

Fulham Palace House & Garden

Volunteer role description Garden volunteer

What is a garden volunteer?

Garden volunteering at Fulham Palace is an exciting practical outdoor role and has been running since 2012. Garden volunteers assist in the practical skilled care, maintenance and development of the horticultural features and garden at Fulham Palace.

This London based horticultural volunteering position will provide a unique opportunity to be part of the Fulham Palace gardens team including permanent staff, garden apprentices, garden trainees and other garden volunteers.

Volunteers will gain gardening experience in a historic garden open to the public.



The horticultural work is varied and covers garden maintenance across the whole 13 acre site including tending to the beds in the walled garden to maintaining woodland and meadow areas.

In view of the climate emergency, Fulham Palace is enhancing its environmentally friendly practices and looking to increase biodiversity and wildlife in the garden even further.

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| What's in it for you? | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• to carry out horticultural tasks in a beautiful environment, tending to the garden areas at Fulham Palace;• to attend a regular, physically active group session, mostly working outside;• to be involved in making a difference and helping improve the garden at Fulham Palace; |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to meet like-minded individuals and become part of a fun and social team; • to be involved with a positive and engaging volunteer culture including social events, outings, forums and our volunteer portal where volunteers are able to contribute blogs; sign up to sessions and access all the information you need as a volunteer online; • a reference when you have volunteered with us regularly for 6 months. |
| <p>What's involved?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supporting the garden team in a variety of seasonal garden tasks including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ weeding, leaf raking, bulb planting, mulching tidying and path maintenance, lawn edging; ○ clearing overgrown areas – keeping on top of the ivy and other invasive species; ○ woodland management – planting, coppicing and grubbing out; ○ meadow management – re-sowing, cutting down and raking; ○ seasonal potting on, seed sowing and pricking out; • using organic growing techniques and sustainable garden practices; • most tasks are physically demanding and require manual dexterity; • working outside for most of the time unless the weather is bad and then inside work may be organised; • working in mixed groups with other garden volunteers; • instructions, supervision and training will be provided on site; • tools, gloves and other PPE are provided. |
| <p>This role will suit people who...</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enjoy physical and outside work; • have any level of horticultural experience with an enthusiasm for plants and practical gardening work – beginners welcome! • have initiative and bring positivity to their work; • are flexible – willing to give support where necessary and be able to adapt plans at short notice to adapt to changing priorities; • are approachable – have positive attitude where staff and management feel at ease to approach and discuss in a constructive manner; |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have the ability to listen and follow instructions; • have the ability to work safely and not to endanger yourself or others, using common sense to maintain a safe working environment; • are able to work in a team with people of wide ranging ages and abilities; • are able to carry out physically demanding tasks, such as shovelling, digging, mulching, lifting and carrying, as well as working well with their hands. |
| Availability | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saturdays only • to work on a weekly basis, ideally coming in on the same day each session; • confirm your attendance on an online rota on the Fulham Palace volunteer portal at least 48 hours before the session. <p>Saturday day opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prompt start at 10.15 till 15.30 (full day) • prompt start 10.15–12.30 (half day am) • prompt start 13.30–15.30 (half day pm) • lunch break 12.30–13.30 • due to popularity one volunteer can usually attend up to one session per week |
| Main contact | <p>Lucy Hart, head gardener Pete Carter, senior gardener Franziska Stampfli, senior gardener</p> |
| Training/Resources | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • specialist training when needed to help you carry out and develop in your role • full induction including health and safety procedures, fire safety and customer service • all new volunteers have an introduction period, this is a settling in time of around 2 months. At the end of this an appropriate person will catch up with you. This is an opportunity for both parties to reflect and make any reasonable adjustments to the role that are needed • access to our volunteer’s website, the “Volunteer Portal”, including a blog, downloadable resources, rota and events page |
| Getting to the Palace | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the nearest tube station is Putney Bridge • the nearest railway station is Putney • there are several bus stops within walking distance • we reimburse travel expenses up to £8 per session |

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| What next? | <p>Please get in touch by completing an enquiry form, available at: https://www.fulhampalace.org/get-involved/volunteer-at-fulham-palace/</p> <p>If you have any questions you can contact our volunteer enquiry assistants by emailing volunteer@fulhampalace.org or calling 020 7751 2433</p> <p>Potential volunteers will be invited to an informal interview to discuss the role further in person.</p> |
| <p>Fulham Palace values the involvement of volunteers; they enhance everything we are able to do. We are committed to offering volunteer opportunities of a high standard and welcome feedback.</p> | |