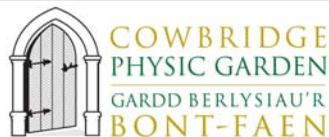


Newsletter

Issue 5

November 2007



Jeff Alden

Many obituaries have already been written about Jeff, and we would like to add our contribution. As a CPGT volunteer he did some of the very hardest and heaviest digging and wrote one of the first information sheets (on the history of the site) for the garden guides. We will all miss him

It must be jelly as jam don't shake like that

Physic Garden volunteers came up with an enterprising way of joining in the fun of the Cowbridge Food and Drink festival. They took a stall at Hurran's Garden Centre at which they demonstrated some of the products from the garden could be utilised for consumption, including quinces, medlars, apples and pears.



Though not all grown in the garden presently, as some of these have still to grow to fruition, the products represented what will be readily available in the near future – quinces to make jelly, medlars, apples and pears for preserves and so on.

Volunteer organiser, Jacky Thorne said, “Public interest was very keen indeed and drew a wide variety of questions on home cooking topics, so much so that we received £57 in donations toward garden funds.

“There was much interest from both parents and children, which we were delighted to receive. Altogether, we counted it as a positive day made worthwhile by the amount of public interest it drew.”

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Grant keeps Jacky busy for further year

Cowbridge Physic Garden Trust has received a grant of £3,570 to employ a session worker to recruit and train new volunteers, from the lottery-funded grants programme 'Awards for All Wales'

To date, about 80 volunteers have worked in the garden. Apart from our own recruits they have included horticultural students, special needs organisations and school-based students on work experience projects.

The 'Awards for All Wales' grant will enable our volunteer co-ordinator, Jacky Thorne, to be able to continue working for us for two days a week until October next year, helping to ensure the garden is maintained to its current high standard.

Physic Garden Chairman, Dan Clayton-Jones said, "We depend enormously on the help we receive from our volunteers, who are key to the entire project. Without them we could not be where we are today and certainly could not survive.

"Jacky Thorne, as volunteer organiser, has played an important role in bringing our team together and in helping to steer their work to fruition. She has been an exceptionally good motivator, a knowledgeable gardener, and a real enthusiast – just what we needed to kick us off.

"This grant will make a real difference to Cowbridge Physic Garden because it will help us to consolidate and prepare the way for the future when we are likely to need to depend entirely on volunteers for the garden's continued operation," he added.

Jacky Thorne said, "I'm delighted to know I'll be able to stay here a while longer. The whole project is a joy and it gives pleasure to so many people of all ages who have really taken it to their hearts. Many of them say that it's the best thing that's happened to the town for generations."

Man, Machines and Medicines

In August, we were delighted to learn that our application to the Vale Centre for Voluntary Services for a Kick Start II Grant to enable us to purchase a PowerPoint Projector and Laptop Computer was successful.

This equipment has already allowed us to give five PowerPoint presentations to local organisations on the History of the Physic Garden & Medicinal Plants. Requests for illustrated talks about the garden are arriving in growing numbers. Our chairman, Dan Clayton-Jones, has talked to many interested groups, including Cowbridge town council. In the New Year Lynn Richards, one of our trustees, will be using PowerPoint to talk to a group in St Albans, Herts, who are contemplating a similar physic garden venture of their own.

If anyone with suitable experience would like to help us to give talks to the general public and local organisations using this brilliant equipment please let us know.

South Wales Echo Community Champion Awards

Our volunteers recently reached the final of the South Wales Echo Community Champion Awards. Although we didn't win the main prize our volunteers have been awarded a rather wonderful prize: 15 pairs of First Class rail tickets for travel between any two stations served by First Great Western

The tickets do not have to be used at the same time so can be used by different people for different journeys on different dates but they do have to be used before 30 April 2008. To ensure a fair distribution of these tickets we'll put the names of anyone who has contributed in some way to the development of the garden into a hat and draw out names at the Volunteer Christmas Party on Monday 17 December.

If you would like to be included in the draw please add your name to the list in the Mess Room.

A Visit to Llanerchaeron

On a pleasant but chilly October morning nine volunteers plus Jacky left Cowbridge by coach to visit Llanerchaeron in Ceredigion, described as a rare example of a late 18th century Welsh Country Estate. Mr J. P. Ponsonby Lewes bequeathed the Llanerchaeron Estate to The National Trust in 1989 and the restoration of the Villa, gardens and parkland has been



an ongoing process ever since. The villa was designed by John Nash in the 1790's and the garden layout with its paths, and box hedges were as they would have been in Nash's time. Our arrival coincided with the morning coffee break for the team of volunteers and we had an opportunity to talk to them and to Pat Griffiths, the one full time gardener. We were shown around the restored two walled kitchen gardens covering approximately two acres and cared for by this enthusiastic group. Pat Griffiths has been head gardener for six years having started as a volunteer. She explained that the volunteers also worked with local groups and organizations to maintain the garden, meeting every Thursday and more frequently if necessary.

The first stop on the tour was the 18th century stone walled tool store with its two original stoves which helped to warm the wall of the garden. Of particular interest was the collection of some original 18th

century garden tools. We then saw the apple store, the frame yard and the compost site before looking at the herb section of the kitchen garden. Pat Griffiths has successfully grown red peppers and cape gooseberries outside this year as part of tier experiment in the effects of climate change due to global warming. In the kitchen garden were some amazing fruit trees especially the espalier apple trees, some of which were over 150 years old

After lunch we had time to look around the house, the service courtyard and, of course to purchase some of the produce from the garden before returning to Cowbridge.

‘Treasures from the Physic Garden’

Limited edition (100 copies) Gicleé prints from an original painting by Gillian Griffiths depicting some of the ‘treasures’ unearthed by volunteers during the digging of Garden in 2006.

Gillian Griffiths is a well known local artist living in Bridgend. She has been a professional artist for 20 years. She is also a botanical artist and has two R.H.S. Gold Medals for her work.



The prints are 8” x 12”, mounted and covered and cost £40 each.

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO CPGT. Please contact Gillian on 01656 656603

Membership

We are continuing to look for new members and are grateful to those of you who have joined since the last Newsletter Membership at the end of the July stood at 360.

Dates for your Diary

Christmas Tree Festival The CPGT tree can be viewed from 25th November 2007 in Holy Cross church, Cowbridge

Plant Fair—26th April 2008 Plant Stall Please start taking cuttings, divisions etc to donate to this popular annual event