

# THE NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDEN OF WALES

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## Volunteering Opportunities At the First Botanic Garden of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

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*Help us to make a difference to  
the planet and be a part of living  
history in Wales*

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## WHY WE NEED VOLUNTEERS?

As with a lot of charities in the UK we have limited resources bestowed upon us. We still only receive less than 20% of our funding from government sources. The rest we have to find from entrance fees, memberships, events, retail sales, donations and corporate activities. There are huge demands upon these limited resources - heating, electricity, maintenance, marketing and wages. Many of our permanent and part-time staff often donate their spare time to the Garden. The Garden's ethos and its mission to create awareness of and conserve diminishing plant species here in Wales is paramount. We also firmly believe in the importance of educating children and adults about the symbiotic link that we humans have with the flora and fauna of the planet.

The marvellous support of our volunteers over the years has assisted us in establishing, creating, building, maintaining and conserving the Garden. Their dedicated support has undeniably helped the Garden to achieve world renowned status today – not a bad recommendation for our volunteers!

## CURRENT VOLUNTEERS

Our current band of volunteers come from a diverse sector of the community; from 'empty nesters' whose children have left home, students and the unemployed, parents with a few hours to spare, to retired

people looking for new and rewarding experiences. Some of our Members have become volunteers over the years and vice versa.

Most volunteers probably live within 20 miles of the Garden but a few dedicated and committed individuals come from as far away as Newport, Gwent, Cardigan and St David's. The diverse nature of our volunteers and the wide sphere of skills and experiences that they have to offer, complement and assist staff, who value and recognise the volunteers' contribution.

## WHY BECOME A VOLUNTEER?

To help others for the betterment of all is a basic human instinct. In return, volunteers hopefully learn more about themselves and positively gain from their experiences. At the Garden, volunteering will enable you to be part of a marvellous and unique environmental enterprise for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Volunteers can make a difference in a variety of ways. It is not always the biggest jobs that have the biggest impact. We offer volunteers the opportunity to make new friends, meet people from all over the world, learn new skills and share old ones. Volunteers can go home at the end of the day having experienced something new and contributed to the future of conservation and the environment, all in a glorious setting.

## DEPARTMENTS WITHIN THE GARDEN

The success of the National Botanic Garden of Wales is as a result of many different departments working in tandem to produce the 'face' of the Garden that visitors see and experience.

There are opportunities to assist and support the various departments and a brief summary of the different activities that might be suited to your particular skills, or where you feel you might be most able to help are as follows:-

### Horticulture

This could involve working outside in the main gardens eg the Broadwalk, Mediterranean Garden, Double Walled Garden, Woods of the World or, inside in the Great Glasshouse and the nursery.

NB Opportunities to work in the horticultural department are limited to Monday to Friday and between the hours of 08.00 and 4pm. Please bring wet-weather gear, suitable footwear and gloves.

### Garden Maintenance

The maintenance department is exceptionally busy and help with maintenance of paths, buildings and displays along with painting and decorating, mending and maintaining wheel chairs are examples of how volunteers can assist us.

### Administration

The marketing and membership offices are always a hive of activity, dealing with mail

shots, new memberships, renewals and sending out the members' magazine. Help and support is always welcome along with reception duties.

### Education

The education department is always seeking the help and support of volunteers who can assist with supervising school groups, activities during school holidays, etc

### Catering and Retail

The Garden Gift Shop and Plant Sales sell a variety of goods and assistance with stocking shelves, labelling, wrapping gifts and helping customers would be most welcome. Assistance in the Seasons restaurant is always welcome, especially help with table clearing, and washing up during major events and peak season.

### Research & Conservation

Work placements may be available to graduates who wish to pursue a career in conservation and research.

### Estate Farm & National Nature Reserve

With our own herd of Welsh Blacks and a flock of rare breed Welsh Sheep, opportunities are available for those wishing to gain more experience in agriculture and help with forthcoming projects on the National Nature Reserve.

### Library

Set up and run by our volunteers, help is always required with cataloguing, filing, data inputting and dealing with visitor enquiries.

### Buggy Driving and AV Theatre

"Become a buggy driver and meet the world" should be our motto. You never know who you'll be ferrying up the Broadwalk!

### Talks & Tour Guiding

If you like history, love gardening and enjoy public speaking, then we are always looking for volunteers to assist with Talks and Tours.

Other departments include Bee Keeping, the Art Gallery, the Botanic Arts and the Gatehouse (main visitor entrance).

**N.B. It must be noted that we are not a training establishment; we operate a 'buddy' system and will arrange for you to carry out activities either alongside a member of staff or fellow volunteer.**

## BECOMING A VOLUNTEER

We hope that the information in this brochure will not only encourage you to become a volunteer at the Garden but in so doing, you will ultimately become an Ambassador for the Garden not only here in Wales, but wherever you go in the World .

For further information please contact the Volunteer Co-ordinator:-

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