

MUSEUM *of* BRANDS

Experienced Garden Volunteer

The beautiful, award-winning Memorial Garden behind the Museum of Brands was established in 1990 as a peaceful oasis for those living with HIV/AIDS and using the hospice and other services provided in this building when it was the London Lighthouse. The sheltered garden is described by visitors as '*a haven*', '*an oasis*', and '*a hidden gem*'. The garden is looked after by a small group of volunteers and the Gardener who originally developed it, working within a very small budget.

This is a small but complex garden, thoughtfully designed and rich in variety. You'll find opportunities to work on a wide range of tasks — from detailed pruning and planting to structural maintenance and seasonal care. It's an excellent setting for anyone looking to gain broad hands-on experience, whether you're training in horticulture or simply want to deepen your skills in a purposeful environment.

We are looking for experienced garden volunteers to support the Gardener with the following:

- General garden maintenance including weeding, pruning, deadheading, and mulching
- Planting and replanting seasonal flowers, shrubs, and small trees
- Watering plants and maintaining irrigation as needed
- Lifting and moving heavy pots, tools, compost bags, and garden waste
- Ladder work for tasks such as trimming hedges, cleaning gutters, or maintaining climbing plants
- Sawing and light carpentry, including pruning larger branches and assisting with minor repairs
- Clearing leaves and debris to keep paths and seating areas safe and accessible
- Maintaining and cleaning garden tools and equipment

What we're looking for:

- A passion for gardening and some hands-on experience (professional or personal)
- Either a trainee gardener, horticulture student, or someone already working in gardening or landscaping or an experienced gardener wanting to give back through volunteer work
- Willingness to carry out practical tasks, including some lifting and ladder work
- Comfortable working outdoors in different weather conditions
- A positive, team-focused attitude with good attention to safety

What you'll gain:

- Valuable hands-on gardening experience in a unique, award-winning setting
- The chance to be part of a friendly, purpose-driven team
- The satisfaction of helping maintain a space that's deeply meaningful to others

Training and support:

You will first be invited for a meeting with our gardener, Gary. Volunteers are given relevant training for any tasks carried out, opportunities for regular feedback and we remain open to suggestions on how we can improve the volunteer experience.

Availability:

Our garden volunteers currently come in together on a Thursday. However volunteering in the garden can occur on any day while the Museum is open (Monday-Saturday 10-5, Sunday 11-5). We are looking volunteers who can volunteer over a period of at least 3 months. Ideally you will be able to start immediately, although this is not essential.

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Expenses:

Travel expenses up to £5 will be paid, with up to an additional £5 for lunch expenses if you are here for over 6 hours.

Additional information:

We invite anyone interested in this role to apply with brief covering note outlining your gardening experience to our Museum Manager, Bekki (rebecca@museumofbrands.com) with the subject line Garden Volunteer

Please note: Applicants from some overseas countries are required to have a relevant work permit or student visa to volunteer in the U.K. We'll need to see this for our records before volunteering can commence.