

Head Gardener – Asthall Manor

We are currently recruiting for an experienced, physically fit and hands-on Head Gardener to lead our small friendly team on a full-time basis here at Asthall Manor. Applicants should be experienced Head or Senior Gardeners with a thorough understanding of seasonal horticultural practices, have excellent plant knowledge and ideally, academic horticultural qualifications at RHS Level 3 or above/equivalent. Good physical fitness is of paramount importance for this role, as is a genuine love of plants.

The garden at Asthall Manor is approximately eight-acres and was designed by Isabel & Julian Bannerman in 1998. It has also now become the home of **on form**, our biennial sculpture exhibition. There are some smaller open days and group visits but for much of the time, the garden is private and quiet.

The successful applicant will work alongside and manage a small team of part-time staff, freelancers and occasional volunteers. The Head Gardener will work closely with the owner and must be sympathetic to the original garden design.

Duties may include:

- Pruning (especially Roses)
- Hedge Cutting
- Lake and stream maintenance
- Orchard pruning and management
- Woodland maintenance
- Development and year-round maintenance of wildflower areas
- Development and maintenance of formal borders, herbaceous and shrubs
- Ordering of seeds, plants and garden sundries
- Advising on necessity for arboricultural work
- Weed and pest control of site using organic methods
- Seasonal bulb planting
- Plan and implement planting schemes
- Production & management of all compost and mulch (in-house)
- Maintenance of all lawn areas, drives and pathways
- Management of irrigation system
- Pool Care, including plant maintenance and water feature
- Arrange maintenance of garden machinery
- Liaise with contractors and suppliers
- Working with sculptors and curators during exhibition

Our estate utilises organic principles throughout the garden. A significant portion of the role will include rose pruning, so applicants are required to have demonstrable experience in this area.

Good attention to detail, a common sense approach, strong communication skills and the ability to provide instruction with a positive, constructive manner are essential. Applicants must have good time management and planning abilities.

This position offers plenty of scope for initiative and creativity. Working hours are 08:00 to 17:00, Monday to Friday, with occasional weekend work (with overtime paid). A full driving licence is required for this position.

Generous salary commensurate with experience