



The Bedwellty News

April – June 2012

Wedding Fayre Success

On 11th March we held our first wedding fayre, and what a success it was! The house was buzzing with visitors, and even the exhibitors commented on what a lovely venue we are. We've already booked in the next fayre for 9th September 2012.



Bedwellty Tour Guides

On 4th April we started our training for volunteer tour guides. There is still time to join us, as we'll be doing another training later on in Spring. Just phone us to let us know you're interested.

Iraqi Art Exhibition

If you've not seen our new exhibition 'Iraq – The Untold Story' yet, do make sure you catch it before the end of April! This wonderful and moving work tells heart-wrenching human stories. It's also the first time that we are showing art in the Carriage House, and if we do say so ourselves – it looks like a London art gallery!

Who Won the Wager?

That's what children can find out on our Easter Trail from now until 22nd April. The trail tells the story of the bet between Samuel Homfray of Penydarren and Tredegar Iron Works, and Richard Crawshay of Cyfarthfa Ironworks. In 1804 they sent the first steam-powered locomotive from Penydarren to Abercynon. Would it pull the weight of 10 tons of Iron and 70 men? Find out the answer on our trail...

Senior Citizens Afternoon Teas

Just a quick reminder that we offer afternoon teas for senior citizens every fourth Thursday of the month from 2pm – 4pm. For £3 you can get a pot of tea or coffee and a slice of cake.

On Friday, 18th May, we offer a special show for senior citizens in addition to an afternoon tea. At 2pm, Olivetree Theatre will perform their show 'A Night at the Musicals'. To book your ticket, please phone us. Tickets are £5 for the show and the afternoon tea. Carers go free (refreshments separate).

Bedwellty Tree Faces

We're looking for 'faces' in the trees of Bedwellty Park to include in a trail. If you find any, then please take a picture and send them to us, along with your name, town, and location of the tree face. What does it remind you of? The ten best submissions will receive a £10 Bedwellty Voucher.

Events, Events, Events

- 25th April, 7pm: **The Historic Parks and Gardens of South-East Wales** (£2).
- 27th April, 7:30pm: **The Darkest Tales of the Brothers Grimm** (Tales for adults. £4 advance, £5 at the door.)
- 12th May, 11am -3pm, **Spring Fest.**
- 30th May, 7pm: **Agents of Hell. The Fairy Lore of Blaenau Gwent.** (£2)

Call us or visit our website for more information.

Community Book Fayre

In celebration of World Book Day we hosted a community book fayre on 3rd March. We had ten stalls, and loads of people coming around to have a look. Everyone thought this was a great event, and we'll definitely hold it again next year.

A Flowerbed Gets Adopted...

The Friends of Bedwellty Park have recently adopted the circular flowerbed between the Bandstand and the area where the Lady Shelter used to be. This is a huge help to the park, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank the Friends for their support. Planting of this and other flowerbeds will probably commence in May.

Coleg Gwent Gardening Course

Coleg Gwent are currently running a horticulture course for our gardening volunteers every Wednesday morning from 10am to 1pm. Judging from the photographs, everyone is having a good time! And while they're working toward a Level 1 qualification in horticulture, they're also helping transform our kitchen garden. Thanks to everyone, and good luck!



Any suggestions?

As always, we welcome your suggestions. Do you have an idea for an event we might try in the park? Is there a particular story you'd like to find out more about? Just send us a letter or email, or phone us!

Upside down veggies?

A message from our Head Gardener, John

One of the advantages of having a Polly tunnel at this time of year is that it lets us try out different methods of growing. This year, I am going to grow upside down tomatoes and cucumbers. I have already started some upside down chilli peppers. After Helen, our cook, finishes with her small mayonnaise buckets, I drill a hole in the bottom and push the small plug plant (pepper) through, leaving the green part of the plant outside the bottom of the bucket. I then cover and secure the root plug inside the bucket with compost, stopping the plant falling out. The bucket can then be hung in the Polly tunnel or greenhouse by the handle and filled with compost. Watering and feeding from the top allows the moisture and nutrients to go to the bottom, where the roots are. Great fun, easy to do, and always a talking point.

