

## **Visit to Penrhyn Castle, Bangor- 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2006.**

On Wednesday the 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2006, Rachel and myself went along to Penrhyn Castle, Bangor as part of a visit organised by the Gateway Gardens Trust for patients and families attending Ty Gobaith Children's Hospice in Conwy.

On arrival we met Phillipa Owen of the Gateway Gardens Trust who explained that the visit was not only beneficial to the patients themselves but also for their families. She said it was not often that the whole family got the opportunity to go for a day out together or indeed to spend time together away from the hospice. She was therefore very grateful for the sponsorship provided by Swayne Johnson to enable the visit to go ahead and she seemed pleased that two of us from the firm had agreed to go along and help.

Two children from Ty Gobaith were able to attend- unfortunately a third was too ill to come along. We also met three carers and a social worker from the hospice along with the mother, grandmother and siblings of the patient who was unable to attend. This family including the five "lively" siblings seemed to have a great day exploring in the castle grounds.

We were treated to a tour of the gardens by the castle's head gardener- he had a very hands on approach allowing the children to touch and smell various plants and flowers along the way. After lunch in the castle cafeteria we all had the chance to look around various exhibitions including a steam train display and dolls exhibition.

All in all, it seemed to be a worthwhile experience for all concerned but more importantly, it was enjoyed by the children.

Mari Gibson  
Swayne Johnson Solicitors