



# NEWSLETTER

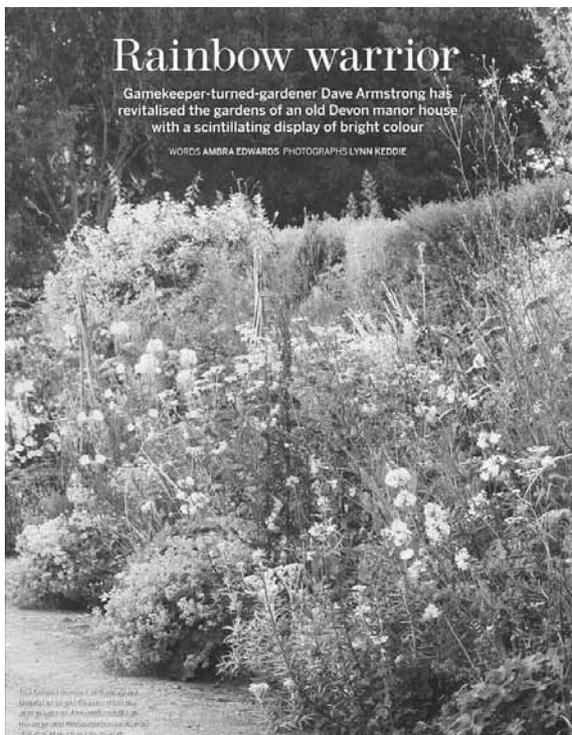
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The uncertainty around the time of the election last year had an impact on bookings for the main house in the early part of the year. Happily since then they have picked up and the bookings for 2012 already look very encouraging. We have had a very good year for publicity with an article in *Country Life*, almost a century after it included an article to celebrate the completion of the restoration by William Whetham. The writer, Mary Miers noted that the 'mellow stone walls bear the marks of a succession of sympathetic owners'.

We also featured in an eight page article in *Gardens Illustrated* under the heading 'Rainbow Warrior' a reference to Dave and Alison's colour scheme.



## *Gardens Illustrated*

We had another good year for visitors sustaining the dramatic rise in visitor numbers to the house over the last three years and prompted perhaps by the article in *Gardens Illustrated* and hopefully the reputation that Cadhay, its gardens and tours and Tea Room have established.

## House

All the holiday accommodation at Cadhay was assessed by Visit Britain and was confidently placed towards the higher aspect of the four star rating. The Gold accolade was achieved by the Coach House and Stables.

Visit Britain, Britain's national tourism agency responsible for marketing Britain worldwide, commented 'Each property provides an opportunity to stay in a unique building which offer a very good standard of comfortable and well equipped self-catering accommodation'. It is a wonderful recognition of all the hard work done by Jayne and her team to get everything to such a high standard. Sadly we have lost Sue, one of the cleaning team, who has moved to Norfolk.

At the instigation of Jane we completely re-designed our website during the year with the help of Kim and Marc Millon. It has been well received and has no doubt contributed to the turnaround in our fortunes.

During the year Cadhay's wedding licence was extended to include the Tea Room where up to 120 people can be seated. Previously all wedding ceremonies have taken place in Cadhay House and the number of guests has been restricted to less than 50. The licence will also be extended to include the Bothy in the Water Garden so that an unlimited number of guests can be present. The magnificent gardens at Cadhay have been a major draw for people wanting to get married and extending the licence in this way will enable us to benefit further from the huge amount of work that goes into them.

The completion of the work by the Sidmouth Decorative and Fine Arts Society on the textiles stored in trunks in the house was celebrated by the production of a fascinating report which is

available to anyone visiting the house. We were very lucky to be presented with a beautifully restored Victorian cot by Aenne Meredith which is now on display in the Long Gallery.



*1909 black lace tunic*

The work in the courtyard required to complete the programme identified in the 2006 condition survey was carried out prior to the quinquennial review of the house by Russ Palmer. A report has been finalised following this review and it contains recommendations for work to be done over the next five years.



*Cot donated by Aenne Meredith*

### Centenary of Whetham restoration

William Whetham was a Fellow of Trinity College Cambridge where he was a lecturer and tutor for many years. He was the author of a number of books on scientific, agricultural, economic and sociological subjects. He was eventually knighted in 1931 and took the name of Sir William Dampier. He purchased Cadhay in December 1909 for £9,375 and, with the help of his architect H M Fletcher, embarked on a thorough restoration which was substantially completed in 1911.

Between 1802 and 1909 Cadhay had been owned by the Hare family. As they decided not to live at Cadhay it was divided in two with the west end adapted for occupation by the tenant farmer and the east end for use as a small residence first by Mr Palmer, Master of the Barracks in Ottery, and then by a retired sea captain Collins whose widow was there until 1909 by which time the house was in a very poor state of repair.



*East side in 1909*

Before the restoration could begin, a new farmhouse and cottages were built to house those who had to move from house and the south range of cottages which stood between the house and the ponds. The new farmhouse, Cadhay Barton, was thought to cost about £1,000 and the semi detached pair of cottages, one of which is owned by Jayne and her husband, £600. One of the latter was used by the Whethams who spent holidays there until they were able to move into Cadhay.

As well as the south range, several rooms on the west side of the house built by the Hares and backing on to the original kitchen were demolished together with a number of sheds and



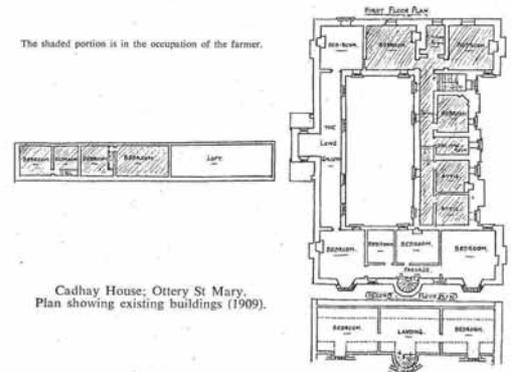
*South range in 1909*

barns. Whetham built the North and East walls which, with the eighteenth century wall to the West, form the forecourt to the main entrance to the house.

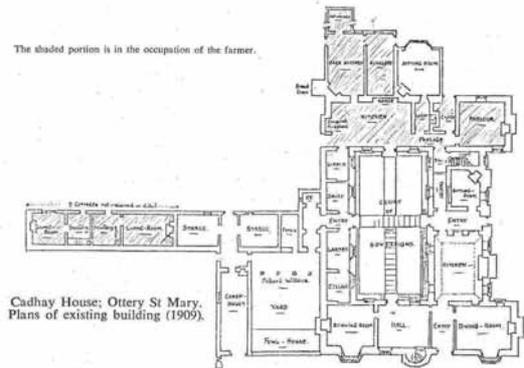


*Kitchens on west side in 1909*

Internally he changed the layout as previously there was a main entrance into what is now the Living Room which can be seen on the 1909 plans made in connection with the estate sale. Upstairs he built the partition wall to create the Whetham Bedroom and Dressing room replacing two bedrooms facing the courtyard. He also uncovered the old Tudor open hearths and installed modern baths. The dining room had blackened walls and ceiling and part of the stone above the fireplace had been hacked away to make way for a big range.



Cadhay House; Ottery St Mary. Plan showing existing buildings (1909).



Cadhay House; Ottery St Mary. Plans of existing building (1909).

*1909 Plans*

Restoration developed far beyond anything contemplated. A water supply was brought from Ledge cove up in the woods to replace the indoor pump in the room by the south porch and a septic tank was built in the field beyond the ha ha. Lighting and central heating were installed but the heating was eventually removed in the 1930's as it was too expensive to run. Mr Fletcher had estimated that £1,000 would be needed for the restoration but soon £5,000 had been spent with much more to be done. The Whethams managed to move into the house in March 1911 whilst the work continued. It was feared that there was a ghost bathing in the middle of the night but this turned out to be a workman who was illicitly camping out in the unfinished east end of the house.



*Cadhay staff 1912*

Whetham's uncle, William Bide died in February 1916 six months after the death of his sister, Bessie Dampier. As a result he inherited a considerable amount of property and some furniture some of which probably came to Cadhay where it remains. The inheritance included the Hilfield Estate near Yeovil. Whetham's wife, Catherine, developed a serious mental illness towards the end of the first World War and spent the rest of her life in hospital. Whetham decided to give up Cadhay and lived in Cambridge using Hillfield for holidays. Cadhay was let first to Mrs. Bolitho and then to Major Barton William-Powlett in 1924 and was later sold to him in 1935. Whetham died in December 1952.

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### Gardens

The bank running along the west side of the pond was planted with Scots Pines which were quite mature by Whetham's time. Many of these blew down into the pond in the big storm in 1987 substantially weakening the bank which had to be reinforced in parts by a wall. The remaining trees were cut down but the bank was further eroded in the 2008 flood and we decided that the wall should be rebuilt the whole way along and that the old stumps should be removed. It has proved to be a major undertaking but should not need doing again for several hundred years. It is intended in due course to rebuild the wall that runs along the south bank.

The path leading into the gardens past the pond is the most practical way for getting in and out of the garden. The grass was getting very worn

and was replaced during the year by a gravel path in line with the Landscape management plan prepared in 2008. It is now difficult to imagine that it was anything other than gravel which it actually was back in the 1930's.

Planning permission was finally granted to convert the building in the old orchard by Cadhay Barton into a holiday cottage. The building was in danger of falling down and it was made safe a few years ago. Work has now started to fit it out as a house and we hope to have it available for couples seeking holiday accommodation from Easter.

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### Woods

There have been times during droughts over the last few years when the overflow has dried up from the spring up in the woods which has supplied water to Cadhay since Whetham constructed it. This means that at certain times of day we were using more water than was being generated by the spring. Just in case this was to happen for a prolonged period we have dug a borehole from which water can be pumped if necessary.

We managed to cut down all the rhododendrons from Cadhay Bog last year and will do the same in Cadhay Wood this winter as the rhododendron harbour the phytophthora disease which is so dangerous for Japanese Larch. We also created tracks through the accessible parts of Cadhay Bog so that timber can be removed and we plan to do the same in the Cadhay Woods next summer.



*Scots Pines going . . .*



*going . . .*



*gone*