



Overall completion of construction works in the garden to be finished in January, weeks ahead of schedule

Due to the conspicuous success of the physic garden’s fund-raising programme, all its major construction and embellishment works will be completed by the end of January.

Contractors Landcraft are putting the finishing touches to the garden’s two summer houses, to the fountain, and will complete work on the oak pergola in January, the formation of which will start in December.

Trust deputy chairman, Bob Cope said, “None of this would have been possible without the generosity of those who have responded to our fund-raising programme. It’s been an education, insofar as it has illustrated just how much people are behind this project.



Benches and Ogee Arches

“Now that the garden is open informally to the public, people can see the astonishing progress that’s been made over the last couple of months. Once the foliage begins to form in the Spring it will take on a new and more vibrant cloak. It is truly rewarding for all those who have been involved with it.”

Fund-raising response had enabled the garden to absorb its final phase three programme, originally planned to start in the New Year, into the current programme, accelerating the overall completion by weeks.

Robert Cope observed, “With the planting programme moving ahead at pace, thanks to the dedication of our volunteers and planting group team, we’re now well ahead of schedule, which is good for morale as well as for progress. We could not have asked for better support!

Mike Meredith



Recruitment boosted by Physic Garden membership drive

More than 100 members, supporters and helpers of Cowbridge Physic Garden Trust turned out for an open day on 21st October 2006 to see the latest developments in the project and to learn of plans for the future.

Refreshments and wines were served to kick off the programme and supporters were encouraged to recruit one new member each to kick-start a further membership drive.

Dan Clayton-Jones said, "Membership of our trust will be a

mainstay of income for us in the future. Although the garden will be almost exclusively run, administered and organised by volunteers, we will have to meet fixed costs and other expenses to maintain the garden as an attraction for casual visitors and tourists, so we'd like to raise total membership to around 500 to help us in the cause," he explained.

Currently, membership stands at around 250 and if each of our members can recruit just one more person we'll be within touching distance of our target," he said.

Mike Meredith

Jacky Thorne

Jacky is now a familiar face at the garden and it is hard to imagine a time when she wasn't around. As a result of a successful bid to HLF it has been possible to employ her for 21 hours each week as our Volunteer Co-ordinator. Although she is trained in horticulture and is currently working towards an MA in Garden History she is not employed as a gardener at the Physic Garden: her job is to work with volunteers to get them to develop the garden. This aspect of her work is very important as we only have funding to employ her until November 2007: after that we'll be on our own! Now that the volunteer room is completed Jacky uses the garden as a base and spends between three and four days each week there: the days she is there vary as she tries to regularly meet up with volunteers who come on different days. She is contactable either by phone on 07870 858079 or jacky.thorne@ntlworld.com

Members Day



Volunteers News

This autumn has seen heroic efforts on the part of volunteers who have spent hours digging, delving and planting: Everyone who visits and enjoys the garden owes them a huge debt of gratitude. The digging has proved much harder and heavier work than had been imagined. Literally tons of rubbish have been unearthed as the volunteers have dealt with compacted soil; tree roots; rocks; stones; rubbish from the past and builder's rubble from the present. Particularly prevalent has been broken glass from the old greenhouses: if only we'd had a £1 for each piece picked up!

Gradually things have taken shape: as soon as the twelve medicinal beds were edged with box, volunteers moved on to the area between the ogee arches and when some lavender was planted there the garden really began to take shape. Digging of the long dye bed has recently been completed and, gradually, the trees are being planted around the garden. The next big digging challenge that awaits us is the area behind the lawns: it has been the dumping ground ever since construction work on the garden began and will need a mechanical digger on it before any fork or spade will be able to make an impact. The area along the south wall of the garden has been used as a plant-holding space through the autumn: this will become the site of the pergola, scheduled for construction in the new year. The three main deliveries of plants have arrived and, although there are many plants still to come, they will be arriving a few at a time.

We still need plenty of volunteers: not only for digging and preparing the ground but for planting and weeding. The near completion of the volunteer room means that we can offer a convivial place for a break from gardening and the facilities for making a hot drink. Do contact Jacky if you feel able to help.

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....



Jacky and
Volunteers

Garden Guides

The Trustees of CPGT have a strong commitment to the care of all who come to the garden and have recently been fortunate to receive a Rural Community Action grant from the National Assembly to enable a number of people to be trained to guide garden visitors. Whilst no firm decision has yet been made on exactly how the system will work it seems likely that many of the groups and individuals who visit the garden after its formal opening would appreciate a guided tour. These tours might either be pre-booked group visits or 'gate-tours' - guided tours around the garden which take place on certain days each week or month.

A number of people have already come forward to offer their services as volunteer guides: a couple of meetings have already been held and there are a number of training events planned for the new year. There are still opportunities to become a guide: if you are interested please contact Jean Reader on 02920 596742 or jeanreader@btconnect.com

Christmas Tree Festival

Thanks to the hard work of several volunteers, the CPGT decorated a tree for the Festival in Holy Cross Church. Almost all the decorations, but not Gilbert the Gardening Gnome, who tops the tree, were made from natural materials like beech mast, honesty, orange, cinnamon and cones. The tree is on view until Twelfth Night

CPGT
Christmas Tree



Dates for your Diary

The Physicians of Myddfai, a talk by Gareth Evans, the National Botanic Garden of Wales.

Tuesday 23rd January 2007: 7pm at Lesser Hall Cowbridge. Whilst this is one of the training events for Guides to the garden, all supporters are warmly welcome.

Plant sale to raise funds for the garden.

Saturday 28th April 2007: 10.30am to 3.30pm at Old Hall, Cowbridge. Please start thinking about plants you might be able to bring along for the sale. We also need of volunteers to help run and promote

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Cowbridge Physic Garden Trust
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