PARC YR ESGOB
BISHOP'S PARK



Chair of Trustees
Candidate Information Pack

Help us to shape the future of one of Wales's most historic Park and Gardens



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Welcome

TThank you for your interest in becoming Chair of Parc yr Esgob Trust Board. Our current Chair is stepping down after leading the organisation through exciting, but challenging times since 2017 when the park's initial restoration phase began.

We are proud of our significant achievements to date, bringing in over £4m of Lottery Heritage funds and additional match funding to restore the park and gardens, create a visitor centre and begin restoring the walled garden - but we believe the Trust has other exciting chapters ahead.

We are now seeking an experienced chair to provide strategic leadership for the next phase of this ambitious charity which cares for one of Wales's most important historic sites, ensuring that it continues to inspire and educate future generations.



Why This Place Matters



The meeting of the Rivers Tywi and Gwili created a place that has attracted people for thousands of years, giving the landscape meaning. In the thirteenth century Bishop Thomas Bek established his collegiate foundation here, creating a centre of worship, learning and administration that would influence Wales for centuries.

The Palace of the Bishops of St. Davids, now Carmarthenshire Museum, later became one of the intellectual centres of Wales. Here Richard Davies, William Salesbury and Thomas Huet translated the New Testament and the Book of Common Prayer into Welsh, laying foundations that helped secure the future of the Welsh language and contributing to what historians have described as the Welsh Renaissance.

Together, Parc yr Esgob and the Museum create a fascinating destination where visitors can experience centuries of Welsh history within one site.

About the Trust

Parc yr Esgob Trust was established by the Wales Historic Gardens trust in 2016 to restore, manage and protect Parc yr Esgob (Bishop's Park) and its unique cultural and natural setting for the benefit of everyone. Working alongside Carmarthenshire County Council, the Church in Wales, volunteers and our wider community, we are ensuring that it continues to inspire and welcome people of all ages.

Parc yr Esgob is more than a public park. It is a place where landscape, history, faith, language, learning and community have shaped one another over many centuries. You do not need to be a historian, a gardener or a heritage enthusiast to appreciate what makes our park special. Some visitors come to discover its rich history, others to enjoy nature, walk the dog, cycle the Tywi Valley Path, spend time with family or simply relax over lunch in the café. Together, these experiences create a welcoming and inclusive destination that contributes to the wellbeing of our communities while helping to secure the Park's long-term sustainability.



Our vision

We want Parc yr Esgob to be:

- A place of beauty and heritage, carefully conserved and thoughtfully interpreted.
- A place of wellbeing, where people and nature flourish together.
- A place of community, where everyone feels welcome and included.
- A place of learning and discovery, connecting people with history, culture and the environment.
- A thriving and financially stable visitor attraction.

Our values and culture

Everything we do is guided by five values:

1. **Stewardship** - Caring for this place with integrity and responsibility, future generations.
2. **Community** - Actively seeking to involve our community in its future.
3. **Respect** - Treating everyone with dignity, kindness and fairness.
4. **Collaboration** - Ensuring lasting success comes through partnership, openness and teamwork.
5. **Excellence** - Striving for high standards in everything we do.

We are proud to be a bilingual organisation and are committed to treating Welsh and English equally in our work and communications.

Why this role matters

Working alongside fellow Trustees and the Trust Director, the Chair will help shape the future of Parc yr Esgob, ensuring that the organisation remains well governed, financially resilient and true to its charitable purpose.

The Chair will also be an ambassador for the Trust, inspiring interest and confidence among volunteers, partners, funders and the wider community.







A Trust at an Exciting Stage of Development

The Trust has already achieved a great deal, but many more exciting opportunities lie ahead.
The recent opening of the Tywi Valley Path places Abergwili at the gateway to one of Wales's most attractive active travel routes. Growing visitor numbers present exciting opportunities to welcome new audiences, encourage longer visits and develop sustainable sources of income that can be reinvested in caring for the park.

During 2027, we will celebrate the reopening of the restored Walled Garden. This will become a major new attraction, creating opportunities for horticultural interpretation, volunteering, education, community engagement and events.

The Trust is ambitious for the future. By working closely with a wide range of partners, we will continue to develop new projects, secure investment and strengthen the Park's contribution to the cultural life of Wales.

Building a Sustainable Future

One of the Board's principal strategic priorities is to strengthen the Trust's financial sustainability.

The combination of the park and its walled garden, Carmarthenshire Museum and the Tywi Valley Path creates exceptional opportunities to broaden our visitor offer, diversify income and attract new investment.

The Chair, working closely with the Trust treasurer, fellow trustees and staff, will play a pivotal role in helping us develop new sources of earned income, secure grants and philanthropic support, and build a financially resilient organisation capable of delivering its long-term ambitions.



Role of the Chair of Trustees

The Chair provides strategic leadership to the Board and ensures that the Trust fulfils its charitable purposes effectively.

Key responsibilities include:

- Strategic leadership
- Governance
- Financial oversight
- Organisational resilience
- Income generation
- Partnership development
- Support and appraisal of the Trust Director
- Public representation
- Board development and succession planning

What Success Will Look Like

At the end of the Chair's first term we hope to see:

- a financially stronger Trust;
- the successful reopening of the Walled Garden;
- growing engagement from new and diverse visitor audiences;
- strong partnerships;
- greater community participation;
- Parc yr Esgob recognised as one of Wales's leading heritage parks.

Appointment Details

Status: Voluntary appointment.
Term: Three years (renewable once).
Commitment: The time commitment is flexible and will vary according to the Trust's programme of work and strategic priorities.
Location: Abergwili, with occasional online meetings. Board meetings are held quarterly, with sub-group meetings in between.
Support: A structured induction, together with support from fellow Trustees and the Director.
Expenses: Reasonable expenses incurred in carrying out Trust business may be reimbursed, subject to the Trust's available resources and any agreed expense arrangements.

How to apply

Please submit by email to the Trust Director rebekahsharpe@parcyresgob.org.uk :

- A covering letter explaining your interest in and suitability for the role.
- Your CV.

The closing date is Wednesday 2nd December at 5:00p.m.
Interviews for shortlisted applicants will be held week commencing 7th December.
You are welcome to meet with the outgoing Chair for an informal discussion in the meantime.

In line with its Equal Opportunities policy, the Trust is committed to providing an environment in which diversity is valued and encouraged in all of its service provision and employment practices. The Trust therefore welcomes applications from all backgrounds.

