

CHISWICK HOUSE & GARDENS TRUST

Volunteering at Chiswick House & Gardens - Retail

Chiswick House was built in 1729 and is one of Georgian Britain's keynote architectural statements. Designed by its owner Richard Boyle (Lord Burlington) in collaboration with the multi-talented designer William Kent, the house was conceived as an aesthetic manifesto, gallery and place for entertaining. The collection includes superb examples of painting, furniture and sculpture.

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 run our popular Produce Cart, selling the seasonal fruit, vegetables and flowers grown in our Kitchen Gardens. You will give an inviting and warm welcome to visitors of all ages and backgrounds, sharing information about the produce and promote our on site visitor experience – which includes access to the Kitchen Garden where the produce is grown.

What will you be doing?

The Retail Volunteer role is all about sharing our seasonal produce with our visitors; engaging people with the fruit, vegetables and flowers to help them make purchase which make a positive impact. You will be preparing the cart for the day, displaying the produce, and selling through the easy to use online till system.

You will need to:

- Be approachable and have a warm and friendly demeanour.
- Be willing and physically able to assist with the assembly and dismantling of the stall
- Engage with visitors of all ages and backgrounds.
- Be confident in sales and promoting the seasonal produce.
- 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.
- Confidence to engage and communicate with people of all ages, backgrounds and nationalities.
- A willingness to learn more about the produce and the history of the House & Gardens.
- Experience of gardening or in retail roles would be advantageous.

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

The Produce Cart will be open on Thursdays and Saturdays from late March through to October. We are looking for help during the following days and opening times:

- Thursday 10.30 to 13.30
- Saturday 10.30 to 13.30

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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, social and historical context and some art handling and movement 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 our Shop and Café.
- 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.
- 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 are 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.

1 March 2026

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