



The Garden is open from October 1st 2006

The Cowbridge Physic Garden will be open to the general public from October 1st between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm until next summer. Entry will be free.

The construction of the features and the planting of the trees, shrubs and herbs started in September and will continue through the autumn and winter ready for the official opening in spring 2007.

Physic Garden programme: how it all began

Tracking the development of Cowbridge Physic Garden from its formation to its now near completed state is a revealing insight into the efficient speed with which the project has been accomplished.

The garden was conceived by the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust in 2003 and the first meeting to set up the project was in **March 2004**, followed by a public meeting in Old Hall in July.

The garden became a limited company in the same year and received an **Article 33 grant in January 2005**, divided into two tranches each of £70,000. Removal of tree stumps from the site began during the same month, later to be followed by archaeological and topographical surveys.

Project design started in **May 2005**, followed a month later by project tender selection. Landcraft were the appointed contractors who began their work shortly afterwards, completing phase one **in December 2005**.

Phase Two began **in March 2006** and later that month a 25-year lease was signed with the **Vale Council**. Contract work by Landcraft will be completed by the end **of September**, planting has begun, Ogee arches, summer houses and the central fountain are all but complete.

Throughout there has been close co-operation with conservation and buildings regulatory authorities and local groups and schools



Planting by Y Bont Faen Primary School



Garden attracts pledges approaching £60,000

Public support for Cowbridge physic Garden, expressed through pledges now approaching £60,000 in total, reveal that the project has won universal approval and has been fulfilled without the aid of corporate sponsorship.

A few outstanding items await financial pledges, including seven of the planting beds covering plants from which medicines can be extracted for specified parts of the human anatomy - digestive organs, bones, lungs, nerves, skin hair and nails, liver and, not least, childbirth. A further category includes a bed to grow plants for dyes for clothes, foodstuffs and other articles.



Sundial

A bronze sundial, donated to the garden by Cowbridge Rotary Club has been fixed in its permanent place, high on the north wall.



Ogee Arch and Fountain

The Heritage Lottery Fund and the Physic Garden

The Physic Garden has been given a wonderful boost thanks to a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant of £47,500 to support volunteers in the task of planting the garden in the coming months and to help them to develop the skills that will be needed to maintain it in the years to come.

Liz Girling, Heritage Lottery Fund Development Manager for Wales says of the project: "Green, open spaces play such an important role as havens from the bustle of daily life, and are an integral part of the diverse heritage of the UK. We are thrilled to help restore and open up Cowbridge Physic Garden for as many people as possible to enjoy throughout the year. We are impressed by the commitment of the army of volunteers who will not only be involved in restoring, replanting and maintaining the garden to its 18th century splendour but will also raise awareness of its historic importance and content through outreach activities in schools and community groups."

One of the greatest advantages of the HLF funding is that it has enabled the Trust to employ a volunteer co-ordinator, whose job it is to recruit and encourage as many people as possible to take an active part in the running of the garden. Jacky₂Thorne started work as co-ordinator on 1st June and work for three days a week until November 2007.

The funding also enables the Trust to:

- buy some of the plants for the garden
- provide a range of information material to visitors
- offer training opportunities to volunteers
- buy tools for use in the garden
- make contributions towards signage and interpretation materials for the garden.

HLF grants aim to open up the nation's heritage for everyone to enjoy. If you would like more information on HLF please log onto their website at www.hlf.org.uk

Volunteers wanted: Your Physic Garden needs you!

Many people have already offered to help and Jacky Thorne is trying to keep track of everyone: if you offered help and haven't heard from her or if you are a new volunteer please call her on: 07870 858079.

There are two ways of volunteering:

1. By offering to help with any of these:
 - Growing seeds at home for later transplantation to the garden
 - Gardening jobs: digging and planting, weeding and hoeing, and later pruning, clipping and training of plants.
 - Helping set up a composting system.
 - Watering the garden.
 - Guiding visitors around the garden, probably from around Easter 2007 onwards. We are hoping to set up some training sessions for guides: probably starting in October 2006.
 - Sorting and recording our books. We are acquiring our own gardening books and have been offered a personal library.
 - Keeping a record of all the plants in the garden
 - Helping Val Caple with the Newsletter and website.
2. By telling us what skills you have that might be useful to us. For example, are you a teacher who might be able to help us design child-friendly materials on the garden? Are you a champion rose grower? Are you a whiz on the computer? Don't hide your light under a bushell!

Jacky is looking for lots more volunteers. If you are able to offer any help at all please contact her on: 07870 858079.



Volunteers aged 90 and 12

Christmas Tree decorators:

The Physic Garden have been invited to take part in the Cowbridge Christmas Tree Festival from 24th -26th November at Holy Cross Parish Church. One idea is that we decorate our tree with parts of plants (e.g. seed heads) and phials (representing medicine containers) filled with treasures. We are hoping that someone will volunteer to take on the task and add their own ideas. Meanwhile, if you see any little natural things that could be used for the decorations please save them for us.

Members of Cowbridge Physic Garden

The membership scheme was launched in May 2006 we have now received over 200 applications. Many are locals, but, thanks to the web site, we have a member from Winchester

Members will receive Newsletters to keep them informed of progress and articles about our plants and will have advanced information for special events.

Members also ensure the long-term maintenance of the garden by helping to pay for insurance and other running costs.



Sponsors and members day May 13th 2006

Category	Annual subscription
Adult	£15
Joint Adult (2 adults at the same address)	£25
Student (In full-time education)	£5

For more information contact Val Caple at the address below

Name the Newsletter

It is planned to issue the Newsletter every 3 months. If you would like to have an article or photograph included please send it to the Editor.

We would also like to hear your views on how the Newsletter can be improved, remembering that resources are limited at the moment.

Also ideas on a more inspiring name: Prunings, Infusions....

Dates for your Diary

'Compost Roadshow': Saturday 7th October, 10.30 - 3.30

Sponsors and Members Day 21st October 2006

Plant Sale: 28th April 2007

Registered Charity Number: 1110127 Company Number: 5118600

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Cowbridge Physic Garden Trust
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