

HISTORIC WALLED GARDEN AT DUNRAVEN IS RESTORED

From left to right: Norman Jenkins, chair of Creative Rural Communities; Bob Guy, operation manager for countryside and economic projects, Vale Council; Coun Lis Burnett; Brian Acott, chairmen of the Friends of the Heritage Coast; Paul Dunn, principal ranger; Belinda Greenfield, ranger; Lady Ana Johnson; Lady Dunraven.



THE much-loved Vale beauty spot, Dunraven Walled Garden, which attracts thousands of visitors each year, has benefited from a restoration project aimed at securing its future.

The £99,000 project was supported by a £70,000 restoration grant from the Vale Council's rural regeneration partnership, Creative Rural Communities, under the Pride in Our Heritage Programme, which was matched with a generous contribution from the 'Friends of the Glamorgan Heritage

Coast' and the Dunraven Estate.

Over the years, large parts of the historic perimeter walls had fallen into disrepair and without investment there was a concern that public access to the gardens could be limited.

Now the gardens have been offered a new lease of life through the project; the walls have been sympathetically restored, as has the derelict summerhouse.

The project will also include improved signs and interpretation to enhance visitors' experience and understanding of the site's unique heritage.

Creative Rural Communities has been

working in partnership with Dunraven Estate Properties Ltd, the Friends of the Glamorgan Heritage Coast and the Vale Council to fund the project, which took place throughout the summer and early autumn months. The gardens remained open throughout this period and visitors had the added bonus of witnessing the restoration in action.

Lady Dunraven and Lady Ana were joined by a host of guests at the historic walled gardens on Friday, November 22, to celebrate the completion of the restoration project.

The family of Lady Dunraven's late husband, the seventh Earl Dunraven, originally developed the house and gardens in the early 19th century, and he was instrumental in opening the park and gardens to the public more than 30 years ago.

Coun Gwyn John, Vale Council cabinet member for leisure, parks, culture and sports development, said: "The Heritage Coast Project has safeguarded this beautiful area and educated thousands of children about nature for decades. Now this grant and the support of the Friends group are bringing about a huge improvement."

Also in attendance at the celebration was Coun Lis Burnett, cabinet member for regeneration, innovation, planning and transportation who added: "The Glamorgan Heritage Coast is an invaluable tourism asset and the improved gardens will be the jewel in the crown".

Located on the Glamorgan Heritage Coast, the walled gardens provide a haven for visitors to Dunraven Bay when weather or the tide limits use of the beach. The area has an intriguing history, originally the site of an iron

age hill fort and later dominated by a Gothic mansion, with its parkland, plantations and walled garden. The house was demolished in 1962 and the gardens today are testament to the site's former glory.

The gardens are open every day of the year and entry is free. Generations of local families have enjoyed exploring the gardens and picnicking on the lawns and over 80 schools per year receive guided visits from the Heritage Coast Rangers.

Over the past 18 months, Creative Rural Communities has sup-

ported a range of projects, and thanks to additional funding from the Welsh Government, has been able to extend the Pride in Our Heritage grant programme by an additional £20,000. We look forward to helping groups and individuals develop small projects such as reviving historic events and activities or creating small exhibitions which celebrate the heritage of the rural Vale.

For further information, contact Branwen Dickson on 01446 704828, or bdickson@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

DECEMBER
2013

Now is the time to clear out the garden ready for the new season. If you have any of these plants to spare, please can we put them to good use.

Place your plants (as many as possible) in a moistened, sealed, polythene bag and place it inside a box for protection.

Then drop it off at one of the following offices for the Heritage Coast

The Heritage Coast Centre
Seamouth
Southerndown
Bridgend

The Heritage Coast Unit
% Vale of Glamorgan Offices
79 Eastgate
Cowbridge

The Heritage Coast Office
% South Glamorgan County H.Q.
Newport Road
Cardiff

Thank you

April C. Borden

If it is very difficult for you to deliver your plants please give me, the Heritage Coast Officer, a ring on Cardiff 499022 ext 3244

RESTORATION OF THE VICTORIAN GARDEN

(THE LORD'S WALK)

CAN YOU HELP?



Dunraven Park

SOUTHERNDOWN



Lily of the valley



Michaelmas daisy

As part of the facilities for the public to enjoy, the HERITAGE COAST PROJECT with the help of a workteam from Community Industry, are developing a series of "theme" gardens.

In the Victorian Garden a trellis of fruit trees, specially planted to show the elaborate training techniques of 120 years ago, provided a vision break between the "unsightly" vegetables and the Lord's Walk. These typical Victorian flowers would have provided an attractive surround to the footpath and cut-flowers to delight the Lady of the Manor.

We are trying to restore this Walk but to do this we need lots of these Victorian Plants. PLEASE CAN YOU HELP? WE NEED AS MANY OF THESE AS POSSIBLE.

We would also appreciate

LONDON PRIDE

LAVENDERS

HOSTAS



Pinks



Golden rod

2 Lavenders