**Head Gardener**

We are looking for an experienced Head Gardener for our Charity, the Charterhouse, one of London's most iconic sites. Situated on 7 acres in central London the site has a fascinating history, and boasts stunning views and gardens, right in the middle of the City of London. The Charterhouse is an almshouse and museum based near the Barbican, providing residential care to a community of elderly people since 1611.

You will be responsible for ensuring that the gardens continue to play a central role in displaying the Charterhouse to its best advantage, taking into account the historic nature of the site. To give you an idea of how wonderful the site is, please do review the book the current job holder, who is retiring, has written: <http://www.thecharterhouse.org/visit-us/shop/behind-walls-press-lr/>

The Head Gardener will manage and supervise a team consisting of directly employed staff, volunteers, contractors and consultants, and work towards maintaining the overall appearance of the grounds within Charterhouse, which will in turn require that high standards of garden maintenance are carried out throughout the year. The job holder will also run a Garden Tour, with members of the public, on a monthly basis, six months a year.

Typically you will ensure that yourself and the team, in accordance with current Health and Safety regulations:

* Manage and supervise all gardens and grounds’ health and safety
* Maintain all beds, borders and containers in a weed free condition
* Prepare, plant and maintain bedding displays and containers
* Maintain the lawns by scarifying, aerating, controlling weeds and fertilising at appropriate times
* Dig the borders as required
* Apply compost/fertiliser to shrub and flowerbeds
* Prune all roses, shrubs and climbing plants as required
* Trim and maintain hedges at the appropriate time
* Mow the lawns during the growing season, and ensure that grass edges are trimmed as required
* Sweep all paths and roadways as required and remove any litter daily. Leaf sweep throughout the autumn and apply grit/salt to hard surface areas, as required during cold weather
* Clean and maintain a tidy shed and greenhouse, and all garden furniture and and arrange servicing of all garden machinery and tools as required. Repaint/stain annually as required
* Source all necessary plants, shrubs and seed Propagate and make full use of the greenhouse

The ideal candidate will have a Level 3 or above horticultural qualification and/or equivalent experience within larger gardens.

To be successful in this role, you will need:

* A strong knowledge and vision of horticulture, and how essential the gardens are to the life of the community of the Charterhouse
* Level 3 or above horticultural qualification and/or equivalent experience within larger gardens
* IT literate
* Management experience or able to demonstrate the right potential for it
* Good presentation skills and personable, with a friendly approach
* Able to interact with stakeholders, Brothers, staff, visitors and to direct volunteers
* Knowledge of Health and Safety regulations
* Adaptable to different working conditions
* Understanding that you are part of a community

A competitive salary package will be offered to the right candidate. In addition to salary, Charterhouse offers 30 days’ paid holiday, life insurance and a pension plan. To apply please email your CV and cover letter to leslie.kosovsky@thecharterhouse.org.