

PAINSHILL PARK TRUST: TRUSTEE ROLE PROFILE

Background

The Painshill Park Trust is recruiting three new Trustees over the next three months to join its Board of Trustees.

Painshill Park is a magnificent Grade I listed 18th Century landscape garden which attracts nearly 200,000 visitors each year. The 158 acre park is an important part of our national heritage, is internationally renowned, and is a vital resource of natural beauty for its local community in Cobham.

Painshill was created by the Hon Charles Hamilton who acquired the land in 1738 with a vision to create a new type of landscape. He was in the forefront of the new picturesque approach to English landscape design, and the precursor to later and much better known landscape designers like Capability Brown, William Kent and Humphrey Repton. His garden came to be admired by many across Europe and further afield, including the future Presidents of the United States Thomas Jefferson and John Adams.

Across the centuries Painshill gradually slipped into decay. By the mid-20th century it had become derelict, much of the land abandoned and impenetrable jungle. In 1981 the Painshill Park Trust was set up as a charitable trust with a mandate to rescue and restore this 18th century masterpiece for the benefit of the public. That restoration work of the last four decades has beautifully and authentically recreated Hamilton's original vision – a landscape of living paintings which offers today's visitor the same unique experience of walking through a work of art which entranced visitors nearly two hundred years ago.

As an independent charity the Painshill Park Trust depends for the majority of its income on visitor, retail, and café sales, and on fund-raising.

What are we looking for?

We are looking for Trustees of wide experience to join our small Board who can help maintain high standards of governance and contribute their expertise to guiding the strategic and commercial direction of this important organisation.

We are seeking high calibre and skilled candidates who are well regarded and trusted in their professional circles, who have experience which can add value to the Board, and who have the time and commitment to participate actively in the many aspects of the work of the Trust.

As a Board we work as a team and are keen that we all contribute in a constructive and positive way to the work of the Trust. We all share a real enthusiasm for the objectives of the Trust and a passion for its work in the heritage sector.

We actively encourage applications from a wide range of backgrounds.

What it means to be a member of our Board of Trustees

Our Board of Trustees is responsible for maintaining the integrity of the Park as closely as possible to its 18th century design while ensuring the widest possible public access; giving strategic direction and critical support to the Director and his team; and helping ensure the long-term financial stability of Painshill.

Trustees are required to attend the meetings of the Board, currently five times a year, and to be a member of at least one of the four sub-committees of the Board (Fundraising, Finance, Landscape Management and Restoration, and Commercial Planning). There is a wide range of other activities in the busy life of the Park which Trustees are welcome to support if their time permits. It is challenging work, but extremely rewarding for the right individual.

The initial term for a Trustee is three years, renewable thereafter for two further terms.

Board members are subject to the normal charity, company, insolvency and other applicable laws which apply to all charities and companies in the UK. The Trust maintains professional insurance protection covering the advisory and oversight responsibilities of the Trustees.

Trustees of the charity are unremunerated, but reasonable expenses (travel etc) are reimbursed.

There is a comprehensive induction process for all new Trustees.