

New bursaries and small grants scheme

The Committee of the Kent Gardens Trust aim to run the KGT at a small annual profit and to maintain reserves at a level consistent with prudence and good accounting practice. Over the last few years we have been broadly successful in the first of these objectives and as a result we are able in 2024 to draw down on reserves to offer a small number (not more than two or three) of bursaries or small grants to Kent gardens. With all due caution, we hope that we may be able to continue this offer in subsequent years.

Accordingly, we invite applications from Kent gardens for grants of up to a maximum of £2,500 to be paid in the year beginning 1 April 2024.

There is no deadline for applications as such but on or about 31 March 2024 the Committee will consider all those applications which have been received by 29 February 2024. We will inform applicants of the outcome of their bid by 30 April and will post on the website whether any funding for the year ending 31 March 2025 remains unallocated. In the latter case, we will also post an indication of when the Committee will next consider applications.

It is the intention of the Committee to administer the scheme with maximum flexibility and to avoid being excessively prescriptive. We would, accordingly, welcome any applications from organisations responsible for managing gardens in Kent to cover spending projects benefitting those gardens, but we would welcome bids falling within the following broad categories:

- a) Funding to enable students of horticulture to work for a few weeks in a Kent garden so as to pursue their horticultural education and also to benefit the gardens concerned.

or

- b) Funding for small "capital" projects to benefit Kent gardens, for example to contribute to the repair of garden buildings, greenhouses or walls, to catalogue collections or any other non-recurring expenditure, for example to install deer-proof fencing or buy a new tractor.

We hope in 2024 to award one grant in each of the above categories and will accept bids for a maximum of £2,500 for up to 75% of the total cost to the garden concerned. This total cost may include National Insurance payments and the cost of accommodation for students/internees, if provided, but in no case will KGT pay administrative costs incurred by the garden concerned in making the bid.

The Committee wishes to stress that the maximum figure above should not be seen as a target, and we would particularly welcome applications for smaller sums.

After the execution of the project we would expect recipients of grants to provide a brief account of work/training done and the benefits accruing from it.

The decision of the Committee whether or not to make a grant in response to any particular bid will be final. There is no appeal mechanism.

If you are interested in pursuing an application in 2024/25, please in the first instance contact Francois Gordon on info@kentgardenstrust.org.uk