

Treasurer of the RHS

Role description and
person specification



About the RHS

The RHS is the UK's gardening charity, helping people and plants to grow. Founded over 200 years ago, we get the nation growing, inspiring millions at our five gardens and world-famous shows like RHS Chelsea Flower Show. As a charity, we raise money through events, membership and donations that is then put to work in communities, scientific research facilities, schools and education, and much more. Our expertise feeds into gardening advice on our RHS Grow app, website and to our membership – all passionate about spreading the joy we get from gardening.

Our vision is a world where gardening is embraced as a way of life – a source of joy and fulfilment, building healthier lives, stronger communities, and thriving environments. We aim to support more beginners, involve more young people, go more digital, garden more sustainably, and to reach more people living in the UK's towns and cities. Our mission is to be there for everyone on their lifelong adventure with gardening.



RHS Council



RHS Council is the governing body and board of trustees responsible for the organisation's future direction, the investment and disposal of its assets and its strategic management and performance. Council comprises the President, Treasurer and up to 15 ordinary members who bring a wide range of skills and experience to help achieve our vision and mission of helping people and plants to grow.

The role

The RHS Treasurer advises the President and Council on the RHS's financial and commercial affairs, including those of its trading subsidiaries. As a key strategic leader, the Treasurer safeguards the charity's financial health, sustainability, and strategic direction - ensuring we continue to enrich lives through gardening for generations to come.

This role demands sharp financial acumen, strategic insight, and excellent interpersonal skills to collaborate effectively with key stakeholders, including the President, Director General, Finance Director, and the wider Board of Trustees.

Financial stewardship

- Champion innovation, growth and financial discipline in the commercial operating model of the RHS.
- Oversee short and long-term financial planning of the RHS and the performance of its investment portfolio to safeguard its financial strength and build reserves
- Provide robust oversight of risk, budgetary and cost management processes
- Interpret complex financial reports, providing insightful commentary in an accessible way to RHS Council and at the Annual General Meeting.
- Ensure compliance with all legal and regulatory financial obligations, including charity law, the RHS Charter and Bye-laws.



Governance and leadership

- Chair the RHS Finance and Commercial Board with a focus on analysis, insight and actionable advice.
- Deputise for the President as a valued RHS representative at public engagements and meetings when needed.
- Contribute to the execution of commercial and charitable strategic priorities and goals balancing immediate operational needs with long-term growth and risk management.
- Work closely with other statutory board and committee Chairs, to ensure effective oversight and alignment.

Collaboration and stakeholder engagement

- Foster productive, challenging yet respectful relationships with the RHS President, Council and the Executive team.
- Act as a trusted advisor and critical friend to the Director of Finance and Director General, meeting regularly and as needed.
- Support the RHS's strategic goals by offering insight, advice and connections or networks that enhance its financial resilience and performance.
- Represent the RHS externally as needed, acting as a champion and ambassador for its work, donor engagement and values.



Person specification

The RHS Treasurer combines financial expertise with a strong commitment to our growth oriented vision. You will be tactful, disciplined and a strong listener who is personable and collaborative. You will have a sense of fun and perspective, able to balance seriousness with the enjoyment of the role.

- Passionate about gardening, committed to the values and future direction of the RHS.
- Non-executive experience in charity and/or commercial environments.
- Strategic mindset, with an appreciation of the short, medium and long term financial and operational needs of a large, complex charity.
- Strong financial expertise and relevant commercial experience.
- Flexible, personable and collaborative with an ability to interpret and communicate financial information effectively to a variety of audiences.
- Strong network of relevant corporate and commercial contacts
- Accountancy qualification (optional)



Terms of appointment

The Treasurer is elected annually by the membership at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and may serve for up to five years with the possibility of two further annual terms if agreed exceptionally by RHS Council and members. This role will begin following the RHS AGM in July 2026.

To carry out this role, you will be required to:

- Attend six Council meetings per year and the AGM – some council meetings are not held in London.
- Chair the Finance and Commercial Board and serve as an ex-officio member on other RHS statutory groups (principally the RHS Audit and Risk Committee, Investments sub-committee and the Governance and People Committee), each of which meets between two and five times per year.
- Visit RHS gardens and attend RHS events, including donor engagement and similar meetings at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show.
- Participate in strategy away days and occasional ad hoc meetings with the President, Director General and members of the Leadership Team.

Overall, be available for RHS business for around two days per month (on average).



How to apply

For any further information or if you would like to express an interest in the role, please send a short biography or CV and a cover letter explaining your interest and suitability to:

secretary@rhs.org.uk

