

The Somerset & Dorset Railway Heritage Trust, Midsomer Norton Station

Vacancy for Head of Grounds and Gardens

If you have a passion for gardening and experience in grounds management then you may be the person we are looking for at Midsomer Norton Station. A vacancy has arisen at the Somerset and Dorset Heritage Railway for the volunteer position of Head of Grounds and Gardens.

In the 1950s in what many consider to be the heyday of the S&D, Midsomer Norton Station had a great tradition of excellence in the maintenance of its gardens and grounds, regularly winning the best station award. Today's volunteer team have kept up that tradition by regularly entering the 'Its Your Neighbourhood' class of Southwest In Bloom. Working from level 1 establishing, through level 3 improving, the station has now achieved several top level 5s 'Outstanding'. Achieving this level includes work to improve the local environment and working with the community all of which has been proved outstanding at the station.

Now the Trust has a vacancy for Head of Grounds and Gardens to take forward the effective management of the grounds and its access to enable effective management of the station environment. They will ensure interaction and co-operation between all the volunteer groups and visitors. As with all roles within the Trust, the Head of Grounds is a voluntary position and includes the following principal aspects:

- Development and maintenance of the Trust's gardens, open spaces and landscape areas, including seasonal flower displays.
- Defining and managing the Department budget annually.
- Health and Safety management of the volunteers at work and with visitors.
- Leading and developing the team of volunteers within the Department, including training and organising access to appropriate tools and equipment.
- Improving access for visitors with reduced mobility.
- Supporting the Trustees in conservation plans, planning permission and liaison with environmental agencies
- The management of habitats associated with the railway and liaison with local environmental groups
- Liaison with other Department Heads, both within the Trust and the Operating Company.

An interest in railways and railway preservation is not required. A weekly presence at the station is desirable but not essential.

If you have the skills, experience and passion for managing gardens and grounds more generally, including experience relevant to at least some of the aspects listed above, and would like the opportunity to apply these to the exciting project underway at Midsomer Norton, please get in touch with us either at the station on Silver Street or via the website.

Tell us why you would be interested in taking on this role and why you would be a suitable candidate. The Trust looks forward to hearing how you would build on the progress achieved to date in making this small part of Somerset "Serene & Delightful" once again.

If you are interested in applying for this position or would simply like more information please drop an email to: [**chairmansdrht@sdjr.co.uk**](mailto:chairmansdrht@sdjr.co.uk)