwardian town garden which has recently been re-opened by Cardiff City Council following a campaign by local groups

5. Llanover Court

We are planning a visit to Llanover Court in September, probably Friday October 2nd. Details and cost are to be finalised, but will probably include lunch at a local hostelry

For more information on the last 4 events please complete the attached form or contact Val Caple at val.t.caple@care4free.net

Non-members are welcome to all the visits when spaces are available so please ask



YMDDIRIEDOLAETH
GERRDI
HANESYDDOL CYMRU
WELSH HISTORIC
GARDENS TRUST

South and Mid
Glamorgan Branch

Paul Underwood
(Chairman)

Heronstone House
Heronstone Lane
Bridgend
CF31 3AX

Phone: 07816 677363

Email:

paulunderwoodma@hotmail.co.uk

*Drawings from
Culpepper's
Complete Herbal
1826*