

Chair of Trustees (Voluntary) – Disability Charity

Missenden Walled Garden CIO was established in 2017 and is based in the beautifully peaceful grounds of the Grade 2 listed Missenden Abbey in Great Missenden.

For several years the Garden was run by Bucks County Council as a day care facility for adults with learning difficulties. It faced closure in 2016, and was rescued by a group of parents, carers and supporters. We now have a thriving day support provision for 40 adults with learning difficulties and/or mental health issues, of whom 15 attend the site on any given day - an increase of over 30% in our first year.

Our focus is on delivering horticultural based activities on our five acre site, with additional creative and therapeutic activities such as music, arts, crafts and drama. We are also developing skills and training opportunities for our gardeners to enable them to undertake horticultural projects both on our site and in the local community, where we fulfil a range of garden maintenance contracts.

We are quite literally changing the lives of people, who may otherwise be isolated, by giving them access to supported and meaningful opportunities, as well as the means to feel fulfilled and part of a team. The importance for our gardeners of the charity's objectives cannot be overstated.

Our income is in the region of £200,000 per annum. We employ five staff, including a CEO and Operations Manager. Our day to day costs are covered by client gardener fees. We focus our fundraising efforts on developing the existing site, and the facilities for our gardeners, staff and our growing band of over 20 volunteers. Our aim is to make the site accessible and available for local community groups. We are also investing in professional quality equipment and industry standard training for our gardeners.

We are now seeking to appoint a new Chair of Trustees to lead the Board through the next phase of our growth and development, so that we can offer life changing support to as many people as possible.

Experience of leading and working in a team is obviously essential, preferably with a Board of Trustees or at Executive level. Experience of disability support is desirable but not essential - empathy with and the desire to improve the lives of those we support is more important. As Chair you will have regular meetings with the CEO and lead up to 6 Board meetings a year. If successful, you will take over from the current Chair in December 2018.

If you are interested in finding out more about us and what we do, please get in touch in the first instance with Trustee Wendy Dunn: wendy@missendenwalledgarden.org
You can also find out more on our website: www.missendenwalledgarden.org

We believe in equal opportunities and so welcome applications from a broad range of backgrounds.

Thank you for your interest in the Missenden Walled Garden CIO