



NEWSLETTER

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Cadhay has been fully booked for most of the year and it has been wonderful seeing so many people returning. We have continued to make improvements to the house with the refurbishment of bathrooms and the addition of a new shower room and bedroom in the west attic. We have been rewarded with a promotion to Four Star Gold by Visit Britain for the house and all our cottages which is quite an accolade for Jayne and her team.



We again managed to sustain the number of visitors on Open Days despite the weather which seemed to be bad almost every Friday through the Summer. This is quite an achievement when most visitor attractions, including the National Trust, have been under pressure.

We were helped by all the publicity surrounding the publication of Hilary Mantel's new book, *Bring up the Bodies*, as she chose to have many of her interviews, including the BBC, at Cadhay. *Bring up the Bodies* was the sequel to *Wolf Hall* concentrating on the life of Thomas Cromwell which won the Man Booker prize in 2009.

Thomas Cromwell was the Chief Minister to Henry VIII, a role which was subsequently played in large part by William Paulet whose niece commissioned the statues of Tudor Sovereigns in the courtyard. Hilary has since been awarded the Man Booker prize for a second time for the sequel in an unprecedented recognition of her work.



We were given a very good report by a widely read blog site 'Dovegreyreader'. On noticing the acknowledgement in the back of the Hilary Mantel's book, the writer of the blog visited Cadhay and wrote 'As Karen our guide talked us through the history of the house,....a picture emerged of the house as a sort of living breathing entity. It all felt like history up close and personal, perhaps because the current owners love it just as much as the Haydon family must have done in about 1550 when they decided to build a house in this idyllic location..' It was a fantastic report despite the fact that we had run out of scones by the time the writer was ready for sustenance.

The fete in aid of Ottery St Mary church continues to increase in popularity and this year there was a jousting contest in addition to the excellent entertainer and falconry.



Weddings

We had a full complement of weddings through the year each one of which was unique reflecting the personalities of the couples involved. Despite the appalling weather this summer it seemed to make an exception for Cadhay wedding days.



Lola and Shane, who have helped out in the Tea Room on Bank Holidays for many years, were married in August and had their reception in the Tea Room.



One of our last weddings of the year was for Bernie and Ben Rhodes shortly after Ben had represented Britain in the Olympics sailing a 49er.



A new room, the Granary, was completed in the Spring and is licensed for holding weddings. It is located in the yard outside the back door where there was previously a wood shed with a corrugated roof. The woodshed was demolished with remarkably little persuasion and a doorway knocked through the wall into the Water Garden. The building was designed as an extension to the workshops constructed by Barton William-Powlett in the 1930's.



The room has been called the Granary as the stone mushrooms, which originally supported the wood clad granary and kept vermin out, have been incorporated into the design of the new building. The photograph below shows the old granary at the beginning of the 20th century located in a similar position.



We are now able to hold civil weddings for up to 100 guests in the Granary and the Tea Room is available for medium sized receptions. We are also licensed to hold weddings outside in the Water Garden. We are yet to hold our first open air wedding but perhaps this might change now we have a wet weather alternative in the Granary.

Cider Press

The conversion of the building in the orchard was eventually complete in time for Easter. It has proved to be extremely popular as it provides accommodation for two people in a stand alone building with wonderful views back over the main house. English Heritage asked that the conversion be done in such a way that the modern paraphernalia associated with domestic buildings be kept to a minimum. The electric cables were put underground, the aerials are kept within the roof space and the only flue is the chimney for the wood burning stove.



It is such a long time since the orchard was operational and no one could remember whether this building or another cob building across the track, which has since disappeared, was the old cider press but we thought it should be commemorated either way.

Woods

Cadhay still has 80 acres of woodland which has been somewhat neglected over the years as the value of timber has been less than the cost of felling and transporting the logs to roadside. It has seemed a great waste to have this resource on our doorstep and yet be reliant on fossil fuels for heating the house. The Government is keen to encourage the use of renewable energy and is offering incentives for businesses which convert to biomass heating systems. We were one of the first to embark on the scheme and a wood chip boiler was installed in the farmyard with a fuel store alongside. The heat is stored in a five thousand litre tank and sent underground to the

house and holiday cottages to provide hot water and central heating.



Work started in April and a trench was dug across the kitchen garden, under the stream and then through the yard to the boiler room. Work was severely hampered by torrential rain which caused the sides of the trench to fall in but the devastation was cleared up before the first open day in May and the system was up and running very soon thereafter.

In order to provide a ready supply of wood fuel we have been trying to get the woods into a state where timber can be extracted. Last year a track was reinstated in Cadhay Bog after the rhododendrons had been eliminated.

This year we have done the same for the extensive network of tracks in Cadhay Wood. The work has been severely hampered by the wet summer and we underestimated the work required to build a track to the required standard through such a boggy area. It proved to be a lot more difficult than the Bog and we intend to continue the work next year to extend the tracks and improve the drainage.



We did manage to make sufficient progress to be able to clear fell the Poplar cover which had been planted in the 1950's to supply Bryant and May with timber for matchsticks. As the demand for matchsticks disappeared it has been a problem to know what to do with the Poplars which were fully grown and beginning to snap at the top in high winds. Fortunately it should make very good wood chip to fuel our new central heating system but will take two years to dry out sufficiently. We were going to replant with ash but may have to rethink given the disease from the Continent that is threatening our ash trees.



Just above the woods there is a farm owned by Aggregate Industries. It is one of only two sites, both owned coincidentally by Aggregate Industries, that Devon County Council is considering for the extraction of sand and gravel in its new Minerals Plan. Cadhay and a number of surrounding houses rely on a spring in Cadhay Wood for their water supply. This also applies to the medieval fish ponds in the garden. It is very difficult to assess where the water in the aquifer is sourced but it is a cause for considerable concern if a quarry is to be worked in the higher ground adjoining the wood. We have made our concerns known to the Council but it will be some time before any decision is made.

Farm and gardens

We have finally been given HLS status for parts of the farm and woodlands. We had applied unsuccessfully when the scheme was first



introduced and it is a tribute to the hard work and perseverance of our advisers, the Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group, that we eventually succeeded. The scheme rewards farmers for farming the land less intensively and in a way that benefits the environment and promotes the habitat for wildlife. The scheme also encourages farmers to reinstate orchards and we are in the process of replanting the orchard to the north of the back drive with a mixture of apple, pear and plum trees.



We have been thinking of holding a Garden Fair in the gardens for a little while. We were daunted by the administrative burden that it would entail but luckily we were approached by Hospicecare who were looking for a site to hold just such an event. Hospicecare has been holding a small event in the garden for a number of years, has experience of organising garden fairs and is able to draw on very considerable support from those wishing to support such a worthwhile charity. It is intended that the first fair should take place on the Bank Holiday Monday at the end of May and hopefully it will get off to a flying start.