



COWBRIDGE
PHYSIC GARDEN
GARDD BERLYSIAU'R
BONT-FAEN

Patron: HRH the Duchess of Cornwall

Newsletter

Issue 10 September 2010

Dan Clayton Jones OBE

Congratulations to Dan who was awarded the OBE in the Queen's birthday honours list for his charity work

Dan was chairman of the South and Mid Glamorgan Branch of the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust when the Committee initiated the project and, with members of the 750 Cowbridge Charter Trust, set up the Cowbridge Physic Garden Trust. He has continued as Chairman of the CPGT despite the pressure of his work with the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Order of St John, and the National Trust.

He has also worked with the National Botanic Gardens and other local charities.



Garden Jottings

After some dismay at the sterility of the wildlife in the Garden when it was first started, volunteers are currently delighted at having to organize their work around them. Bumble bees have set up home in one of the compost bins; a blackbird had nested in the climbing rose and has raised her brood in the Garden, and an extra hole has had to be left in the drainage channel outside the Potting Shed to allow our resident frog to come and go. It looks as if we have been accepted by the flora and fauna of Cowbridge.

Gillian Griffiths

Visit us at: www.cowbridgephysicgarden.org.uk

Volunteers News

We have lost a few plants such as Cistus during the winter and other plants have struggled and may have to be replaced.

In the pleached apple beds the tulips are being lifted so that they can be carefully identified, as they are unusual early tulips – we only have one or two of some of them! In their place are planted cosmos and heliotrope looking lovely with their purple flowers

You will notice that new slabs have been laid outside the potting shed so that we have easy access to the compost bins and somewhere to put the wheelbarrows while we are working! It's made a huge difference so thank you to Danny Powell who laid them and David Webb who is now organising the Maintenance Team. Thanks are also due to Graham Duffield for continuing to supply the permanent plant labels in English, Latin and Welsh

Hilary Thomas is putting up details of the Plant of the Month by the main entrance to the garden

*Val Thomas, Gardening Group
Excerpts from the monthly Newsletter
for the regular volunteers.*

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer to help maintain the garden please visit the garden on a Thursday and talk to one of the volunteers or contact any of the Trustees

Pruning the Clisson Vines

Mr Peter Andrews and his wife, Diana, visited the garden on a freezing Thursday 11th February and pruned the 3 vines (2 on the pergola). Without their help we would have been overrun by grape vines in a few years.

Gillian Griffiths



Gardeners' Question Time

Earlier this year on a rather cold and wet evening we held our second edition of Gardeners' Question Time, but this year with an added herbal component as befits a Physic Garden event.

A team of experts with a wealth of experience, chaired by Dan Clayton-Jones, answered both gardening and herbal medicine questions in the St Quentin's Room of the Bear Hotel. The questions ranged from getting rid of moles (in the garden!) to getting rid of travel sickness (in anything!). With questions also being asked about whether Ginkgo biloba could help with memory loss, I'm pleased to say no one forgot to have a good time!

A raffle was also held with some super prizes including a bottle of whisky (purely for medicinal purposes of course!), some fine wine, a Jo Malone Candle and a floral decoration kindly donated by Val Caple. Over £400 was raised towards supporting the garden.

Our expert panellists were:

- Ivor Mace, who spent 20 years at Pencoed College lecturing in Horticulture.
- Julie Moss, who is a practising herbalist and teaches part-time for Cardiff University in adult education.
- Scilla Williams who is a G.P. with an interest in alternative medicine and has been in a family practice for twenty plus years.

Thanks to everyone who came and helped to make the evening a great success

Robert Moore



Visit us at: www.cowbridgephysicgarden.org.uk

Plant Fair, 24th April, 2010

Prior to the Plant Sale, volunteers from the Garden spent several months propagating and growing plants and, together with donations from members of the public and visitors to the garden, put on a splendid display.

Although there were fewer plants than in previous years, they were of superior quality and variety and they practically walked off the tables. We were joined by various nurseries: Bordervale, the Department of Horticulture from Neath/Port Talbot College; Sheila, Sue and Mary, Welsh Herbs and a newcomer — Trade Winds. They were all very pleased with the results and expressed their thanks for the warm welcome and cakes given them by the Garden volunteers.

The weather was extremely kind for the entire day and the public were very complimentary about the plant sale as well as the Garden in general.

Over £1000 was raised from plants, cards and raffle. Although slightly less money was taken in sales, volunteers in the Garden on a Thursday workday had been selling plants before the sale and Thursday plant/card sales continue to make a substantial contribution towards the Garden income. These Thursday sales continue throughout the year and we would be grateful to receive any plants from members or friends for sale at the Garden (please no house plants).





Volunteers' trip to Highgrove and Westonbirt

We were delighted, and surprised, to receive a second invitation to visit Highgrove. This year volunteers who hadn't been on the previous visit were invited, plus members.

Names were placed in a hat and drawn by an independent person at Genevieve's house. This left a 'reserves list' however, some of those on the list did get a place as a few pulled out.

In the afternoon we went to Westonbirt, and one of the Friends of Westonbirt, Rosemary Westgate, took us to see the wild flowers of the arboretum, culminating in an orchid field. As you know, she was very knowledgeable.

I am happy to organise other trips to gardens for volunteers and members, and that any requests can be sent to me at rebeccaexley@aol.com

Rebecca Exley

Visit us at: www.cowbridgephysicgarden.org.uk

Members' Garden Party

Approximately 130 people, Volunteers and Members, enjoyed a delightful evening in the Physic Garden on June 18th .

The sun peeped out intermittently between the clouds and the garden in June looked wonderful and was much admired. Everyone was able to stroll around sipping wine and champagne whilst admiring the planting and flowers in bloom. The party atmosphere was made even more jolly by Brian Hennessey's three piece band playing music in the background.

The food was excellent and hugely appreciated by all present so many thanks to all those who contributed with such generosity. The new Cowbridge Physic Garden notelets were on sale (painted by garden volunteer Gillian Griffiths who is an RHS Gold Medallist in Botanical Art), and these were sold and a raffle held. The evening raised £1400 for garden funds, so many thanks to all those who attended.

The evening closed around 9pm, even the reluctant to leave had to hasten as some extremely black clouds threatened a serious downpour at any minute!

Jo Homfray

Our New Look Newsletter and Website

I hope you are all enjoying the new look Newsletter which has been designed by **Apt Creative**.

Within the next month we are hoping the new website will also be available at www.cowbridgephysicgarden.org.uk. This has also been designed **Apt Creative** and developed by **MJ Software**. We are all very grateful to them both for all the time they have given voluntarily to this project.



info@aptcreative.co.uk 07765 474 705



info@mjssoftware.co.uk www.mjssoftware.co.uk



Functions in the Garden

Several events have taken place in the garden this summer including functions organised by The Bears and the Clisson Twinning Group.

Wedding photos are also frequently taken in the garden. We receive generous donations and appreciative comments on our efforts, from people who attend these events. Please contact Genevieve Thomas (01446 774534 or genevieve.thomas@ukgateway.net) if you are interested in using the garden



Visit us at: www.cowbridgephysicgarden.org.uk

Dates for your diary!

The new notelets, together with Christmas Cards and plants, will be on sale in the Physic garden on Saturday October 23rd during the Cowbridge Food Festival. These are also on sale every Thursday in the Physic garden. Please ask a volunteer for help.

Display of Paintings of the Physic Garden

During all of August Old Hall has agreed to host a sale of images inspired by the Physic Garden which have been painted by Gillian Griffiths and other volunteers. All the money raised will go towards the funds for maintaining the garden. Cards and notelets will also be on sale

Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival

The new notelets, together with Christmas Cards and plants, will be on sale in the Physic Garden on Saturday October 23rd during the Cowbridge Food Festival. These are also on sale every Thursday in the Physic garden. Please ask a volunteer for help

Christmas Tree Festival

The volunteers hope to donate a tree to this year's festival which will take place in Holy Cross Church in November 2010.

Newsletter design by

apt*
creative

Supported by
The National Lottery
through the Heritage Lottery Fund

Cefnogwyd gan
Y Lloeri Genedlaethol
trwy Gronfa Dreftadaeth y Lloeri

creative
RURAL COMMUNITIES



Ariennir a hwylysur Erthygl 33 gan
Lywodraeth Cymru dan
Gynllun Datblygu Gwledig Cymru
Article 33 is funded and facilitated by
the Welsh Assembly Government under
the Rural Development Plan for Wales



Registered Charity Number: 1110127 Company Number: 5118600

Registered Office: The Cross, Llanblethian, Cowbridge CF71 7JF

Website: www.cowbridgephysicgarden.org.uk

Editor: Val Caple, Milestone, Penllyn, Cowbridge CF7 7RQ email: val.t.caple@care4free.et