



Trainee Gardener

37.5 hours per week, 12 month placement, free accommodation
Start date: 3 Trainee positions beginning in January 2023

About the role

We are looking for up to three well-organised and flexible people to join our garden team. We are a registered charity caring for the historic Grade 1 listed Sharpham House and Estate on the banks of the River Dart near to Totnes. At the heart of the Sharpham Trust ethos is our desire to build a more mindful, compassionate and environmentally sustainable world. We connect people with nature and foster mindfulness and well-being through our programme of retreats, mindfulness courses, public events, outdoor learning and the arts.

We are able to offer a unique opportunity for Trainee Gardeners providing comprehensive training in all aspects of running a kitchen garden using organic and sustainable principles, alongside managing ornamental gardens, lawns, woodland and orchards. You will develop a range of skills from growing fruit, vegetables, herbs and flowers to be used in the kitchen, crop planning to sowing, cultivation, transplanting, weeding, harvesting, plant husbandry, pest and disease recognition, mowing, strimming, pruning, clearing, garden design, irrigation, garden infrastructure and much more. There is scope for the trainees to develop projects according to specific interests. The Trust is looking to develop the food growing on the estate in ways that integrate with our programme of retreats, courses, public events, training and volunteering. This is an exciting opportunity to be involved with this development.

This traineeship is vital to the effective and smooth running of the organisation and is aimed at someone who is committed to develop their learning in ornamental horticulture and food growing using organic methods. Alongside this, you will benefit from free training provided by The Apricot Centre approximately one day a week as well as helping to develop our garden volunteering programme along with our Head Gardener and Assistant Gardener.

This is a varied role, within a small team, in an organisation which has seen significant growth in the last three years and is looking to be more outward facing in the pursuit of its charitable objectives. There can be no better environment to work in than the one offered at Sharpham.

About you

This is a role for someone who is well organised with excellent communication skills and the ability to work on their own initiative, as part of a small team. Previous experience might be helpful but is not required and training will be given on site. You will have an interest in sustainable food growing and ornamental gardening as well as flexibility and a sense of humour. We are looking for someone who is enthusiastic, practical and willing to learn and contribute to a hard-working team. An interest in the Trust's charitable work and mindfulness would also be an advantage. Staff are able to access the Trust's programme of mindfulness courses and retreats.

Apply

To apply, <https://www.apricotcentre.co.uk/regen-school>

Closing Date: 14th November 2022

Interviews: tbc

Start Date: early January 2023

Trainee Gardener - ROLE DESCRIPTION

Role Title	Trainee Gardener	
Working Hours	37.5 hrs per week, days tbc	
Report to	Head Gardener	
<p>Main Purpose of the Role To assist the Head Gardener in maintaining and improving Sharpham House gardens to a high standard and to maximise the produce grown in the walled kitchen garden.</p>		
<p>Key Objectives and Responsibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help to maintain the walled, formal and woodland gardens and orchard • Contribute towards the production of planting plans for the kitchen garden • Grow a range of fruit and vegetables throughout the year using organic, sustainable methods • Harvesting of produce ordered by the house cooks • Helping to record what and how much is produced • Pursue further career development and training • Mowing lawns and strimming of wilder areas, general care of trees, shrubs, and herbaceous borders and learning use of garden machinery • Supervising garden volunteers • Maintaining paths and steps around the house and in the gardens • Follow risk assessments and abide by the Trust's Health and Safety procedures and policy • Communicate well with Trust staff and volunteers • Help with Trust Open Days • Reporting of any health and safety risks 		
Person Specification		
	Essential	Desirable
QUALIFICATIONS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level 1 or 2 Horticulture • Any other Horticulture, Permaculture or land-based training or certificates • Mower and Strimmer certificates
EXPERIENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to developing a career in gardening 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overseeing volunteers • Mindfulness meditation • general garden work • Growing of fruit and vegetables • Organic growing practices

SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Efficient organisational skills ● Attention to detail ● Ability to work with a wide range of different people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Health & Safety procedures ● Awareness of the needs of vulnerable people ● Plant identification ● Pests and diseases ● Propagation ● Risk Assessments
OTHER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Able to use own initiative, prioritise and multitask ● A friendly, helpful and professional manner ● Ability to work under own initiative and as part of a small team ● Flexible approach to work and hours of working ● Ability to remain discrete and retain confidentiality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Driving licence
Hours/Shift Pattern:		
<p>37.5 hours per week. 7.5 hours per day (8am - 4pm) plus ½ an hour lunch break. On average 4 days a week will be spent in the Sharpham Gardens and 1 day, training at Apricot Centre in Dartington. There will be the occasional need to work evenings or weekends.</p>		
Time Off: 28 days over 12 months including Bank Holidays.		