

As one of the largest branches within the WHGT, Gwynedd has sought from the beginning to take a lead both in organising activities and also providing inspiration for members. Twice a year, Gwynedd publishes a Newsletter to keep members in touch, with details of forthcoming events and pictures of members enjoying earlier ones.

Every year money is raised to be used to benefit some of the many historic gardens in the county. We do this mainly through the annual Plant Fair, from the proceeds of which many hundreds of pounds have been distributed in the form of small grants to owners of gardens in danger of losing historic features. Some of this cash has helped to replace fallen trees following severe losses in the gales of the past decade or so.

Grants have also been made towards the creation of gardens at historic sites, most recently Cae'r Gors, Rhosgadfan, home of the celebrated Welsh writer Kate Roberts, recently restored as a heritage centre. We were able to advise on how the garden might have looked, and what it would have contained. Similar advice, together with a grant, was provided a decade earlier when Las Ynys, home of the Meirionnydd bard Ellis Wynne, was restored, also as a heritage centre.

The Gwynedd Plant Fair, held at Crug Farm, home of plant hunters Bleddyn and Sue Wynn Jones, attracts visitors from a wide area, including Ireland. Other events organised for members range from garden visits to lunches, and usually include a study day a closer look at the way gardens have evolved.