



## **Volunteer Role Description**

### **Kearsney Parks Gardening Volunteer**

#### **About Kearsney Parks**

Kearsney Abbey and Russell Gardens are the most popular, historic parks in Dover. They are located 2.5 miles north west of Dover town centre in the Alkham Valley, next to the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Both parks are carefully designed landscapes. Thousands of tonnes of earth were moved, and trees planted to create the slopes, woods, water courses and lakes.

The River Dour, a spring-fed chalk stream, flows through the parks. Combined with ornamental lakes, this gives the parks a picturesque landscape style. The origins of both parks can be traced back to grand country houses and estates built for prominent local industrialists in the early 19th and 20th centuries.

#### **Outline of the role**

Join our fantastic gardening team at Kearsney Parks to help keep our parks looking spectacular for our local community all year round.

As a gardening volunteer you will have the opportunity to work in a beautiful setting, with a wide variety of tasks which will include; weeding, planting, pruning, orchard maintenance, scrub clearing, border and edging maintenance, river and pond clearing, seed collection and planting, lime chalk maintenance, footpath clearing and general plant maintenance.

We need gardening volunteers all year round, especially during the spring and summer months. If you would like to make a real difference to Kearsney Parks, this is a great volunteer opportunity.

#### **Time**

Flexible time commitment, many of our events are held at weekends. Our need for volunteers increases over the summer months.

#### **Skills and experience required**

- knowledge of plants and shrubs and general garden maintenance
- interest in our parks and the great outdoors
- flexibility to carry out a variety of tasks
- willingness to spend time out of doors in all weathers
- enthusiastic about maintaining Kearsney Parks





### **The benefits of the role**

This role will give you the opportunity to:

- meet new people and make new friends and dedicate yourself to a rewarding role
- develop new skills and take on new challenges
- help Kearsney Parks run more smoothly and make a difference to our local parks

### **What Kearsney Parks will provide**

In return for your valuable help we aim to ensure that volunteering for Kearsney Parks is a fulfilling and worthwhile experience. We will provide:

- induction and training with ongoing support
- loan of gloves and all relevant tools and safety equipment
- refreshments
- further training where applicable

Kearsney Parks is open to volunteers from all backgrounds. Anyone who would like to get involved is welcome to apply.

### **Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)**

Volunteers who will be directly and significantly involved with children or vulnerable adults will have to undergo a DBS check.

### **How to apply**

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, contact [kearsney.parks@dover.gov.uk](mailto:kearsney.parks@dover.gov.uk), requesting a volunteer registration form. The completed form can be returned to the same email address. Or, you can write to Kearsney Parks, Dover District Council, Dover, Kent CT16 3PJ.

### **What happens after your application?**

An informal chat with the appropriate person will then be arranged. At this point, all general information about the organisation and specifically about the volunteer post will be provided.

**This role description provides a summary of the volunteer role. However, it is not a legally binding document.**

