

## Gardener

(Ref: G 25)

**Responsible to:** Head of Gardens

**Responsible for:** Garden volunteers

**Contract:** permanent, PT 21- FT 35 hours per week tbc with candidate, including occasional weekend working as part of a team rota, occasional evening working

**Key relationships:** Chiswick House and Gardens Trust (CHGT) staff, volunteers and visitors, visitor experience, retail and events team, arborists and garden contractors.

**Salary:** £28,000 FTE

### Role Summary

As Gardener, you will be looking after some key, historic and popular areas of Chiswick House's Gardens, you will be given trust and support to flourish. The woodland wildernesses and shrubbery are already historically significant, well-planted and stunning spaces yet, they have great potential for a gardener with vision, creativity, energy and pragmatism. You will exemplify the creative, inclusive and encouraging culture of the gardens' team, collaborate and lead by example with staff and volunteers. You will develop ideas, manage work lists and lead small projects. Working closely with the head of gardens and the rest of the garden team, you will play a big part in making these internationally recognised gardens even more beautiful.

### The role

- Co-ordinate and manage the day-to-day work in the shrubbery and wildernesses working with garden staff, volunteers and contractors to care for and improve these areas, increasing biodiversity, improving visitor experience and providing a safe, enjoyable space for everybody.
- Develop and implement small garden projects and tasks from to appropriate standards with momentum, positive energy and in a culture of encouragement, mutual learning and inclusive recognition.
- Ensure the fulfilment of all health, safety and compliance in the garden, working as part of the garden team.
- Work with the CHGT volunteer co-ordinator to help to recruit and induct new volunteers. Work alongside and lead volunteers in garden tasks.
- Under the guidance of the head of gardens, explore opportunities to develop new planting ideas, inspired by history and further engage our visitors with our work, telling relevant and resonant stories.
- This is an ideal role for somebody who sees themselves as becoming a senior then head gardener – you will be encouraged and supported in your career path.

### Key skills and attributes in this role

- Sound technical gardening skills and knowledge, with enthusiasm to continue to learn and enable others. A love of trees and woodland.
- Proven all-round horticultural training and experience to at least RHS Level 2 or equivalent. Spraying/chainsaw qualifications a bonus.
- Creativity, ideas and good aesthetic judgement. An interest in history and design. Vision, ambition and energy.

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- Good coaching and demonstrating – the ability to convey information and knowledge with empathy, encouragement, and energy: enthusiasm for sharing your work.
- Organisational and communication skills, ability to prioritise, think clearly and follow a framework in making day to day decisions with energy and focus.
- Up to date record keeping and proficient use of Microsoft 365.
- Work well with colleagues from all areas, understanding others' points of view, seeking solutions and supporting improvements.
- Work collaboratively with kindness, fairness and consistency.
- Conviction in the social impact and well-being benefits of high-quality outdoor spaces and the professional gardener's role to share knowledge, skills, plants, and gardens inclusively.

### **About the gardens and the garden team**

The current garden team has been led by Rosie Fyles for three years with a vision to improve the quality and biodiversity of the Grade I listed gardens, raising creativity and horticultural standards. The team is ambitious and supportive, full of talented gardeners who love their jobs but wear their knowledge lightly, as likely to be discussing eating plants as caring for them. It's a warm atmosphere in the context of a dynamic, caring Trust where people are encouraged to feel part of something that is making a big impact on people's lives through high quality green spaces, a thriving community programme and a momentum to change things for the better.

### **Other information to note**

You may be asked to carry out other duties that arise from time to time and which may be reasonably accommodate within the post's grading level.

You will be required to act in the accordance with the provisions of the health and safety and work act 1974. You will work regular weekend days as part of the garden team's weekend working rota and there will be some evening working associated with providing diverse volunteering opportunities (time off in lieu given).

### **How to apply**

To apply please email [info@chgt.org.uk](mailto:info@chgt.org.uk) with the subject G 25. Please provide your CV (no more than 2 pages) and a cover letter (no more than 1 page) outlining the reasons for your interest in the post and why you believe yourself to be suitable.

If you would like to discuss the role, please contact the Trust via the email above to chat to Rosie Fyles, Head of Gardens.

**Deadline:** Closing date for applications is Sunday 8 June 11.59pm.

**Interviews will take place at Chiswick House on Thursday 12 June.**

*Not sure you meet 100% of our qualifications? If you believe that you could excel in this role, we encourage you to apply. We are dedicated to considering a broad array of candidates, including those with diverse work experiences and backgrounds. Whether you're new to working in a historic garden, returning to work after a gap in employment, simply looking to transition, or taking the next step in your career path, we will be glad to have you on our radar. Please use your cover letter to tell us about your interest and what you hope to bring to this role. If you would like to speak to somebody about the role in more detail, prior to your application, please email [info@chgt.org.uk](mailto:info@chgt.org.uk) with your request and the subject G25.*