

Gardening Volunteer: Role Description

Purpose

To help with the general appearance and upkeep of the Museum's walled garden.

Reasons for getting involved

- Meeting like-minded people – fellow volunteers, visitors, and researchers.
- Learning new skills and gaining work-related experience in a visitor-facing environment.
- Deepening your knowledge of Charles Dickens, his life and his novels.
- Being invited to talks, events and other social gatherings.

Time commitment

Monday to Sunday 10:00- 14:00, 13:00 – 17:00

A minimum of 4 hours a week commitment for a three-month period.

Responsibilities

- To carry out general garden duties e.g. watering, weeding, pruning, dead heading, planting and leaf collection
- To dig, plant and maintain the garden as briefed by the Museum team.
- To maintain good health and safety practice.
- To answer any questions that the visitors have about the collection, Charles Dickens or operational aspects of the museum where appropriate.
- To understand and implement the fire evacuation procedure.

Skills needed

- A good knowledge of general garden skills.
- A friendly and helpful manner.
- Ability to work individually and as part of a team.
- Willingness to learn a range of information about Charles Dickens.
- A reasonable level of physical dexterity required to move around the garden.
- Ability to build strong working relationships with staff and other volunteers.

Please note: You must also be at least 18 years of age to volunteer at the Charles Dickens Museum.

Charles Dickens Museum

Expenses

We are happy to reimburse any reasonable out of pocket expenses for up to £10 per shift.

Background Information

The Charles Dickens Museum is a fully accredited independent museum dedicated to promoting the life and work of Charles Dickens, writer, journalist and social reformer. Our mission is to be the world's leading centre for the study, appreciation and enjoyment of Charles Dickens's life and works.

The Charles Dickens Museum was founded in 1925 and is constituted as a charity. The Museum holds the world's finest and most comprehensive collection of material relating to Dickens's life and work. It was here at 48 Doughty Street that Dickens established himself as a writer in the 1830s and rose to international fame.

The Museum also houses an extensive archive and research library used continually by leading scholars, and it is the headquarters of the international Dickens Fellowship. 48 Doughty Street is a place of pilgrimage for people from all over the world – fans, scholars, researchers, writers – and it is a place of learning for thousands of children and young people. We receive 200-300 visitors daily, as well as 50+ school pupils each day during term time.

In addition to permanent displays, the Museum presents an ongoing series of temporary exhibitions exploring different aspects of Dickens's life, as well as special events.

How to get involved

If you are interested, please email Adam Kalinowski, Volunteer Coordinator at adam.kalinowski@dickensmuseum.com for more information or download the registration form from Museum's website and post it to Charles Dickens Museum, 48 Doughty Street, WC1N 2LX London.

Find out more on <http://dickensmuseum.com/pages/volunteer>.