



Serpentine Walks, off Burlington Road, Buxton, SK17 9AR
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GARDENISER - Role Description & Person Specification

We need someone to become our **Gardeniser**. This is a key co-ordinating role within the Community Garden and is essential to our continuing development. The role supports cohesion, participation and social inclusion within the project.

If you have experience of project and people management, along with great communication skills then this role could be for you. You will need to be a strong advocate of the garden with experience of growing and gardening. Key responsibilities and Person Specification are set out below.

This is a paid role for 15 hours a week for 46 weeks a year at a rate of £25 per hour starting in 1 April 2022 and ending on 31 March 2025. **Please note that the successful applicant will need to be self-employed.** Hours, the majority of which will be on-site, may be adjusted by agreement within the annual commitment to reflect seasonality. You will need to be onsite regularly (at least 3 days a week, which may vary by agreement); this will include some weekend sessions. We expect applicants to be based in Buxton or the surrounding areas.

You will work closely with our Board of Trustees and Growing Team.

Key Responsibilities of the role:

- volunteer co-ordination (volunteer recruitment, induction, creating volunteer opportunities, overseeing, coordinating and evaluating volunteer activity);
- management of ad hoc projects - for example collaboration with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust on Nature Tots programmes, contribution to preparation for annual events;
- procurement of goods and services (including management of any designated budget) - e.g. ordering of soil, new tools etc;
- co-ordination of site activities (eg who is doing what) and preparation for events and online meetings and workshop sessions;
- working with volunteers, supporters and trustees to review the impact of our work on site and in the community;
- promoting the garden by raising awareness of the garden in the local community;
- communicating with volunteers, supporters, partners, the general public and other community organisations ;

- working with volunteers and trustees to develop and operating plans for the garden;
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- health and safety;
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- named contact person for reporting any safeguarding issues;
- reporting to trustees.

Person Specification

Essential	Desirable
General	
Excellent with people, flexible and responsive to diverse needs Able to work comfortably with a range of ages, backgrounds and abilities An enthusiastic and experienced communicator Self-motivated and able to show initiative and enterprise Able to work independently and in a small team Interest in and experience of horticulture Highly organised and efficient	Work within a community based project
Skills & Experience	
Project Management People Management An efficient organiser with a creative approach to problem solving Familiar with gardening techniques	Working with volunteers Budget Management Networking across organisations Health & Safety Procurement Social media familiarity

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.