

# THE GARDENS TRUST



Could you  
be the new  
Gardens Trust  
Treasurer?



RESEARCH • CONSERVE • CAMPAIGN



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1. Sheffield Botanical Gardens.  
Credit: Jill Sinclair.
2. Gravetyre Manor.  
Credit: Karen Fitzsimon.
3. Crow Nest Park Bandstand.  
Credit: Stephen Craven on [www.geograph.co.uk](http://www.geograph.co.uk)
4. Silver-washed fritillary.  
Credit: Andy Jones.
5. Helmington Hall.  
Credit: Robert Peel.

Front cover Photograph:  
Credit: Beau Carpenter @Unsplash.



## About the Gardens Trust

**T**he Gardens Trust is the only UK charity dedicated to protecting and conserving our heritage of designed landscapes.

We campaign for them, undertake research and conservation work, and encourage public appreciation and involvement. More information can be found at [www.thegardenstrust.org](http://www.thegardenstrust.org)

The Gardens Trust is a membership organization of around 1,200 members, and also represents 35 County Gardens Trusts as well as the Welsh Historic Parks and Gardens Trust, who between them carry around 7,500 members.

### We are a statutory consultee in the English planning system.

Which means that we are consulted on planning applications affecting the parks, gardens, cemeteries, and other designed landscapes on the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest. The Gardens Trust's part-time conservation staff provide constructive advice in response to consultations from local planning authorities, working closely with County Gardens Trusts' volunteers to benefit from their local expertise and knowledge. This role is currently being reviewed by Government, making 2026 an interesting and pivotal time to be involved in the Gardens Trust.

### We love to work with volunteers.

We run volunteer support for the 35 County Gardens Trusts and others to ensure that our professional national expertise can benefit from substantial local support and expert contributions. This work enables County Gardens Trusts to be resilient and proactive

Above: Knolls Wood, Bedfordshire.  
Credit: rudoniphoto.com

in their work helping conserve historic designed landscapes, including through commenting on planning applications, and through research and recording.

We manage the Gardens Trust Community Grant scheme, in 2025 making £9,300 available to volunteer projects at historic parks and gardens. We also present an annual Volunteer Award, presented at a special Volunteering Celebration event.

## We lead the way in sharing knowledge and research.

We publish the leading international journal, *Garden History*, as well as the *GT Magazine* and monthly *GT News* email bulletin. We also award the annual Mavis Batey Essay Prize, and convene the New Research Symposium.



Waterloo Park, Norwich.  
Credit: Paul Rabblts.

In 2025 we published *Harnessing Parks and Gardens in the 21st Century: How historic landscapes can support and enhance our today and tomorrow*, which highlights the essential role that historic parks and gardens play in addressing key challenges of our time such as communities' health and wellbeing, social cohesion, climate change and nature recovery.

Over 10,000 attendees participate in GT online events, training and lectures annually, including people from other heritage or professional organisations.

The Gardens Trust uses X, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and TikTok to engage with new audiences and other organisations. Our social media following is growing fast, with:

- ▶ 3,783 Instagram followers,
- ▶ 217 TikTok followers,
- ▶ 1,270 LinkedIn followers,
- ▶ 2,400 views on YouTube and
- ▶ 945 Facebook likes/followers.

We work hard to raise awareness of historic parks and gardens through campaigns and other initiatives.



Projects have included 'Green Futures', a Historic England funded project researching historic parks, gardens and designed landscapes in the East of England potentially affected by future infrastructure developments (NSIPs); *Unforgettable Gardens*, which sought to draw attention to the value of all historic designed landscapes whilst recognising their vulnerability and the role volunteers can play in protecting their future; Compiling the Record, which researched under-recognised 20th century designed landscapes, with the result of 20 sites being added to the NLHE; Celebrating Repton, a collaborative project to mark the bicentenary of Humphry Repton; and the Capability Brown Tercentenary celebrations, to research and update what is known about his works.

The GT benefited from a National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) to deliver a project called 'Engaging with our Future', which addressed GT resilience issues particularly through improving diversity and inclusion. Previously, the GT ran the 'Sharing Repton: Landscapes for All' project, thanks to Lottery players, to bring historic landscapes to new audiences whilst updating knowledge on Repton landscapes (2018-20).

You can read our Impact Reports at

[\*\*\*Our Impact – The Gardens Trust\*\*\*](#)

## Opportunities and Challenges

The Gardens Trust is ambitious to be dynamic and impactful in helping protect and share historic designed landscapes for this and future generations. With the Government striving to overhaul the planning system there is a fresh impetus to be bold in developing and implementing our vision for historic designed landscapes in delivering social, economic and environmental benefit for all, and we have a key role to play. We are a growing organisation, with an energetic



and keenly motivated team of Trustees, volunteers, members, supporters and staff, carrying with us 36 County and Country Gardens Trusts too. However, we are operating in increasingly challenging times, with decreasing public funding, shifting government policies, and an increasingly-stretched volunteer workforce. We are starting work on our 2027-30 Business Plan and have new Audience Development Strategy and Fundraising Strategies - we are energised for the future.

## The Gardens Trust team



Grade II -registered Valley Gardens, Saltburn.  
Credit: Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council.

The Gardens Trust is managed by a Board of up to twelve Trustees. This Board is responsible for the overall governance and strategic direction of the Gardens Trust, developing and implementing the aims, objectives and goals. Trustees are nominated by the existing Board and elected by members of the Gardens Trust at an Annual General Meeting.

The Board is supported by various committees, who meet regularly:

- Management Committee
- Conservation Committee
- Education & Training Committee
- Audience Development, Marketing and Communications Committee



Waterloo Park, Norwich.  
Credit: Paul Rabblts.

Where appropriate, the committees may also include sub-groups.

Delivery of Gardens Trust workstreams is undertaken by a small, mainly part-time staff team, comprising:

- Director
- Finance Officer
- Administration & Membership Officer
- Fundraising Development Officer
- Conservation Officers
- Lead Volunteer Support Officer
- Engagement Officer



## The Gardens Trust is looking for a new Trustee for the role of **GT Treasurer**.

It is an exciting role; a new Treasurer will work closely with the Chair and other Trustees to oversee the financial management of the charity and advise on strategic matters during its current period of exciting change and development.



This is an important and rewarding role, facilitating the Gardens Trust's work conserving and sharing historic designed landscapes.

### Who are we looking for?

The ideal candidate needs to be good at numbers and ideally have knowledge of charity financial procedures and the reporting requirements of the Charity Commission, SORP and Companies House. We're looking to find someone who:

- is able to report financials clearly to the board, so that there is transparency and a clear understanding of our financial position;
- has experience of the financials of the grant-making process and charitable institutions;
- is able to interpret the accounts and provide future financial planning to demonstrate opportunities for growth and development.

Above: Thenford Arboretum and Gardens.  
Credit: The Gardens Trust.



Knolls Wood, Bedfordshire.  
Credit: rudonipphoto.com

The ideal candidate does not need to be an accountant, nor an expert in garden history. We are hoping to find someone:

- with a desire to support a small established organisation that is committed to protecting and conservating our heritage of designed landscapes;
- with a willingness to learn and adapt their existing skills to our need;
- who is skilled in managing investment relationships.

We are a friendly, enthusiastic, and hardworking team of volunteers, Board, Committee members and staff, and we're looking for a Treasurer who is excited to share our common goal.

We have taken steps to make this role as straightforward as possible for our incoming Treasurer; our new Treasurer will have monthly accountancy support from our accountants and we have set up a QuickBooks system for easy information capture.

The appointment is for an initial term of three years, renewable once to a maximum of six years.

- **Board Meetings** – The Board meets four times a year and most Board meetings are held by 'Teams'. Board meetings take a couple of hours. The Treasurer will be required to interpret the accountant's management accounts for, and prepare new budgets with, the Board.
- **Management Committee** – The Management Committee meets every month via 'Teams'. Each meeting takes a couple of hours. The Treasurer will be required to update the committee on aforementioned management accounts and progress with draft budgets.

## What is the commitment?



Knolls Wood, Bedfordshire.  
Credit: rudonipphoto.com

- **Annual General Meeting & Reporting Requirements** – the Treasurer will be required to issue the Treasurer’s report, preparation of which will be done in partnership with our accountants. In partnership again, this time with our Secretary, they will also be responsible for necessarily filings at Charity Commission, Companies House and HMRC.
- **Banking Mandate** – The Treasurer will be a second, supervisory, signatory on our banking and investment mandates. Strategic decisions regarding banking and investments will be taken at Board level.
- **Finance Officer** – The Treasurer will work closely with and delegate to our paid Finance Officer.
- **Specific Projects** – as required, including financial modelling, supported by or in partnership with, the Board and our reporting accountants.

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## How to apply

Total time commitment is estimated to be approximately four half days per month.

To register your interest please send a CV and a letter outlining why you wish to apply and how you meet the requirements of the role to the Secretary of the Gardens Trust, **Catriona Hoyes**. The deadline is **22 April 2026**.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to attend an informal discussion with a Trustee panel. The Gardens Trust is wholly committed to inclusion and diversity, and to building a culture and environment where everyone is appreciated for the contributions they make.

If you require any further information about the position, please contact **[Catriona.hoyes@thegardenstrust.org](mailto:Catriona.hoyes@thegardenstrust.org)**



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Credit: rudonipphoto.com



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