



### **Do you want to steer a new generation of gardeners?**

The Working For Gardeners Association (WFGA), a national horticultural education charity, is looking for a new Chair of its Board of Trustees.

The WFGA, a charity that change lives, is going through important and exciting times. The last few years have seen it develop and expand to become a significant voice in horticultural training and education. The new Chair will be able to build on this strong and healthy legacy to take the WFGA forward and continue to change lives through horticulture.

One of the key features of the WFGA is its unique trainee scheme; the Work & Retrain as a Gardener scheme (WRAGS), has seen over 1,200 graduates enter the world of horticulture equipped with robust practical skills learnt alongside expert gardeners. Many trainees made the shift to horticulture from other walks of life, relieved to find this unique, part-time, paid scheme to propel them on their way. It is open to anyone, whether they are an experienced gardener or an eager newcomer, so long as they are enthusiastic and prepared to work hard.

But the WFGA is not just about WRAGS. Since its inception in 1899, when it supported women in agriculture and horticulture, the Charity has provided a gateway to anyone wanting to expand their horticultural knowledge and experience. Offering members a wide variety of workshops and training days which are held in some of the country's best and most progressive gardens, as well as offering tuition in specialised and useful skills that are hard to find elsewhere.

As mentioned, this is important and exciting time for the Charity and we are looking for a visionary Chair to continue to build on for the future for all the membership.

### The Ideal Candidate...

- ... has an understanding of what the Charity is and a vision of how it might develop
- ... is enthusiastic and knowledgeable about horticulture and gardens
- ... has contacts within the industry and is happy to be outward facing to create more
- ... must be a UK resident (ex NI)
- ... ideally has experience of charity governance and working with, or as part of, a Board of Trustees

Applicants are invited to write a letter with a CV, offering their vision and what they can bring to the role.

### The role of Chair of Trustees includes:

- \* Leading the Charity, its staff, trustees and members as it embarks on the next exciting stage of its development, while keeping in mind its mission statement – ‘Advancing horticulture – Changing lives’
- \* Regular communication with a small team based in our Gloucestershire HQ, providing support where needed, and maintaining efficient and effective management
- \* Working closely with our WRAGS Regional Manager Liaison to mentor and guide our self-employed Regional Managers around the country
- \* Working with the Treasurer to ensure the continued sound financial health of the Charity and ensuring transparent financial accountability and governance by managing relevant systems
- \* Chairing four-five board meetings pa, including the AGM, and working with the support of trustees to fulfil our responsibilities
- \* Acting as external spokesperson for the Charity, cultivating and building networks within the industry

This is a voluntary role. The role requires varying amounts of time and commitment every week. The position is for a three-year term with an additional three-year roll-over. (A maximum of two terms has been set by the Charity’s Articles of Association). Plenty of support would be given by existing Chair and other Trustees.