

Volunteer Gardens Assistant



harewood.org



ABOUT HAREWOOD

Harewood House Trust is an educational charity which attracts around 250,000 visitors every year. It is one of England's finest 18th Century country houses, set in over 100 acres of beautiful grounds and gardens. An accredited museum it is also the family seat of the Earl and Countess of Harewood.

Harewood House was built using profits made from the Transatlantic trade in enslaved people and its associated industries. Today, Harewood is a safe place in which we can have open conversations about our past and bring communities together, using our history as a means of working together for a better society.

Alongside the care, conservation and interpretation of its core collections, Harewood curates innovative and ever-changing exhibitions, celebrating and collaborating with a diverse range of individuals and groups.

Through its trading operation the Trust manages and delivers major outdoor events, conferences, corporate functions, fine dining, cafés and other retail and food outlets throughout the site.

The Trust has great ambitions for Harewood's future, as well as celebrating its fascinating past. It has recently embarked on an exciting major project to reimagine its key historic landscape and gardens, build a new playground and create a new visitor welcome centre. All designed to grow our audiences, generate new income and provide an excellent visitor experience.

OUR VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME

At Harewood, our volunteering programme has been running for over twenty five years and we currently have around 200 volunteers. Our vision is to create a sector-leading, inclusive, and sustainable volunteering programme that meets the needs of the Trust and provides a positive volunteer experience for people of all ages, ethnicities, and abilities. Volunteers are pivotal to our aims and aspirations. We love involving volunteers in the work we do be that engaging with visitors, caring for our gardens and collections, running our Secondhand Bookshop, driving our electric shuttles, helping operate our ferry and assisting with delivering our learning programme.

Volunteers bring a wealth of experience and get involved for many varied reasons; including a love of heritage and gardens, to gain employability skills, and for social contact. At Harewood, we feel that we have created a safe welcoming space, where volunteers can flourish, contribute meaningfully and feel a sense of belonging. We want to give opportunities to as wide a range of people as possible and help volunteers in their aims as much as they support us in ours.



VOLUNTEER GARDENS ASSISTANT

INTRODUCTION

The Gardens at Harewood are set within 1,000 acres of ornamental parkland laid out during the 18th century in the 'English' style. A number of landscape gardeners have been involved in shaping Harewood's landscape over time, but it is the work and the style of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown (c.1716 – 1783) that Harewood is renowned for. The Gardens per se comprise three main horticultural areas, each one different in style and content and containing a diverse range of plants throughout:

Terrace

A high Victorian, Italianate formal garden, complete with C19 parterre created by Sir Charles Barry (1795 – 1860), complete with fountains, clipped yew and box, hornbeam stilt hedges, planting schemes, large-scale mixed flower borders, including the Archery Border, planted on a broadly sub-tropical theme with architectural plants.

Walled Garden

An ornamental and utilitarian garden of 3 acres, built in the 1750s and divided into two parts, with a productive kitchen garden, flower borders, apple orchard, meadow, frame yard & glasshouses (awaiting restoration) and Bothy tearoom. Experimental elements recently introduced to the kitchen garden include the environmentally responsible production of vegetable crops and re-invigoration of soil-borne ecosystems through the 'no-dig' systems, plus the recycling and processing of compostable green waste.

Himalayan Garden

Featuring a rock garden created for HRH Princess Mary's rock garden in the 1930s, a naturalistic dell garden with waterfall and stream, woodland and bog gardens, containing a thematic plant collection; including trees and shrubs, rhododendrons, alpines and herbaceous plants from Asia – especially the Sino-Himalaya.

Grounds

Adjoining the gardens are 130 acres of historic parkland, complete with a 32-acre lake enclosed by woodlands and arboreta, interconnecting walks, play areas, picnic sites and lakeside woodland gardens with a Rhododendron collection.

WHAT'S INVOLVED?

Volunteers support our Gardens Team with the seasonal management and maintenance of the three gardened areas: the Terrace, Himalayan Garden and Walled Garden.

You'll be located throughout the gardens, according to priorities, in whichever area requires assistance. As you learn more about the gardens you may prefer one particular area over another.

WHO WILL THIS ROLE APPEAL TO?

Someone who:-

- Is friendly, enthusiastic and committed, not necessarily a knowledgeable gardener but have a keen willingness to learn and be a team-player
- Is happy working outdoors in all weather conditions!

WHAT WILL HAREWOOD EXPECT FROM ME?

To:-

- be a friendly face and team-player, supporting the management and maintenance of our gardens
- positively promote Harewood's charitable aims and aspirations
- proactively follow Harewood's health and safety and safeguarding policies and procedures
- commit to the role, volunteering on the dates and times that have been mutually agreed
- treat visitors, staff and fellow volunteers with respect and understanding at all times
- observe Harewood's organisational policies and procedures and uphold Harewood's values
- safeguard confidential information about Harewood House Trust.

HOW WILL I BENEFIT?

- You'll gain skills, knowledge and experience of horticulture and plant cultivation within Harewood's historic gardens
- You'll spend time in a beautiful environment
- You'll get to engage with a wide range of audiences
- You'll gain knowledge of Harewood House Trust.

AS A VOLUNTEER WHAT CAN I EXPECT FROM HAREWOOD?

- A welcoming and inclusive volunteering environment
- To be treated fairly and with respect
- Recognition and appreciation for your contribution
- General induction, role specific training with on-going support
- Reimbursement of travel costs between home and Harewood House up to a maximum of £10 per day.
- Regular newsletters and volunteer meetings to provide an insight into all that is happening at Harewood
- Access to a web-based volunteer system to manage your volunteering shifts and receive updates.

OUR VALUES

Caring – demonstrate quality in your own work, showing support for those around you, respecting audiences and colleagues, showing empathy

Together – showing a commitment to team work, collaboration, belief in an organisation's mission and vision, living brand values

Adventurous – demonstrate energy and zeal in your attitude to work, being proactive, having a curious mind, being confident in your decisions, embracing innovation

Challenging – showing a commitment to high standards with rigour in your own work, learning from every opportunity, proactively questioning to ensure best results



BENEFITS & DETAILS

Benefits

Discount in onsite cafés + retail outlets;
Free access to the site with up to three guests throughout the year (with the exception of Christmas and certain events);
Access to Northern Museum Volunteer pass;
Free parking.

Travel expenses

Travel expenses are reimbursed up to £ 10 per day. Harewood is well served by the 36 Bus running from Leeds to Harrogate.

Training

We'll give you an orientation tour of the Gardens to offer an insight into the activities of the team and a general induction which will give you a broader understanding of how Harewood operates as a business.

We'll also provide you with safeguarding training so that you feel comfortable keeping visitors and yourself safe while volunteering with us.

Support available

We believe Harewood is a welcoming and inclusive place to volunteer. Throughout your time volunteering with us you will be supported by and have access to an experienced Volunteer Manager, other members of the team and the Volunteer Coordinator.

Time commitment

We offer volunteering days in the Gardens all year around, Tuesdays to Fridays between 10am and 3.00pm. We flexible and appreciative of any time given, you can volunteer from 4 hours to a full day.

There is no minimum commitment but for the volunteering experience to be mutually beneficial for you and ourselves we would hope that you would volunteer on a number of occasions.

LOCATION

Harewood House Trust, Harewood, Leeds, LS17 9LG. Harewood is 7 miles outside of Leeds and is well served by public transport: goodjourney.org.uk/attraction/harewoodhouse

MORE INFORMATION

If you have any further questions about the role, please contact our Trevor Nicholson, Head of Gardens and Grounds at trevor.n@harewood.org.

NEXT STEPS & HOW TO APPLY

Please submit an application form to volunteer@harewood.org. If you require the forms in an alternative format, please get in touch.

Thank you for reading this pack. We look forward to hearing from you!



For more information please get in touch

Volunteer Coordinator

volunteer@harewood.org



HAREWOOD

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