

Aberglasney inspiring the next generation of heritage gardeners

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Plas Aberglasney

Aberglasney Restoration Trust is to create a 'miniature college' in Carmarthenshire to teach the young people to become heritage horticultural experts.

Over 600 people - including students with learning difficulties and schoolchildren - will be trained in traditional skills to learn about and train in heritage horticulture. They will be hosted at the derelict Grade II* listed Old Piggeries and Cow Sheds, which will be restored to create a quality learning space.

We'll be able to teach all of the skills that go into making a heritage garden like Aberglasney great.

Jospeh Atkin, head gardener at Aberglasney

Key training activities include:

- Horticultural training placements with Coleg Sir Gâr and Royal Horticultural Society
- Heritage horticulture and land management workshops for schools and youth groups

- An additional 30 volunteer opportunities

The project is also aiming to attract new visitors through interpretation panels, self-guided activity trails, garden tours and a mobile app.

Jospeh Atkin, head gardener at Aberglasney, said: “Essentially we’re hoping to create our own ‘miniature college’ where we’ll be able to teach all of the skills that go into making a heritage garden like Aberglasney great. As well as teaching students heritage methods of gardening, the buildings we’re restoring will also house a nursery for propagating plants that I hope will make Aberglasney almost self-sufficient.”