



## Garden Leader - Part Time Job Opportunity

Abbey Gardens is an open-access harvest garden in the East London borough of Newham where anyone is welcome to participate in the communal growing of flowers, fruit and vegetables. Unlike the traditional allotment system, at present no one has their own patch and users garden together at regular sessions led by an experienced gardener. The produce is shared among volunteers and is also available to the local community in return for donations from one of the garden's two Honesty Stalls. Abbey Gardens has been operating for over 10 years, thanks to the tireless local support, effort and engagement that has enabled the initiative to endure beyond its planned 2 year lifespan. The Garden continues to bring the local community together through free gardening sessions, team building days for local organisations, health and wellbeing events, food & craft markets and an annual Harvest Festival.

The Abbey Gardens site is one of only two Scheduled Ancient Monuments in Newham and contains the remains of a 12th-century Cistercian abbey where monks once ran a kitchen garden. In 2006 a group of local residents formed Friends of Abbey Gardens, initially with the aim of rescuing the derelict site from vandalism and neglect. With the commissioning of an arts project entitled "What Will The Harvest Be?", the plan was made to turn Abbey Gardens into an open-access park and harvest garden. The soil was found to be contaminated, but with time and effort this setback was overcome and a beautiful artist-designed harvest garden was created in 30 long raised beds.

The Trustees of the Garden, the founding artists and the volunteer community group are reaching out to find a new partner or organisation to move the garden to the next stage of evolution. In these roles, you have the opportunity to be involved in the evolution and improvement of a rare green space in urban London, which has incredible potential for creative and exciting gardening and social initiatives.

We are inviting expressions of interest in the position of:

### **Garden Activity Leader - Part time position - 12 noon - 4pm Saturdays, April 2019 - December 2019**

#### **Key Responsibilities:**

- Planning, resourcing and leading the weekly garden club sessions and implementing the garden planting scheme for each growing season.
- Providing both individual and group hands-on tuition and encouragement to members of the public who want to use the garden.  
Encouraging and recruiting new members of the group and maintaining a diverse volunteer interest
- Ensuring the use of safe working practices at the site, both for volunteer gardeners, and the safety of the visiting public.
- Conducting regular routine maintenance of the garden. .
- Ensure that site building/s and tools are well-maintained and secured as necessary.
- Recording garden activity (such as user numbers) accurately and distributing / collating supplied project evaluation materials as required.
- Undertaking any other related responsibilities commensurate with the evolving objectives of the post and the evolution of the garden, as may reasonably be requested by the Managing Committee and Board of Trustees.

#### **Person Specification**

- Enthusiastic and self-motivated person with a passion for getting people (of all ages and abilities) gardening and enjoying plants.

- Strong technical knowledge of horticulture, natural and organic growing practices, and have an innovative and creative gardening approach.
- Confident and clear communicator, able to share ideas and find solutions as the garden evolves activities and partnerships.  
Commercially minded for the success of the garden, seeking new opportunities to make the garden successful and relevant to the local community and partnerships.
- Local advocate for the project and comfortable working independently and in a collaborative team.

Please send your expressions of interest to: [admin@abbeygardens.org](mailto:admin@abbeygardens.org) by March 23rd 2019. Applications will be reviewed and selection process will take place w/c March 25th 2019.

<http://www.abbeygardens.org>