

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **BBC'S PETER GIBBS TO OPEN THIS YEAR'S NORTH WALES FESTIVAL OF GARDENS AT PLAS TAN Y BWLCH**

It has just been announced that TV broadcaster Peter Gibbs, Chairperson of BBC Radio 4's Gardeners Question Time, former BBC weatherman and an Antarctic scientist, will be opening this year's *North Wales Festival of Gardens*.

This prestigious event will be taking place at the Snowdonia National Park Centre at Plas Tan y Bwlch on Saturday May 27<sup>th</sup>.

2017 is the second year of the *North Wales Festival of Gardens*, a unique event which will bring together 24 of the finest gardens within one of the most beautiful regions of the British Isles. The Festival will run for 16 days from Saturday May 27<sup>th</sup> until Sunday June 11<sup>th</sup> and will feature an exciting and interesting programme of special events, including the opportunity to meet garden owners and head gardeners, take part in 'behind the scenes' guided walks and workshops and attend lectures, concerts and exhibitions.

Peter Gibbs, who has worked for the BBC for over twenty years, will begin proceedings with a talk on his work and his role as Chair of one of the most popular and longest running radio programmes in the world, Gardeners Question Time, which was first broadcast in 1947.

Peter said; *"It is a delight to be opening this exciting event. Snowdonia has always been a favourite haunt of mine and I am excited to be returning to the area"*.

After his talk, there will be refreshments and then a tour of the beautiful gardens of Plas Tan y Bwlch, a spectacular Victorian garden nestling in dramatic mountain scenery within the Snowdonia National Park. The garden covers 13 acres and hosts a magnificent collection of flowering rhododendrons and azaleas in spring, which includes a 130-year-old rhododendron tunnel and some of the largest trees in Britain.

Overlooking the garden is a dramatic Victorian-Gothic mansion, which was once home to wealthy slate-quarry-owners the Oakeley family. Now run as the Snowdonia National Park Authority's study centre, it is also possible for garden visitors to view inside this historic building at certain times.

**Tickets for the Festival opening event with Peter Gibbs are now available by calling 01766 516024 or emailing [bookingoffice@ffwhr.com](mailto:bookingoffice@ffwhr.com)**

**Plas Tan y Bwlch is located approximately five miles east of the coastal town of Porthmadog on the A487. For further information on visiting the garden please telephone 01766 772600, Email [plas@eryri-npa.gov.uk](mailto:plas@eryri-npa.gov.uk) or visit [www.plastanybwlch.com](http://www.plastanybwlch.com)**