



Dove Cottage Gardener

Reporting to: Curator & Head of Learning

Job purpose: This is a hands-on role, working with the Curator & Head of Learning, Senior Guide and Estate Worker, to maintain and develop Dove Cottage garden in keeping with the Wordsworths' philosophy, layout, planting and use. The postholder will also contribute to interpretation and learning programmes (including the giving of tours) focused on the garden and the Wordsworths' interest in gardening generally.

Salary: £9 an hour

Working relationships: The postholder would be a member of the Curatorial and Learning team, working on a day to day basis with the Dove Cottage Senior Guide & Estate Worker.

Hours: 300 hours a year, may entail some weekend and evening working.

Overview

The Wordsworth Trust is based at Dove Cottage in Grasmere, where William Wordsworth lived during his 'Golden Decade' (1799–1808) and wrote most of what is now regarded as his most important work. We have been described as 'the finest literary museum in the world'.

Dove Cottage and the adjacent Wordsworth Museum are visited by tens of thousands of people each year. As well as operating a busy visitor attraction, the Wordsworth Trust maintains most of the conservation area of Town End, looks after a unique collection of manuscripts, books and fine art, and runs thriving education, exhibitions, events and community outreach programmes. We are also a centre for international research and scholarship.

The Wordsworth Trust is funded by Arts Council England as a National Portfolio Organisation and by South Lakeland District Council as a Strategic Cultural Partner. We are part of the Cumbria Museum Consortium, together with the Tullie House Museum & Art Gallery Trust (Carlisle) and Lakeland Arts (Kendal and Bowness-on-Windermere).

'Reimagining Wordsworth'

In March 2018, the Heritage Lottery Fund awarded the Wordsworth Trust a delivery grant of £4.1 million which, combined with funding from other individuals and institutions, puts us on course to make profound and exciting changes to our site and activities in time to celebrate the 250th anniversary of Wordsworth's birth in 2020. The



project will revitalise our site and will includes conserving Dove Cottage and reinterpreting its interiors, expanding the Wordsworth Museum and creating a new learning centre, café and retail experience.

'Reimagining Wordsworth' aims to encourage more people, from a more diverse range of backgrounds, to participate in and be inspired by our literary and cultural heritage. Our objectives from the project are to realise the full potential of the Trust's heritage to provide lasting, life-changing experiences, to reach a larger and more diverse range of audiences and to create a more financially and environmentally sustainable organisation.

Dove Cottage Garden

The garden-orchard behind Dove Cottage was described by Wordsworth as 'the loveliest spot man hath ever known'. It is a much-loved place today in which visitors are invited to enjoy the view of the valley, listen to poetry and write their own thoughts in poetry and prose.

William and Dorothy Wordsworth described the garden as their 'little domestic slip of mountain', rising as it does steeply to a terrace on which the poet walked to and fro as he composed his poetry. A twentieth century 'bower' now occupies a space on the terrace near where a 'moss hut' stood in the Wordsworths' time. The views from the terrace are magnificent and extend to two thirds of Grasmere vale.

The garden and orchard extended further into the woodland (some of which is owned by the Trust) beyond the present boundary stone wall, thought to have been added after the Wordsworths left in 1808. Here may have been the orchard, a place where the family spent much time: reading, writing, drinking tea, composing and writing. Dorothy often writes in her journal: 'we went up into the orchard'. Many of William's poems were inspired by its plants and wildlife, or moments spent there.

Letters, poems and Dorothy's Grasmere journal identify plants the Wordsworths found in the garden, or planted there themselves (often brought back from walks in the area). Where possible, these plants have been reintroduced to the garden in recent years, as we seek to create a 'semi-wild' garden in sympathy to that of c.1800.

With 'Reimagining Wordsworth', a major HLF funded project, we seek to conserve and reinterpret the site of Dove Cottage and Wordsworth Museum and the green spaces which surround them. The 'new' visitor experience will open in early 2020. Before then, we are planning to take further steps to make it as they would have known it, including the introduction of appropriately chosen fruit trees to create a small orchard in keeping with the descriptions we have in letters and journals. We welcome ideas that will make Dove Cottage garden more Wordsworthian in its spirit and appearance.



Job Description

Main purpose:

1. To maintain and develop Dove Cottage garden in keeping with the Wordsworths' philosophy, layout, planting and use;
2. To research the history of Dove Cottage garden, and its association with the lives and writings of the Wordsworths in particular;
3. To contribute to interpretation and learning programmes, including the giving of tours, focused on the garden and the Wordsworths' interest in gardening generally.

Principal duties involve working with the Curator & Head of Learning and the Senior Guide to:

- maintain Dove Cottage garden to an agreed look and feel
- develop the garden, with the Curator & Head of Learning, Estate Worker and (where appropriate) external experts, in keeping with its Wordsworthian associations based on historical evidence from their time
- share knowledge with visitors including through tours of the garden and occasional talks
- check the condition of plants for condition, pests and disease
- share stories about the garden on social media in line with the Wordsworth Trust social media policy
- develop a sufficient knowledge of the Wordsworths and gardening to inform the above duties

Other

- To be mindful of health and safety at all times in relation to own working practices as well as the health and safety of visitors and other staff members
- To undertake such other duties as may reasonably be requested by the Estate Manager
- To work with discretion and sensibility, when dealing with visitors to the site
- To work within the Wordsworth Trust's agreed policies and practices.

Person Specification

We are looking for someone with the following essential and desirable characteristics:

Essential Criteria

- Hands on, relevant practical experience in professional gardening/horticulture
- Desire to conduct individual research to better your knowledge of the garden and its history
- Ability to work alone and as part of a team
- Commitment to the vision for 'Reimagining Wordsworth'



- A knowledge/interest in the Wordsworths and their lives at Grasmere
- Commitment to creating and working in a safe environment

Desirable Criteria

- Experience of interacting with visitors
- Knowledge of regional horticulture in Cumbria
- Knowledge of health and safety procedures

Please return completed application forms to Catherine Foster c.foster@wordsworth.org.uk by noon on 15 March. Please note CVs will not be accepted. Interviews will take place in the week beginning 25 March.



Dove Cottage Gardener

February 2019

Terms and conditions

Contract	Part time; permanent
Salary	£9 per hour
Pension	Opportunity to join a defined contribution pension scheme with The People's Pension
Reporting to	Curator & Head of Learning
Hours	300 hours per annum; may entail some weekend and evening working.
Holidays	Holiday accrues at a rate of 20 days plus bank holidays. This will increase to 22 days plus bank holidays from 2019.
Workplace	The Wordsworth Trust's premises at Dove Cottage, Grasmere, Cumbria, LA22 9SH
Benefits	Discounts in the Wordsworth Trust's shop.

The deadline for applications is noon on Friday 15 March. Interviews will take place during the week beginning 25 March.

We regret that we can only notify those applicants who are shortlisted for interview.