



Serpentine Walks, off Burlington Road, Buxton, SK17 9AR
email: info@serpentinecommunitygarden.org
website: www.serpentinecommunitygarden.org
facebook: [@serpentineprojectbuxton](https://www.facebook.com/serpentineprojectbuxton)

Growing Well Programme Coordinator

Background

SCGS <https://www.serpentinecommunitygarden.org/> is seeking an enthusiastic and dynamic person to design and deliver, with the support of SCGS trustees and other volunteers, a programme of activities supporting mental health and well-being. **Growing Well** is a project in partnership with local GP practices, High Peak Connex and local Care Homes, responding to individuals' needs with non-medicinal prescriptions for improved health. A pilot programme has proved successful. Further programmes we are now funded for three years by the National Lottery Community Fund.

The 2.5 hour sessions will be held on consecutive Mondays in eight week blocks launching in April 2022, subject to easing of Covid-19 movement restrictions. Four programmes will be offered in the first year: two focused on support for patients referred by GPs; two for clients referred by Care Homes. Additional programmes are anticipated for the second and third year of the contract, subject to demand and logistics. Programmes could be run on Fridays in future years if mutually convenient.

Patients referred by social prescribing practitioners attached to GP surgeries and accompanied clients referred by Care Homes will be supervised by the Programme Coordinator and supported by experienced volunteers with expertise in growing, education and well-being support.

- 8 week Monday programme (10.00 to 12.30) starting in April 2022 (with a group of either GP referrals or Care Home clients)
- 8 week Monday programme (10.00 to 12.30) from June - September 2022 with a summer break (with a group of either GP referrals or Care Home clients)
- 8 week Monday programme (10.00 to 12.30) starting in October 2022 (with a group of either GP referrals or Care Home clients)
- 8 week Monday programme (10.00 to 12.30) starting in February 2023 (with a group of either GP referrals or Care Home clients)

In addition to horticulture, the activities – including, but not limited to, plant

identification, observational drawing, craft and construction and creative and reflective writing – should engage people with the growing environment. Participants should be encouraged to spend time slowing down and focusing on details, listening, exploring texture and smell. They should be encouraged to share their experiences with their peers, accompanying carers and volunteers.

Fee and payment

The fee for this contract (design & delivery) is based on an hourly rate of £35 for five hours a week. In addition 30 hours set-up development time will be paid in the first year. Payment schedule will be agreed between the successful candidate and the trustees.

The successful candidate will:

- enthuse and engage group participants in learning and reflecting;
- develop and deliver learning activities and resources in outdoor settings using a range of interpretive techniques;
- evaluate programmes and contribute to ongoing improvement
- build partnerships with GPs practices, social prescribers and Care Homes;
- promote the service offered.

Applications should include:

- detailed statement of experience of similar projects;
- Method Statement describing programming ideas;
- Contact details of organisations from whom a reference may be sought.

Post-holder requirements	
General	
Essential	Desirable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent with people, flexible and responsive to diverse needs • Able to work comfortably with a range of ages, backgrounds and abilities • An enthusiastic communicator • Self-motivated and able to show initiative and enterprise • Able to work independently and in a small team • Highly organised and efficient • Experience as an educator working with adults 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An interest in or experience of horticulture • An interest in access in outdoor settings and experience of supporting people with mental health issues; • Working with volunteers; • Counselling experience and qualification.
Skills	
Essential	Desirable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An excellent communicator both verbal and in writing • An efficient organiser with a creative approach to problem solving • Familiar with basic gardening tools and techniques • Use of web and social media for promotion and communication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating learning resources, such as activity sheets
Experience	
Essential	Desirable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating and delivering learning events and activities in outdoor settings • Collaborating with learners from diverse communities and interest groups • Working in partnership with other educational and social care organisations • Risk assessment, health & safety, safeguarding vulnerable adults 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marketing and promoting programmes and activities • Evaluating learning activities and the impact of provision.

Applicants - should provide a statement of suitability (giving relevant examples against the key responsibilities and person specification). This should be a maximum of 1000 words and sent to info@serpentinecommunitygarden.org by 28 February 2022. Shortlisted applicants will be invited for interview.



SERPENTINE COMMUNITY GARDEN SOCIETY

About Us - We provide a space for growing, wellbeing and learning based on the principles of community, sustainability and protecting the environment. We hope that every visitor or volunteer takes something away with them - a seed or plant, something new and surprising they've learned or just "wow what a great place SCG is!".

The object of our charity - a registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation - is to advance the education of the public in the subject of horticulture and horticultural practices.

In addition we aim to:

- teach and learn about sustainable growing practices in the High Peak climate;
- share knowledge with our volunteers and visitors;
- introduce initiatives and practices that support the aim of long term food security;
- build and maintain an environment where all people are welcome, enjoying what they are doing and having social interaction with others.

SCG is a unique community garden in the heart of Buxton, Derbyshire. Our site has been involved in horticultural activity since the 1890s and has long history of growing flowers for the enjoyment of locals and visitors.

The site was gifted to the people of Buxton by the 7th Duke of Devonshire via the Buxton Garden Company and then eventually moved to Council control. Historical records show that in the 1890 Conveyance the Buxton Garden Company or its successors would "lay out and for ever hereafter appropriate use and maintain the same (i.e. the land comprised in the 1890 Conveyance) as and for an Ornamental Garden and Nursery Grounds only and for no other purpose whatsoever".

At its height this site was producing approximately 60,000 bedding plants for the Pavilion Gardens and other parks in the High Peak. The nursery was abandoned by High Peak Borough Council in 1993 and fell into a state of disrepair.

In 2014 a group of volunteers (originally part of Transition Buxton) took over the site. In the last 5 years they have brought it back to life by successfully growing veg, herbs and flowers. We have had challenges to face. In 2018 we were facing eviction by the Council which wanted the land for residential development. Our successful campaign, with strong support by the people of Buxton, saw that threat removed. We have agreed 'heads of terms for a long term lease with the current council, which will enable us to further develop the site and restore the existing buildings. This will give us the opportunity to provide much needed indoor space for the benefit of our volunteers and visitors. The site is still a work in progress and we have a 5 year development plan.

We have challenging growing conditions: we are 300 metres (1000 feet) above sea level and at this relatively high elevation, Buxton tends to be cooler than surrounding towns, with daytime temperature typically around 2 °C lower than Manchester. In a year, Buxton averages 171 days with 1mm or more of rain, so we also experience rather damp growing conditions.

We currently open four mornings a week for general volunteers and visitors, providing shelter as needed for plants and people within temporary structures. In addition we offer forest school based activities for groups of primary school children on Saturdays and social prescribing courses on Monday mornings. We have the capacity and commitment to extend the service, both in opening arrangements and in improved, permanent facilities. Our ambition is to restore and refurbish original stone buildings, creating social space, workshop rooms and a kitchen; to erect a single storey new building showcasing environmental sustainability; and to continue to build community engagement. We are currently raising the necessary sums for professional services.

Serpentine Community Garden is overseen by a board of trustees. The site is run by volunteers and is currently operating under precautionary restrictions to limit Covid-19 transmission.

Our Values - The development of SCG is based on principles of sustainability, respect for each other and protecting the environment. This means that we:

- grow produce using organic principles;
- source materials as locally as possible and whenever we can, recycle resources that are already available to us on site;
- improve biodiversity of the site by growing plants, including native wild flowers that are beneficial to insects and creating a habitat which encourages wildlife and insects to flourish;
- focus on growing, collecting and sharing (with the local community and visitors) heritage varieties of seed to improve biodiversity;
- encourage volunteers and visitors to grow as gardeners, active citizens and guardians of the natural world.

Further Information - This post is funded through an award from the National Lottery Community Fund. We have made great progress over seven years. Development funding for three years would embed that progress and provide a solid foundation, rooted in the community, for releasing the full potential of this project.

This is an exciting time for Serpentine Community Garden and you will be joining us as we move towards establishing the site as a long-term resource for the people of Buxton and the surrounding communities. The role is ideal for anyone looking to build their experience of community work.

If you would like to discuss the role further please e-mail info@serpentinecommunitygarden.org to arrange a telephone conversation.