

YMDDIRIEDOLAETH GERDDI HANESYDDOL CYMRU - WELSH HISTORIC GARDENS TRUST

Bulletin No. 3, December, 1990

Annual General Meeting 1991

Preliminary notice is given that the AGM will be held on Saturday 9th March 1991 at Gregynog near Newtown, Powys.

It is intended at that meeting to propose a number of amendments to the Trust Constitution, the most important of which concern the establishment of a Policy Committee in place of the present Executive Committee, in order to facilitate the representation of the Trust's membership throughout Wales.

This new committee would comprise the Officers of the Trust, two representatives of each Branch or Group and not fewer than six or more than 12 other members of the Trust elected at an AGM. The Committee would meet not fewer than three times a year on dates determined well in advance and at places which enable members to travel to and from the meeting within the allotted day.

The present Executive Committee would then become a sub-committee of, and elected by, the Policy Committee to deal with the more routine functions of the Trust. It, too, would meet some three times a year on dates notified well in advance.

Nominations of members of the Trust are now invited for election to the Policy Committee, supported by a proposer and seconder; it is the duty of the proposer to ensure the candidate's willingness to stand. Members of the present Executive Committee are eligible to stand for election to the proposed Policy Committee. Nominations, together with a short note of the candidate's qualifications and experience, should reach the Honorary Secretary, Welsh Historic Gardens Trust, Tyllwyd, Tanygroes, Cardigan SA43 2JD

by not later than 18th January 1991

The formal notice and agenda for the AGM, together with a list of candidates for election to the Policy Committee, will be included in the February 1991 mailing.

Membership Questionnaire

A number of questionnaires have been completed and returned; their offers and suggestions have been gratefully received and carefully noted. We suspect, however, that there may be others 'behind the clock' awaiting an opportune moment. There is no particular deadline but we would be most grateful for your comments about the way the Trust is setting about its task; or if you feel able to offer your services in some way.

Register of Consultants & Contractors

A number of professionally-qualified members have already volunteered their services by responding to the questionnaire. However the Trust will itself be employing consultants and contractors from time to time; in addition, we have already had enquiries from members about the availability of professional services for their own purposes.

The Conservation Management Committee is therefore opening a register of consultants and contractors with relevant qualifications and experience and will be pleased to consider formal nominations, supported by names of two referees and any appropriate documentation (returnable).

It should be noted that the inclusion of a consultant's or contractor's name on the register does not imply approval or recommendation on the part of the Trust.

Training the Trainers

A seminar aiming to establish the syllabus and practical standards of courses on archival research and site surveys for the Trust and its members is provisionally arranged for the weekend of 29/30 June 1991. Further details will be arranged in the February 1991 newsletter.

Cadw Proto-register; Siteswatch

It is already very plain that some historically important landscapes, parks and gardens have been omitted from the Cadw proto-register. This is not a criticism, but to make the point that members are asked to be alert for such sites, large or small, in their own locality and-if they are not on the current list (which was included with Bulletin No. 2)-to ring Michael Norman on 0239 810432. The same applies to sites, on or off the proto-Register, which are under threat of some sort, perhaps from dereliction or neglect, perhaps from impending development. Please let us know.

A special SITESWATCH postcard will be included with the February mailing to make this task a little easier.

Walled Garden Survey

A number of completed survey forms have been received and there are probably more - we hope - 'in the pipeline'. If you need more forms or have a query please ring Dr John Savidge on 0970 623111.

A cautionary note

But, in our anxiety for the future of our Welsh gardens, and in our enthusiasm to document their whereabouts and condition, and perhaps get stuck into their conservation or restoration, it is worth recalling the words of Gilly Drummond, the doyen of the Gardens Trust movement, when she cautions that our only powers are "Tact, Persuasion and Good Research". As some of us may already know it is all too easy - and probably quite inadvertently - to make owners or their agents sense that we are intruding or threatening. Their co-operation and interest is of course vital if we are to be an effective force so Gilly's words are particularly apposite.

M.C.N.
December 1990