

CHISWICK HOUSE & GARDENS TRUST

Volunteering at Chiswick House & Gardens – Gardening

The English Landscape Movement is one of the UK's greatest influences on European art and architecture. And it all started here, with William Kent's designs for the Chiswick Houses Gardens.

With his mentor, Lord Burlington, Kent broke down the rigid formality of the early 18th century garden to create a revolutionary, natural-looking landscape.

The Chiswick House and Gardens Trust is a registered charity established in April 2005, created jointly by English Heritage and the London Borough of Hounslow to integrate the management of Chiswick House and its gardens. Our objective is to advance education by the preservation, restoration and enhancement of this Grade I listed villa and registered Grade I gardens, for the benefit of the public and of the historical and architectural heritage of England.

Why does Chiswick House need your support?

We need friendly and enthusiastic people to help maintain our gardens. Working with our gardening team to provide high quality maintenance to the formal and informal landscapes within the garden.

What will you be doing?

The Goosefoot and Kitchen Garden Volunteer role is all about mucking in and being hands on; engaging with gardening tasks from weeding and watering in our kitchen garden to rose pruning and coppicing in the gardens. Goosefoots and Kitchen Garden Volunteers at Chiswick House & Gardens form the team that provide support to our gardeners to help maintain the landscape that will engage and inspire our visitors. This role is all about delivering wonderful days out and giving visitors the opportunity to come away from their visit wanting to return again.

You will need to:

- Be approachable and have a warm and friendly demeanour
- Ability to work in all weather conditions
- Enjoy weeding, pruning and watering
- Work individually and as part of a team
- Have internet access so that you can sign up to shifts and stay in contact with our team

What qualities, skills and experience do you need?

- A friendly, enthusiastic and approachable manner.
- Be physically fit – there is a lot of bending and lifting
- Confidence to engage and communicate with people of all ages, backgrounds and nationalities.
- A willingness to learn more about gardening, art, architecture, landscape and environmental practices.
- Experience in roles that have involved gardening is advantageous.

How much time will you be expected to give and when?

Ideally you will be able to volunteer for one day per week including weekends. Most of the shifts occur in the mornings with core hours between 9.00am and 1.00pm.

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What can you expect from us?

- To be treated fairly and with respect.
- To be recognised and appreciated for your contributions.
- To have an enjoyable experience in a fascinating environment.
- To be provided with training including familiarisation with the site and staff, Health and Safety, pruning, weeding and watering and garden history training.
- To be provided with a comfortable space in which to take breaks, with tea and coffee available all day.
- Free entry to Chiswick House & the Kitchen Garden for yourself.
- Discounts in Shop, Café and some partner events held on the estate.
- Access to ValueYou discounts on completion of 100 hours of volunteering.
- Opportunities to meet and socialise with other Chiswick House & Gardens volunteers, including twice annual volunteer parties.
- Reimbursement of travel costs up to £5 per shift.

What will we expect from you?

- To be the friendly face of Chiswick House & Gardens
- To enhance the visitor experience.
- To attend induction and training sessions
- To understand and follow our security, safety and evacuation procedures.
- To maintain positive working relationships with staff, other volunteers and members of the public.
- To be reliable in attendance, wear provided uniform where applicable and be appropriately dressed.

If you are interested in volunteering at Chiswick House or have any further queries regarding this role, please contact Vanessa by email at volunteering@chgt.org.uk quoting ‘Gardening Volunteer 2021’. There is no need to send us a CV or cover letter – as long as you are interested and meet these requirements, we are excited to hear from you.

9 August 2021

This document is intended as a guide to volunteering at Chiswick House and Gardens and is not legally binding.