

Part time,  
temporary (possibly  
becoming permanent)



Castle Bromwich  
Hall Gardens

## Head/Senior Gardener at Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens

Due to our sole paid professional Gardener leaving, we now have an immediate vacancy for a temporary, part time post at the Gardens Trust, while we re-assess our longer term needs.

The 10 acres of historic formal gardens – with wilder wildlife areas- is owned and run by an independent charitable trust and staffed mainly by volunteers.

This is an opportunity for a qualified gardener (RHS level3 or equivalent vocational experience) with existing management and budgeting experience to extend or further practice their management skills.

### Hours

Appx 15 hours a week, summer through to early autumn. With the possibility of it becoming full time.

### Purpose and scope of the role.

**You will be responsible, in partnership with the Trust's other staff, for the overall management and development of the Gardens, ensuring the highest standards of horticulture and visitor experience.**

As this is part-time post you will be particularly responsible for planning and overseeing the seasonal work programme and clearly setting tasks to be done during the rest of the week, in your absence, by the team of volunteers.

You will also be involved in supervising and providing informal training to the part time horticultural trainee.

With the General Manager you will manage the small budget and plan for appropriate purchases through the season.

While on site you will directly supervise and lead the volunteer gardeners and support them in achieving the required quality of work.

**The Gardens' contract out the general grounds maintenance tasks (grass cutting, spraying) which take place fortnightly. Setting priorities for the contractors, as well as the volunteers, in advance is a crucial part of the role.**

### Knowledge, skills and experience needed

Significant practical experience in horticulture, with qualifications to RHS Level 3 or equivalent.

A good level of plantmanship/plant husbandry skills with a good range of horticultural techniques. A practical knowledge of conservation and historic gardens will be a distinct advantage.

Leadership skills including coaching, motivation and excellent communication.

Experience of working with volunteers is essential. Volunteer teams at the Garden are varied in experience, skill and ability. The post holder will need to quickly grasp what can be achieved and find how to lead and motivate them.

Proven track record of managing small budget, finances and small projects.

Experience of assessing and managing risk. Knowledge of all Health and Safety and relevant compliance requirements.

A practical understanding of the needs of the visiting public. The Gardens are open 7 days a week to paying visitors. We run a public programme of small events, largely at weekends, as well as extensive schools and family friendly activities.

## About the Gardens

The Gardens are a restored, formal garden in the 17th /18th century style. There are formal lawns and box, yew, hornbeam and holly hedging throughout (2.5km in total)

Formal beds (upper and lower wilderness) with trees, shrubs, evergreens and annual underplanting.

Formal and semi-formal bedding areas, **again in the 18th century 'block' style.**

Two box and yew parterres, a 17 metre x 2.5 metre holly walk and a holly maze.

Two heritage apple and pear orchards with further espaliered wall fruit and trees.

A formal(ish) vegetable garden and medicinal /culinary herb borders.

2 acres of the Gardens exist outside the 18th century walls. These are mainly cultivated for wildlife and used extensively for family and schools activities. There are 3 ponds (one formal 2 natural).

We are also contracted to maintain the gardens around the adjoining Jacobean Hall, which is now run as a Hotel. While the general 17th century style is maintained here, there is a requirement to create more consistent colour and display which suits the wedding business needs of the hotel.

Salary: in the region of £24,000 pro rata (15hours /40% of week)

Please contact us with your cv and covering letter. For more information or for an informal chat ring Glynis Powell 0121 749 4100

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