

COWBRIDGE
PHYSIC GARDEN
GARDD BERLYSIAU'R
BONT-FAEN

Newsletter

Issue 9 November 2009



Jacky's 'au revoir'

The gardening volunteers thanked Jacky for her gentle leadership and many achievements during her time as co-ordinator by taking her out to a celebration lunch. They also presented her with some useful gardening tools and books as a memento. Jacky has promised to help in the garden in future when time allows and we all look forward to hearing her laughter echoing around the garden again.



Desmond Williams

The Trustees were saddened by recent loss of Desmond after a long illness. He was one of the original Trustees and he and his family sponsored the central feature of the garden—the fountain. Desmond will be missed for his ambitious plans to raise money for the garden and for his sense of humour.

Margaret Collett

We will also miss Margaret Collett whose sudden death on October 6th 2009 has left a very large gap in the Physic Garden. Margaret has been a mainstay of the garden since its inception and she was very involved with every part as a Trustee, and member of the Garden Group and Painting Group. She had recently taken on (rather enthusiastically) the role of gang leader of the volunteers and will be greatly missed by everyone involved with the garden.

Visit us at: www.cowbridgephysicgarden.org.uk

Much-coveted Green Pennant is awarded to the Physic Garden

Cowbridge Physic Garden now shares a unique distinction with the country's finest parks – after receiving a coveted Green Pennant Award from the environmental charity, Keep Britain Tidy.

Green Pennant Awards recognise and reward the best community run enterprises in the country, and Cowbridge Physic Garden stood out after impressing the judges with its excellence and presentation as a well-managed space, for its signage, and especially for the dedication of local volunteers who look after it.

This year is a milestone, as the number of Green Flag and Green Pennant Award winners has passed 1,000 for the first time.

Mr John Lloyd Jones, chair of the Countryside Council for Wales, presented the award to Mrs Jo Homfray, a garden trustee, at the Royal Welsh Show and it comes just over two years after the garden was first opened to the public.

Mrs Homfray She said later: "This is a considerable distinction for Cowbridge Physic Garden which is still in its infancy but maturing fast and drawing enormous appreciation from those visit it.

'The garden has developed superbly and is now looking at its very best. We're all delighted with it and especially proud of our dedicated volunteers, who do so much to maintain its presentational excellence.



Visit Wales boss bowled over by physic garden



The chairman of Visit Wales came to Cowbridge in August and declared the town's physic garden to be a "real gem in the Vale".

Jonathan Jones, who chairs the body that was formerly known as the Welsh Tourist Board, came along at the invitation of Mr Dan Clayton-Jones, and was highly impressed.

He said: "I have to admit that, although I have been in Cowbridge a number of times in the last year, I have not made the short detour to this garden. I am relieved to see that it now has a brown tourism sign pointing the way for visitors, but it clearly needs more publicity." He promised to see what Visit Wales could do in terms of promoting the physic garden to visitors. He added that the fact that such a fine attraction was designed and conceived by volunteers — and still is tended by volunteers — made it a real achievement for Cowbridge.

Mr Jones spent time talking to volunteers about the problems involved in tending the gardens — until heavy rain forced everyone indoors.

Apple Cissy or Tampling

A recent planting in the garden was an apple tree with an interesting local history.

The apple was raised by a cottager named Tampling who resided in Malpas near Newport 100 years ago. He distributed grafts to friends around the country. After his death his sister Cissy occupied the cottage and continued to distribute plants until her death, and thus it was known as 'Cissy's Apple', by which name it is still known.

Journal of the RHS, 1899 XXII Part 3 pp1-10

'Fruit in Monmouthshire and South Wales John Basham FRHS

Dame Jenny Abramsky gives Cowbridge Physic Garden the thumbs-up

Dame Jenny Abramsky, chairman of the UK's Heritage Memorial Fund met volunteers, trustees, helpers and members of Cowbridge Physic Garden in an hour-long visit today (Tuesday). She was shown round the half-acre site in Cowbridge town centre, now attracting more than 100,000 visitors annually, by the garden's chairman, Dan Clayton-Jones. Last year the garden was officially opened by HRH the Duchess of Cornwall, its patron.



Membership

We continue to look for new members to help with the finances for the maintenance of the garden. If you would like to give a friend a year's membership as a Christmas present please contact me and I will send you a gift package to give them

Please remember that our only income is from subscriptions, money raising events and sales of cards, plants etc. Every one of you is contributing to the upkeep of the garden.

Val Caple Membership Secretary, 01446-775794, e-mail val..t.caple@care4free.net

Dame Jenny said, "This project is one of sheer delight and quite one of the best developments of its kind in Britain. The fact that it gives so much pleasure to so many people is the greatest tribute one can pay to those who developed and now run it.

"When one considers that just a few years ago this was a derelict site it gives real encouragement to so many others about the task of embracing creative schemes throughout the country. I congratulate everyone who has put so much effort into it," she added.

Initially developed at a cost of £350,000, half by grant and the remainder from matched funding, the garden is open free of charge 364 days per year.

Dame Jennifer, who joined the BBC in 1969 went on to become the first woman editor of the agenda-setting Today programme, subsequently joining the BBC's Executive Board with overall responsibility for Radios 1,2,3,4 and Five Live, plus many other elements of BBC broadcasting, running an annual programming budget of £236 millions.

Dan Clayton-Jones observed, "It's always a pleasure to show our garden to creative people and no one better fits that bill than Dame Jenny. Her role in running the UK National Heritage Memorial Fund is highly responsible and significant in developing landmark projects. We wish her well."

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Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival

Volunteers were selling cards and books in the Physic garden during the festival and raised nearly £200.

Plants, Christmas cards, notelets and umbrellas are for sale in the garden every Thursday.

Please ask one of the volunteers for help.



Plenty of corks popped at the Summer Garden Party

September 4th saw an excellent turnout of members and volunteers for the annual summer garden party. Guests were welcomed at the garden with a glass of champagne and the garden looked wonderful in the late summer sun. Most plants were still in full bloom and acted as the perfect venue for a relaxing night out; a chance for members to meet each other and find out a little more about the garden.

As the sun set, guests moved to Old Hall where the party got into full swing thanks to a busy bar and tables bursting with culinary treats prepared by the volunteers. Music was provided by Mark Britton and his group. The raffle tempted people with the chance to win prizes ranging from horticultural books to Jo Malone candles. The event was a great opportunity to celebrate the hard work of all the garden volunteers as well as to thank the members of the garden for all their support over the year. The trust relies on membership fees to help fund the garden running costs and is eternally grateful for this financial support from all its members.

It is hoped that next years' event will be even more of a success. It is now likely to take place in June 2010, taking advantage of the longer evenings, which might be warm enough to stay outside and enjoy the garden in the summer sunshine (British Weather permitting!).

Many thanks to all those who helped make the party such a success.



This year's Christmas Card is now on sale

"Christmas Flowers" has been specially painted for us by
RHS Gold Medal Winner and garden volunteer, Gillian Griffiths.

£5
pack
of 10



£2.50
pack
of 5

Available from the Bay Tree on Cowbridge High Street
or the Physic Garden on Thursdays.
Call 01446 775908 to place your order.

Art Show

Gillian Griffiths, one of the gardening volunteers and a professional botanic artist, has been teaching some of her fellow volunteers the basics of the art.

As a result the artists mounted an exhibition in Cowbridge Library during August and raised £350. Some of the money will be used to buy planters for the garden in memory of Margaret Collett.



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Donations to the garden

We have received another generous donation of tools from Fiskars, as well as other tools which are on loan for us to try out.



Dates for your diary!

Christmas Tree Festival

The gardening volunteers hope to donate a tree to this year's festival, which will take place in Holy Cross Church from November 27th 2009.

Gardeners' Question Time

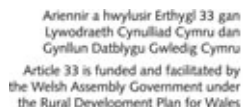
We are holding a second Question Time in March 2010. This year we will be inviting experts in herbal medicines onto the panel and hope this will result in even more questions from members.

Plant Fair

The annual Plant Fair will take place in the garden on Saturday 24th April 2010. Please help by taking cuttings and planting seeds during the winter for us to sell on the Volunteers stall.

Members Garden Party

This popular event will take place in June 2010.



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