

Strawberry Hill Trust

Strawberry Hill, Richmond is significant in its own right as an outstanding historic landscape and also as a setting for the Grade I listed house. The site is listed as Grade II* on the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest and is therefore considered to be of national importance and exceptional interest. Historic importance is also recognised in its status as Metropolitan Open Land in the Richmond Borough Council Unitary Development Plan (UDP).

Strawberry Hill is one of the most significant surviving villas along the Thames, and a property of outstanding importance. It is considered one of the most important monuments of 18th-century architecture and landscape design. In terms of its landscape, although the water meadows that separated the gardens from the Thames have now been developed, the core of the gardens remains intact.



SHT has introduced a three year apprenticeship scheme following the level 2 work based training in horticulture with an additional in house qualification in heritage garden skills. The apprentice has assisted the gardener in charge in recreating Horace Walpole's 18th-century gardens. In addition they have had responsibility for creating and maintaining an HLF-funded community garden with improved disabled access. The apprentice has worked with the Family Learning tutor and has been responsible for managing the community garden, looking after participants' plants

between visits and keeping the garden tidy at all times.



Each apprentice is employed and supported by the Trust for one year under a scheme sponsored by HLF and the Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity

Apprentices plan and manage the Community Garden and work towards a nationally recognised work-based Diploma: Horticulture Level 2, Parks Gardens and Green Spaces. Links with nearby Ham House, Chiswick House and the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames Parks and Gardens department give the trainees a wide range of experience and a first class training in the challenges of maintaining a historic garden open to the public and, through managing the

community garden, making it accessible to a wide audience. The training also includes basic office skills, research and the development of the woodland trail. At the end of their training apprentices will possess the skills and experience to work in both historic gardens as well as general horticulture – opening up a wide range of future employment opportunities for them.

The previous two apprentices have gone on to gain useful employment within the horticultural industry. One with Syon Park as a conservatory gardener, the other with Clifton Nurseries. This has given each of the apprentices a real foothold in within in the industry giving them employable skills to take forward.

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