



NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2018 / 2019

ISSUE No. 13

www.cadhay.org.uk

Cadhay has been in its element over the long hot summer which has enticed many more visitors. It has been good to see a lot of guests enjoying the gardens which have been stunning with Dahlias still going very strong into October. The croquet lawn has been very popular particularly with a Russian family, who ordered a croquet set to take back to St Petersburg so that scores can be settled in an English way, and these Sumo wrestlers.



Sumo wrestlers playing croquet

There has been an even greater variety of guests staying in the house which has been fun. For some years there has been a number of musical groups in addition to the normal gatherings of friends and family celebrating a special occasion like a wedding or birthday. Last year we have also had a group of cyclists, retreats, reunions, a group of writers and a book club.



Book club getting into Jane Austen mode

The winter refurbishment concentrated on the attics and the gradual upgrading of the lighting system to LED. A lot of energy has been spent on upgrading our marketing so we now have a new

website, wedding and accommodation brochures and we have extended our presence on social media. It has proved fruitful with many enquiries coming in for next year and 2020!

Sadly Lisa has stood down from our cleaning team because of ill health but we very much hope she will be back when her health allows. She has been replaced by Ruth who is settling in well under Jayne's excellent leadership and hopefully she will be with us until she goes to university next year.

We are also losing Ceanie Mills who moved into Dairy Cottages with her children in 2002 and is now moving to Bristol where two of her family live. She has been a huge benefit to Cadhay acting as single handed housekeeper when it was being used for weekends by Katherine William-Powlett, great supporter in the Tearoom, washing up duties in the house and wonderful neighbour. It is hard to imagine Cadhay without Ceanie as nothing



Ceanie Mills

has happened for the last fifteen years without her being very much a part of it.

We invited members of the William-Powlett family to come to a party in their ancestral home which was very well attended. It is extraordinary how many descendants there are from one couple, Barton and Lottie, who purchased the house back in the 1930's. Their great grandson, Alastair Bruce,



W-P's in the courtyard



W-P's at lunch

who in January presented a rare interview with the Queen on BBC1 to celebrate her Coronation, gave a memorable talk on William Paulett, a member of the Privy Council for all the Tudor Monarchs, and Mary Reibey, our Australian convict ancestor whose wealth was used to fund the purchase of Cadhay.



Opera guests

We held another Opera evening in aid of Hospiscare which was a great success and was sponsored by two of the businesses in the old milking parlour. Amy and Lewys allowed us to use the magnificent tipi marquee erected for their wedding and it enabled us to provide dinner for over a hundred people. Thanks to the generosity of everyone involved in putting on this event, including the opera singers Anando and Justine, we were able to donate the majority of the ticket price straight to Hospiscare.



Entertaining the fete visitors

Cadhay was again used for the Ottery St Mary church fete which seemed to be more popular than ever. Somewhat to our surprise the lawn was used for an impressive display of horsemanship and it is perhaps just as well that it was so dry.

Sadly Phyllis Baxter has died having run the Ottery St Mary Tourist Information Centre for many years. It is hard to recall any major happening in Ottery without Phyllis to record the event with wonderful photographs on her website. She was a huge supporter of Cadhay and we will miss her greatly as will Ottery.

House

We are well into the programme of ensuring that every double and twin bedroom has its own bathroom. A bathroom was created within the Peveril bedroom in the east attic which interestingly has made the room much better as well as making a very good bathroom. We also extended the Phyllis bedroom in the west attic into the space where the old water tanks had been. This has added an extra

bed space so that the final step can be taken this winter to turn the Nursery into a bathroom which can also be used as a family room for the occupants of the Sugar Plum bedroom.



Phylis bedroom extended

Open Days

This was the first year for Caroline running the tearoom which she has done remarkably well with the excellent team of helpers, cakemakers and guides. Visitor numbers were up 25% which may have also been down to the fabulous Summer following on from rather a dismal one the year before. We had a record number of groups coming which Jane Spree has continued to run. We again opened the gardens for the National Garden Scheme and three out of the four days were very well attended and one washout with lots of uneaten cakes.

The head gardener, Dave Armstrong, was the Gardening Guru in August on Radio Devon with Toby Buckland which gave us very good publicity.

Gardens

We completed the reinstatement of the haha beyond the large pond. We were able to re-use the bricks from the original wall as the top layer. It does look very impressive but to get the full effect you need to join the cattle in the field.

We planted a lot more Water Lilies in the pond



Haha from the field

and also restricted the flow of water into the ponds in order to reduce the amount of nitrogen coming in. Despite the hot weather the blanket weed has been much less of a problem with the much less intrusive Canadian Pondweed dominating. We may just have got lucky but it saved us many days of hard work removing the blanket weed which takes away from the beauty of the ponds if it is left.

Despite the lack of rain through the summer we were very lucky that our water supply from springs in the woods held up well and the overflow continued to feed the stream which supplies water for the ponds. The abundant rainfall in the winter meant that the ground water levels were very high going into the drought. This is now under threat as the ground which feeds the springs is going to be used to extract sand and gravel. We are attempting to ensure that the extraction stays well above the highest recorded ground water level to protect the supply for our drinking water and the medieval ponds which are listed in their own right. However, it is proving difficult to persuade the relevant authorities of the gravity of the situation



Wisteria in full Bloom

despite the timely intervention of Hugo Swire our local MP.

This winter we plan to build steps down to the garden beyond the ponds. It is intended that you should be able to walk between the borders and then over the strip of land between the ponds and down the steps in a way that will give an uninterrupted view over the parkland beyond.

Farmyard

The site of the old cattle shed is now a very fine lawn surrounded on two sides by a low stone wall constructed by Dave and Mike early in the year. It provides a suitable environment for the new offices which have been constructed within the farm buildings. We have applied for permission to extend the offices within the old grain barn as one of the tenants already needs more space.



New lawn to replace cattleshed

Woods

It has now been possible to landscape all of the silt which had been deposited in lagoons around the newly dredged pond and this winter we intend to plant the final lot of trees to complete the project. We felled half of the Spruce which had reached maturity and the timber will be used to supply wood chip to provide heat at Cadhay. We also created a clearing beyond the pond where there had been a number of windfalls and the timber was largely sold to a local sawmill.

We have extended the tracks around Cadhay Bog so that the whole of the woodland is accessible. What seemed like a major project was made a lot easier by the wonderfully dry summer and the plentiful supply of gravel by the side of the track which supplemented the waste concrete which was used to create a base in the wetter bits.

