



# NEWSLETTER

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Cadhay has again been busy with a record level of bookings and fourteen wedding celebrations. The improvements to the house have continued and the Haydon bedroom by the backdoor now has a connecting door through into the shower room. We have installed secondary glazing in the East Attic to make it warmer in the winter and redecorated a number of rooms including the Dining Room and Library which now has a new carpet. Less visible are the repairs to a number of the chimneys which we have carried out.



*Haydon connecting door*

The number of visitors for the house and gardens continues to grow and we have managed to fit in a number of tours between weekend bookings which has helped to make more time available for visits. Richard Coley, who has organised the guide's rota for a number of years, has lent a number of pewter

plates to supplement the display in the Long Gallery. These plates have been in Richard's family for over 200 years and the knife marks show that they have been well used at one time.



*Pewter in Long Gallery*

It is surprising how often visitors comment on the tours saying that they really bring the house alive. This is partly because a guided tour is so much more interesting but it is also a great credit to our guides who provide a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm. Sadly Marion Gammell died during the Summer and her love of Cadhay was evident in every tour she gave. We were delighted that her family agreed to use the house for a gathering after her funeral and look forward to welcoming them back for Christmas 2014 when they have arranged to come to stay at the house.

Alison Everall decided to establish her own gardening business. She worked at Cadhay for over five years and her creative flair is very evident in the garden that she and Dave tended over that time. She was particularly instrumental in designing the grasses bed beyond the smaller of the two main ponds. Ben Morgan joined the team in August and his skills and experience have already proved



*Ben Morgan*

extremely useful. Lisa Worwood has joined the cleaning team replacing Sarah's sister Amy who had finished her course and moved away.

We had a very good article in the October edition of Devon Life with five pages setting out what we are doing at Cadhay which will all help to improve our profile in the local community.

### World War II reunion

At the end of August the members of the family who had been brought up at Cadhay during the Second World War were invited back to stay at Cadhay with at least one of their children.



*The evacuees return*

Before the war Cadhay was occupied by Major Barton William-Powlett and his wife

Lottie (also known as Sugar Plum). When the war started they had the option of taking in evacuees or their three daughters-in-law and children. Not surprisingly they chose the latter and Barton wrote in the visitors' book 'Full for the duration'.



*The evacuees*

We celebrated in style but, to remind them of the rations regime, they were made to eat rabbit stew and Walton Pie which were surprisingly popular. Vernon even took an extra rabbit home with her.



*Pansy by the back door*

We went on what became known as the 'Ancestral Tour' to visit Eggesford House where Barton had spent his childhood. Barton had been orphaned at the age of twelve and his uncle, the Earl of Portsmouth, looked after him at Eggesford in mid-Devon in the 1880's. After the First World War Eggesford House fell into disrepair. Barton and Lottie may have considered buying it as the sale particulars were amongst their records but they luckily took fright and moved into Cadhay which, by that time,

was in first class condition. By the end of the 20th Century Eggesford House had become a ruin and it was very fortunate to be rescued by an architect, Edward Howell. He secured the bulk of the outside walls and inside the walls he built a fabulous house which now combines the splendour of the original house and its breathtaking views with the comforts of a modern house. We were given a wonderful tour of the house and the rest of the Ancestral Tour, which was to have taken in Denbury where Lottie had spent her childhood, was curtailed.



*Eggesford House*

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### Weddings and events

We had our first open air weddings after we were granted a licence to hold the ceremonies from the Bothy looking out into the water garden. With guests gathering under the shade from the birch tree it really is a magnificent setting for a wedding. At one of them the groom's daughters sang as the bride arrived which was a very special moment.



*Open air wedding*

We changed the format for the Church fete as the East lawn was struggling with the number of people attending the fete and all the wedding marquees going up during the year. The normal car park was used as the main arena but the gardens were still accessible and had a number of stalls. The field to the right of the drive as you approach the house was used as a car park with an exit straight onto the back drive ensuring that cars were kept away from people enjoying the fete.

Cadhay was also used as a location for a Garden Fair organised by Hospiscare and we used the same format. Sadly it was a very cold day but it still worked very well with the whole of the car park full of stalls offering plants and shrubs and everything else you might need in a garden. We had a Gardeners Question Time in the Granary with Radio 4's Anne Swithinbank and our Dave Armstrong on the panel offering sage advice.

We continued to open the gardens for the NGS and received a wonderful message from the Treasurer saying that every time she gives a talk there is always someone who mentions that Cadhay is their favourite garden. We are very lucky to have the ponds as the backbone to the garden but perhaps the atmosphere in the Tearoom and the quality of our cakes help as well.

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### Farm, woods and landscape

The bull pen at the West end of the large barn in the farmyard has been converted into an office. The roof had been leaking for some time and it is a relief to have rescued the building before it deteriorates too far.

A coppice area has been created in Cadhay woods and is protected by deer fencing. It is hoped that the trees can be coppiced on a fifteen year cycle to feed the biomass boiler and wood burning stoves. The new tracks have been extended to include the old poplar



*Office before and after*

covert which had been very difficult to clear after the poplars were felled as it was so wet in places. Sadly the poplar timber which was felled over a year ago is too wet to be converted into woodchip for the boiler at the moment and will have to wait another year.

When we were working on the tracks we found another spring in the woods and we are hoping to use it to improve the supply of water for the house. There was an alarming moment in the Summer when we seemed to be running out of water but luckily the gardeners could hear a hissing noise between the two ponds. When we dug down to find the source of the noise we found a huge leak which had not shown above ground as the water was going straight into the pond.

The replanting of the orchard to the North of the back drive was completed and the fencing has been renewed.

We have been let down by East Devon District Council who seemingly encouraged the



*Orchard replanted*

neighbouring farmer to apply for permission to build a farm manager's dwelling on a field next to the park which would be on the skyline and clearly visible from the front door dominating the parkland. This is despite the fact that national planning policies dictate that any building that does substantial harm to a Grade I house and parkland should be 'wholly exceptional'.

EDDC had not even thought fit to notify us, or their conservation officer responsible for Cadhay, that the application had been made. They appeared to be prepared to give a green light for a proposal that did not meet a single one of the five conditions that they themselves have decided need to be met before an agricultural dwelling can be approved.

It is sad that the very people entrusted to safeguard the houses of greatest significance turn out to be their worst enemies and you have to wonder why! Luckily English Heritage came to our rescue and any decision by EDDC will now come under proper scrutiny but it has taken a huge amount of energy and has been very costly indeed. We are indebted to the Devon Garden Trust, Nicholas Pearson Landscape Management and Russ Palmer Conservation Architect for their invaluable support and the Rt. Hon. Hugo Swire MP for making representations to the Chief Executive of EDDC on our behalf.