

Health and Safety at Treowen

Advice for visitors to Treowen

Please remember that as we say in our brochure “The facilities are comfortable and the rooms magnificent but they are as they were in William Jones’ day.” These historic features are probably what attracted you to Treowen in the first place, however William Jones did not have to comply with building regulations so modern standards of safety have not been designed into the house nor into its surroundings.

You have a responsibility to ensure that the manner in which you and your guests propose to enjoy the facilities at Treowen is consistent with their safety. Can they cope with the uneven floors? Will your guests fall down the ha-ha in the dark? Or for that matter in broad daylight?

If you are organising a function at Treowen your guests will probably be less familiar with the house than you; they may well be wearing a new pair of shoes with slippery soles and possibly higher heels than they are used to; they may also, as the day wears on, have a little too much to drink. We have identified two areas of risk of slipping and tripping of which you need to be aware and also the precautions you can take to minimise these risks.

The first is the risk of slipping on the main staircase. If you have ushers we would suggest that when large numbers of people are using the stairs the ushers are in position to advise your guests of the risk of slipping. The risks of slipping are considerably increased by spillage of food, drink, candle wax, etc. So consider how you can minimize the risk of such spillage and consider detailing someone to clear up any such spillage as soon as it occurs. Also before you twine the banisters with greenery, fairy lights or whatever else takes your fancy or line the stairs with candles consider whether this will be safe. Will someone slipping on the stairs be able to hold onto the banister securely? While we have £5,000,000 public liability insurance cover for accidents that are our fault our insurers will not unnaturally wish to pin any liability they can on you or your guests.

The second is the risk of tripping on moving between rooms. There are ledges and or a change of level in most of the doorways in the house. Again we would suggest that when your guests are moving from one room to another you position your ushers to advise guests of the risk of tripping.

You also need to consider the safety of the garden and the parking areas. Have you arranged sufficient lighting for your guests to reach the car parking areas safely if they are leaving after dark?

By taking a few simple precautions you may ensure that your visit is not marred by an avoidable accident.