

Volunteer role description

Beekeeper volunteers

What is a Beekeeper volunteer?

Our volunteer beekeepers are part of a team who look after the beehives in the walled garden at Fulham Palace. We usually have up to four beehives at the Palace which produce award-winning honey! A key part of the role is to carry out hive inspections, as well as numerous opportunities to help with family event days and educational activities to inspire the next generation of beekeepers!



<p>What's in it for you?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A chance to learn all aspects of beekeeping and honey production • You will be mentored by Fulham Palace's experienced beekeepers • Hands on experience in a botanical garden setting • You will be encouraged to pass the Bee Basic exam and so may need to be willing to do some formal study. • Being a part of a small, dynamic and dedicated 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 posts; join in discussions with other volunteers, sign up to sessions and access all the information you need as a volunteer online • References for people who volunteer with us regularly for more than 6 months
<p>What's involved?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From March to September beekeepers are required to be there for weekly inspections, on Tuesdays at 1:30pm, where the health and welfare of the bees is checked • From time to time, swarm control is implemented, and the beekeepers are on call in case of swarms or other problems • There is a fair amount of physical work involved with the lifting and moving of bee equipment • The honey harvest takes place in late summer • The beekeeping team also gets involved with Palace events, such as apple day in October, the go green fest in May and other family educational days • From October to March there are occasional inspections on Tuesdays • Beekeepers are expected to commit for a minimum of 6 months

<p>This role will suit people who...</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are physically able to lift and carry equipment and are keen to learn about bees • Are happy to work as part of a small team with good communication skills • Good at talking to the public • People applying should not have a known allergy to bee stings
<p>Availability</p>	<p>Volunteers must be available on Tuesdays. The time commitment is especially regular throughout the spring and summer, and usually from 13.30 – 15.30. Occasionally, the beekeepers meet at other times, if necessary</p>
<p>Main Contact</p>	<p>Pete Carter, senior gardener</p>
<p>Training/Resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full induction including health and safety procedure • New beekeepers will be mentored by the existing bee keeper team. • It is desirable, but not essential to have already completed the London Beekeepers Association training course. • All new volunteers have an introduction period; this is a settling in time of around 6 weeks. At the end of this the volunteer development officer will catch up with you; this is an opportunity for both parties to reflect and make any 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
<p>Getting to the Palace</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nearest tube station is Putney Bridge • The nearest train station is Putney • There are several bus stops in walking distance • We reimburse travel expenses up to £8 per session
<p>What next?</p>	<p>Please get in touch by completing an enquiry form, available at: https://www.fulhampalace.org/get-involved/volunteer-at-fulham-palace/ If you have any questions you can contact our Volunteer Enquiry Assistants by emailing volunteer@fulhampalace.org or telephoning 020 7751 2433 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>	