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The MacDougall of Dunollie Preservation Trust

Heritage Garden Leader (Dunollie GLAD Project) | Job Description

One Year Contract | 26 hrs/ week

£18,778 per annum (£26,000 Pro Rata)

Location: Dunollie Museum, Castle & Grounds, Oban, Argyll

www.dunollie.org

Start Date	End Date	Application Deadline
28 February 2022	25 February 2023	28 January 2022

The MacDougall of Dunollie Preservation Trust (DPT) was set up in 1998 in order to provide specific charitable benefits. The Trust's charitable purposes are to advance the heritage of the historic castles and property historically belonging to the family of the MacDougalls of Dunollie, Oban, Argyll, hereditary chiefs of the Clan MacDougall, and to preserve and retain in Scotland the artefacts, paintings and others also historically belonging to the MacDougalls of Dunollie, and to advance education through public display and interpretation of these historic assets.

These charitable purposes are delivered in the main, via Dunollie Museum Castle & Grounds.
www.dunollie.org

The Post

The post of Dunollie Garden Leader is a key element of the Dunollie GLAD plan, which has been designed as our recovery program in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. Dunollie GLAD establishes a route through the aftermath of the pandemic to provide structure, foundation, methodology for a sustainable new era for DPT. The plan utilises the charity's expansive green spaces and its digital opportunities for physical additions, growing engagement and new opportunities and innovative approaches which will allow existing and new audiences increased access to our heritage safely and comfortably. The plan explores new methods for us to deliver benefits to our community, to re-build revenue streams, and support our local economy, to the standard that our exceptional operation was headed prior to the virus outbreak.

Dunollie GLaD focusses on three main strands

- Dunollie Historic **Garden** activity space for social distance and outdoor opportunities.
- Dunollie **Links** Post Covid - Community Engagement in ways which meet the needs of the new normal and
- Dunollie **Digital** connections taking our resource and bringing it bang up to date in the post-covid world-wide digital market place.

The Gardens

The landscape and gardens at Dunollie are a combination of superb geological features, a designed landscape from the enlightenment, and historic farming. The biodiversity of the landscape is characterized by wild or partially controlled vegetation surrounding a small but significant rhododendron and azalea garden. Carpets of spring bulbs, from snowdrops through to bluebells, are a superb spectacle at Dunollie, and semi-wild naturalized bulb areas are managed among plantations of trees and on the castle mound. A detailed garden management plan was produced in 2019.

The Role

As Garden Leader, you'll have a wide remit. You'll lead with passion and flair, whilst looking to develop and maintain the gardens day to day and motivating a team of volunteers and community participants. You'll work to the GLAD Project outcomes and have a clear understanding of how to maintain and bring out the best of Dunollie's Grounds. Whilst being part of the GLAD team, you'll be the person thinking strategically about the future of the garden, ensuring the very highest standards of conservation, horticulture and visitor experience are being carried out, in line with the Dunollie Garden Management Plan. It'll be down to you to engage visitors interest in the gardens, delivering a first-class visitor experience, as well as working with our Heritage Engagement Officer and our Visitor Services Manager to encourage community participation, and a culture of openness and involvement for all in our gardens. As well as well as leading the day-to-day management, upkeep and development of the gardens, as a member of the Dunollie team you will be involved in strategic planning and decisions as well as some compliance tasks. This is a key role for Dunollie in terms of our development journey and you will work with our Dunollie Garden Management Plan as your key development tool.

Responsibilities

- Taking the lead on the day-to-day management, upkeep and development of the Dunollie Grounds in line with the Dunollie Garden Management Plan.
- Working with the Heritage Engagement Officer to establish a Volunteer Garden Team.
- Planning and monitoring Volunteer activities in the Dunollie Grounds.
- Working with the Volunteer Team to fulfil the GLAD Plan Activities, including planting new Physic and Sensory Gardens.

- Contracting works to develop new GLAD Plan infrastructure in the Dunollie Grounds, including seating areas and a Heritage Greenhouse.
- Working with the Visitor Services Manager to develop and deliver new activities which showcase the Dunollie Grounds.
- Ensuring that all activities are undertaken safely and legally, including completing any compliance tasks and within the conservation framework set out in the Garden Management Plan.

About You

Essential:

- High level of horticultural experience, supported by appropriate qualifications or equivalent experience.
- Excellent level of plantsmanship/plant husbandry skills.
- Knowledge of a wide range of horticultural techniques covering a range of plant types.
- Experience of organising creative garden activities which enhance garden visits.
- Good communication skills and experience of keeping people motivated.
- An ability to lead, work with and bring together a wide range of people, including specialists and volunteers.

Desirable:

- Artistic plantsmanship /design skills.
- Experience of managing budgets.
- Experience working with a heritage context and with conservation plans.

Interviews scheduled to take place the week beginning the 7 February 2022.

For an informal discussion about the role, please contact Emma Sutcliffe (General Manager) by emailing emma@dunollie.org or by phoning 01631 570550 during office hours (Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm).

Please apply using an update to date CV and Covering Letter, outlining your suitability for the role. Applications can be submitted to info@dunollie.org or delivered to Recruitment, Dunollie Museum, Castle and Grounds, North Wing, Dunollie House, PA34 5TT.