



NEWSLETTER 2

March 2010

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our second newsletter for **The Friends of Pendarren**. Our aim is to attract funding that will provide improvements in the facilities for the staff and children of Haringey who take part in the Pendarren Experience. We meet twice a year at Pendarren and in London and our next meeting is on Friday 17th September 2010. If you would like to join us then, please contact Claire Durrant clairedurrant@yahoo.com or Martin Skinner on the email below.

The Nicky Harrison Sensory Garden and Victorian Summer House

The formal opening of the garden was attended by Nicky Gavron's family, councillors and other invited guests on 8th September 2009. There are still some plots unallocated to schools as yet. Please contact Martin Skinner if you are interested in have a plot to represent your school. Students can choose plants and help to maintain them when they visit. The sensory garden was supplied with loose stones of varying colours and sizes by Robert Price, builders in Abergavenny. We are very grateful for their donation. The Friends have funded a fence to keep the rabbits out! Photos of the progress are on the following page.

The Victorian Greenhouse is in great need of attention. It is hoped that we can attract funds to renovate it to its former glory. The staff of Pendarren House have already cleared much of the overgrown vine that threatened to damage roof and windows. It is an ideal space in which to cultivate seedlings and grow greenhouse fruits and salad. An important part of the students' visit is to experience 'green' issues first hand – we are hoping to give them an appropriate environment to enjoy gardening.

We need a thorough assessment of the condition of the Victorian Greenhouse. We have been in touch with CADW, who manage the historic buildings and conservation area grants. We would especially appreciate help with bids for funds to support this project. If you have this expertise to offer, please contact Claire Durrant or Martin Skinner.

Summer House

This is in need of some minor wood replacement and shelf fitting to transform it into an information centre for students. It is located close to the sensory garden and will display information about plants and updates on progress in the garden.

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Pendarren House Outdoor Education Centre, Llangenny, Crickhowell, Powys. NP8 1HE

Pond

The pond has now been lined with clay and is beginning to fill. A drain to trap more water and guide it over the clay is planned. There is already pond life in evidence and students have been able to investigate and identify pond creatures.

Replacement Minibus

The new bus arrived on 22nd September 2009. It was designed specifically for use by all Haringey pupils and includes a lift at the back for wheelchair access. Staff are being trained to drive this HGV and is reducing the costs and pollution of visits to the coast. We are very pleased that funding was provided by Haringey to realise this project.

Pendarren Open Day and Storytelling in the Tipi

Pendarren hosted an Open Day in July which was most successful. Although local visitors outnumbered those from London, it proved a valuable opportunity for the community around Pendarren to sample what is provided for students from Haringey all year round. Activities on offer ranged from high ropes, zip wire and climbing to a storytelling session with Daniel Morden in the Tipi.... Most atmospheric! The next open day is planned for 2011.

Schools feedback indicates that Daniel's sessions are highly valued. Those schools who would be keen to host storytelling sessions by Daniel in London should contact the Centre. We are hoping that he may agree to visit Haringey schools and bring the Pendarren experience to the capital.

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