

Gardening

The Alnwick Garden is a treasure trove of trees, plants and flowers of which there are too many to mention individually. In addition to a team of full time gardeners there is a group of enthusiastic volunteer gardeners who assist in maintaining The Garden ensuring it looks its best at all times. Most tools are provided but it's advisable to bring along gloves and secateurs, as well as waterproof clothing. It is not necessary to have knowledge of gardening procedures, training will be given and a 'hands on' approach is practiced within The Garden. No volunteer is expected to handle either machinery or chemicals for health and safety reasons.

The role of a Gardener

- Carry out the various allocated tasks of the day.
- Liaise with Garden Staff to answer any questions from visitors or on processes with which you are unfamiliar.
- When on duty you should contact a member of The Garden Staff or Duty Manager regarding any Health and Safety issues, accidents, non-operation of facilities or any another matters.

Points of contact

- Jaci Beaven is the Gardeners coordinator in The Alnwick Garden.

Your commitment to The Alnwick Garden

- Gardeners, in line with all volunteers, are expected to commit to 48 hours per annum (an average of 4 hours per month). Volunteer Gardeners usually work on Monday mornings with some small groups attending on Thursday mornings. Tasks for the day are listed before each session.

General

- On arrival at The Alnwick Garden you must sign in at the time you start your volunteering session, likewise you must sign out at the end of each working session.
- An Alnwick Garden lanyard with an identity badge will be provided, this must be worn at all times when on duty. Polo shirts for volunteer gardeners are also provided.

Training

- Once your application has been accepted you will join us on a three month probationary period, during this time you will be provided with training working alongside one of our regular volunteers.

Benefits

- After your three months probationary period, you will be offered a range of benefits, details of which will be provided at a later date.

Testimonial

Hello, I'm Jaci - when I retired from working in Public Libraries in Buckinghamshire, I moved to Alnwick, a place I have loved from spending many holidays in Northumberland. I only knew two people here and, having

a passion for gardening in a purely amateur way, I thought that volunteering at The Alnwick Garden would be a good way to meet new acquaintances and put something into the community.

I was accepted and began work in late May 2008, just in time for the intensive dead heading of roses. I was very shy to start with but was soon accepted into the group with an amazing generosity so typical of people in the North East. It was not too long before I found myself strong-armed into a place on the Volunteer Committee and this strengthened my appreciation and respect for The Garden and its charitable aims. I now perform the task of Gardening Representative, this is like the “go between” the Volunteers and Gardening Staff.

I have found that volunteering in The Alnwick Garden is exceptionally rewarding. I have learned so much, both in gardening skills and with respect to working for The Trust. I am enjoying myself and my retirement and most importantly, I have also made some good and enduring friendships.

The Gardening Volunteer team are a friendly bunch, with a seductive sense of humour. They are happy to embrace anyone who is willing to learn and to pull their weight with the allotted tasks, although these are never particularly onerous. Come and join us and see for yourself.

Jaci Beaven