



TRUSTEE RECRUITMENT PACK

Thank you for your interest in
becoming a Trustee at RHT.

A PLACE LIKE NO OTHER

Protect A Place That Matters – For Everyone, Forever

Rivington Terraced Gardens is unlike anywhere else. A lost landscape, that has been reclaimed by the community. It's a place where history, nature and people come together – welcoming over 1.5 million visitors every year.

But places like this don't protect themselves. The Gardens are now entering a defining moment. As we move beyond restoration, the challenge is no longer just to repair what was lost – but to secure the long-term future of the Gardens for generations to come.

This is where you come in.

We are looking for new Trustees to help guide Rivington Heritage Trust through its next chapter by balancing:

- Environmental stewardship of a fragile and historic landscape
- Public access for one of the region's most visited free spaces
- Financial sustainability in an increasingly complex world

Being an RHT Trustee is not a passive role. It is an opportunity to shape the future of one of the North West's most remarkable places.

If you want to apply your skills and experience to something that truly matters – we would love to hear from you. We are particularly keen to hear from individuals who can bring professional experience, strategic insight, or senior-level decision-making expertise to support the Trust through its next phase.

Protect the past. Shape the future.



Matthew Higginson
Chair of Trustees

THE ROLE OF RIVINGTON HERITAGE TRUST

As a registered charity and leaseholder of the gardens, **our mission is to ensure this heritage remains open and free for everyone.** We don't do this alone.

Our work is built on a partnership approach:



Leads delivery and ensures income is reinvested locally.



Provides invaluable operational support and volunteer management.



The landowner.



Supporting infrastructure, planning and community interests.

“

Success brings its own pressures. With 1.5 million visitors comes significant wear and tear, traffic congestion and the need for constant conservation.

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WHY JOIN RHT AS A TRUSTEE?



RIVINGTON
TERRACED
GARDENS

SHAPE THE FUTURE OF A PLACE THAT MATTERS

Rivington Terraced Gardens is not just a heritage site — it is a living, breathing landscape used and loved by over 1.5 million people every year.

As a Trustee, you will play a vital role in ensuring it remains open, protected, and thriving for generations to come. This is your opportunity to help shape the long-term future of one of the North West's most remarkable places.

MAKE A MEANINGFUL LASTING IMPACT

Your insight and perspective will directly influence how we:

- Protect a fragile and historic environment
- Balance access with conservation
- Build a sustainable future for the Trust

This is not theoretical governance — it is real-world impact, with visible results.

GROW YOUR LEADERSHIP SKILLS

We operate in a complex, multi-stakeholder environment - working across heritage, environment, community and public sector partnerships. As a Trustee, you will:

- Strengthen your strategic thinking
- Develop governance and leadership experience
- Contribute at board level in a purpose-driven organisation and operate confidently within a strategic, board-level environment where sound judgement and professional conduct are essential.

BE PART OF A VALUES-LED ORGANISATION

You'll join a collaborative and committed board, united by a shared mission – to keep Rivington open, accessible, and cared for – for everyone.

We value:

- Partnership
- Inclusion
- Community voice
- Long-term thinking

GAIN AS MUCH AS YOU GIVE

This is a reciprocal opportunity. Alongside the impact you make, you will benefit from:

- New networks and connections
- Personal and professional development
- The satisfaction of contributing to something bigger than yourself

BECAUSE PLACES LIKE RIVINGTON NEED PEOPLE LIKE YOU

Rivington's future depends on the people who step forward to guide it.

If you want to apply your skills to something that truly matters – this is your opportunity.



THE ROLE

Think of the Board of Trustees as ‘the Guardians of Rivington’.

Key Responsibilities:

- **Strategic Leadership:** Setting the 10-year vision for the Trust.
- **Financial Stewardship:** Overseeing assets and ensuring every penny is spent wisely.
- **Governance & Risk:** Managing the legal and safety frameworks that keep the site viable.
- **Advocacy:** Acting as a spokesperson for the heritage and the environment.

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Trustees are the backbone of our governance – providing the expert insight that keeps Rivington thriving.

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YOUR COMMITMENT

Role Type:

Voluntary (Unpaid).

Time Commitment:

Approx. 1–2 days per month,
8 Board meetings per year plus
occasional site visits.

Term of Office:

3 years.

(Eligible for re-appointment up to 3
terms).

Expenses:

Reasonable travel and out-of-
pocket expenses reimbursed.

DIVERSITY

Representing every perspective

- We believe that the best decisions are made when the Board reflects the community it serves.
- We are looking for diverse perspectives and a mix of voices.
- While previous board or senior leadership experience is not essential, we particularly welcome applicants who are comfortable contributing in a formal governance or boardroom setting.
- We value both lived experience and professional expertise, recognising that strong governance benefits from individuals who can bring structured thinking, strategic oversight and experience of organisational leadership.
- Whether you are a local resident, a regular visitor, or someone from a background currently underrepresented in heritage leadership, we want to hear from you.
- We are committed to equity, diversity, and inclusion at every level of our governance.

ARE YOU WHO WE ARE LOOKING FOR?

We believe that life experience is just as valuable as a CV. Whether you are a local resident, a frequent visitor, or from a community often underrepresented in heritage leadership, your perspective is what we need.

While we are looking for a mix of voices, we are particularly interested in individuals who bring demonstrable professional experience – especially in governance, strategic leadership, finance, operations, or organisational development – alongside an understanding of how to contribute effectively at board level.

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It's essential that Trustees are able to actively contribute at board level, bringing informed judgement, constructive challenge, and the confidence to operate within a professional governance environment.

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THE DIFFERENCE WE MAKE - TOGETHER

Every year, Rivington Terraced Gardens makes a remarkable impact – not just in numbers, but in lives.



1.5 million visits each year

One of the most visited free heritage landscapes in the North West
- providing access to nature, wellbeing, and history at scale.



84,650m² of landscape restored

Historic features, habitats, and pathways brought back to life
- protecting biodiversity and heritage.



6,000+ volunteer hours

A community-powered effort
- thousands of hours given by people who care deeply about this place.



£112,830 in social value

The contribution of volunteering and community action
- creating real, measurable benefit.



Green Flag & Green Heritage Accreditation

National recognition for quality, sustainability and heritage conservation.



18 organisations supported

Including AXA, Chorley Fire Station, RLB, Network Rail, EON, Withnell Scouts, Nat West, Salford Foundation, Booking.com, Lancashire Wildlife Trust, GARIC, MMU, PREM, Environment Agency, Bolton Mountain Rescue and Horwich Heritage.

Behind every number is something bigger:

- A volunteer finding purpose
- A family accessing nature for free

And with the right leadership, we can do even more.



image c/o Jonathan Ellison photography

“ Rich in atmosphere, these 45 acres of parkland are crossed by paths that wind through exotic and native trees, past pools and waterfalls and derelict follies. ”

BBC Countryfile





NOW IS THE MOMENT TO GET INVOLVED

We are looking for Trustees who are ready to bring their skills, insight, and professional experience to help guide the organisation at a strategic level.

You don't necessarily need previous board experience. What matters most is your ability to contribute effectively in a governance setting, alongside strong professional judgement, strategic thinking and a willingness to engage constructively.

This could be a role for you if you care about:

- Protecting heritage
- Expanding access to nature
- Supporting community-led change

TAKE THE NEXT STEP

To express your interest, please submit a one-page covering letter, referring to the role outlined, along with a maximum two-page CV via email by 20th April 2026 to: recruitment@groundwork.org.uk

If you'd like an informal conversation before applying, we'd be happy to speak with you. Please call 01942 821 444.

Together, we can ensure Rivington remains open, accessible and thriving – for everyone, forever.



Rivington Lane, Rivington, BL6 7SB.

T: 01942 821 444 E: recruitment@groundwork.org.uk



Our website

www.rivingtonterracedgardens.org.uk



@RivingtonHeritageTrust



@RivingtonTG