

Job Description

Senior Gardener

Permanent full time role.
Borde Hill, Haywards Heath, West Sussex. RH16 1XP



About Borde Hill

Borde Hill Garden (BHG) is a registered charity and a Grade II* listed English Heritage Garden set within 383 acres of Parkland and Woodland in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Created in the early 1900's with plants gathered by the great plant hunters from their travels to the Himalayas, China, Burma, Tasmania, the Andes and North America, the Garden contains 78 champion trees and over 8,000 trees and shrubs listed by the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew. Borde Hill features one of the best private collections of champion trees in Britain and one of the most comprehensive collections of trees and shrubs in the world.

In addition to the living collection, the Garden also has a rare surviving written archive which allows us to better understand the plant collection and social history to engage our visitors about 'the world in one garden'.

Our charitable aims include '*the preservation and restoration of the Borde Hill Plant Collection, through the provision of education and training in horticulture, with a focus on all ages*'. The Garden Council are a valuable resource for horticultural advice, bringing knowledge and expertise from RBG Kew, RBG Edinburgh, Cambridge Botanical Garden, RHS Wisley and Exbury Gardens amongst others. The Garden welcomes over 70,000 visitors each season (February-November) and offers an extensive and varied events programme.

The Stephenson Clarke family have been custodians of Borde Hill for five generations, and are at a time of generational change which will see new energy, opportunities and ideas aimed at broadening our visitor demographic and ensuring Borde Hill is sustainable for future generations. This includes new business initiatives including a field to fork restaurant, a biodynamic growers project and a rejuvenated family parkland offering with improved infrastructure, better horticultural interpretation and plant management.

You and Your Role

Borde Hill is an evolving Garden and there is opportunity for creativity and dynamic gardening, whilst ensuring the aesthetics are compatible with the historic nature of the Garden. We are therefore looking for a knowledgeable and skilled horticulturist who can lead from the front, has a great eye for detail and is able to deliver creative, excellent horticulture to the highest standards.

As a key member of the team, you will be responsible for the effective leadership and day to day horticultural operation of the Garden and beyond. This will include work planning, ensuring all work is adhered to health and safety legislation, managing a team of garden staff and volunteers, conducting tours and talks to visitors and producing seasonal horticultural content for social media.

We would like you to have RHS level 3 or equivalent supported by significant practical experience in Horticulture within a supervisory or leadership role. You should have a keen interest in plants and a strong willingness to learn more about our historic collection to support its development for the future.

Salary:
£28,000pa

Hours:
37.5hrs per week
(occasional weekend working)

Holiday entitlement:
32 days pro rata
(including Bank Holidays)

To apply:
email your CV & covering letter to:
jessica.humphreys@bordehill.co.uk

Closing date: Friday
8th December

If you are in employment, please include your current notice period.

Accommodation on the Estate may be available.

Our location:
Borde Hill
Haywards Heath
West Sussex
RH16 1XP

01444 450326

Knowledge, skills and experience needed:

(Please provide evidence in your Covering Letter and CV)

- A passion for working in a historic Garden open as a visitor attraction, bringing the story of Borde Hill to life for our visitors.
- Experience of managing teams and able to lead by example with demonstratable people management skills.
- Able to be strategic in work planning but able to be proactively react when work changes at a moments notice
- Excellent communication skills to work collaboratively with the Head of Horticulture, Family, and all members of the Borde Hill team; with the ability to explain horticultural procedures to students and volunteers as well as confidence to lead Garden tours.
- Energetic, proactive, inclusive, enthusiastic and organised.
- Excellent knowledge of herbaceous and woody plants, propagation, cultivation and familiar with plant collection management.
- Kitchen Garden experience is preferable.
- Significant practical experience, supported by appropriate qualifications to RHS level 3 (or equivalent) or qualifications such as Botanic Garden Diploma, ND, HND, B.Sc. in Horticulture.
- Understanding and experience of health and safety aspects of gardens as visitor attractions including COSHH and risk assessment procedures.
- Proven experience in the use of a wide range of specialist equipment and machinery.
- Computer literate with experience of MS Office software, and able to use databases accurately.
- A horticultural or botanical specialism would be an advantage.
- Experience of delivering horticultural or botanical courses for adults and children and widening diversity and inclusion.
- NPTC spraying qualifications PA1, PA6.
- A full, clean driving license.

NB. The role and responsibilities are likely to further develop as the Garden and Estate continues its evolution.

Key Attributes

We are looking for someone who is passionate about plants within a historic landscape but also someone who is able to be proactive in leading staff and the weekly work plan. Primarily being a business means that workload can at times be incredibly busy, so the chosen candidate will need to be resourceful with time and will need to adapt quickly when plans change.

We are an equal opportunities employer and welcome applications from all suitably qualified persons regardless of their race, sex, disability, religion/belief, sexual orientation or ag