



Grow Careers Day North

Friday 24th May
Harewood House
Leeds, LS17 9LG

Programme of Events

Time	Event	Details
9.30-10am	Arrival and Registration	Please arrive in good time, to network with trade and industry supporters. Refreshments provided.
10.00	Welcome & Programme Details	Please take your seats in conference room for the welcome and housekeeping messages.
10.05	Official Welcome to Harewood House	Kath Knight, Harewood Trust deputy CEO
Session 1 – Sustainable horticultural careers		
Chaired by Clive Parker CHort FCIHort , Chair of CIH Northern Branch		
10.15	Growing green skills for a sustainable future	Corrina Urquhart Lantra Director of External Relations
10.35	Career Story	Katy Merrington Cultural Gardener, The Hepworth Gallery, Wakefield
10.55	Working as an Advisor for Biobest UK: Sustainable Crop Protection and Pollination with Beneficial Insects	Dr Niall Conboy & Tim Crittenden Biobest
Session 2 – Career stories from early-career horticulturists		
Chaired by Trevor Nicholson MCIHort , Head Gardener Harewood House		
11.15	Trevor Nicholson Georgia Gilbert Brad Bingham	Opportunities at Harewood House Technical Manager, John Chambers Wildflower Seeds Head Gardener, Norton Conyers
Session 3 – Workshops		
Introduced by Jason Daff CHort MCIHort , CIH Honorary Secretary		
11.45	Workshop Session	Participants will choose from a range of available workshops covering a range of horticultural topics, including: Harewood's plant collection, Social & Therapeutic horticulture and battery-powered horticultural equipment.
12.30 – 1.30pm	Networking Lunch	Participants will use this opportunity to talk to Employers, trade stands and industry groups. Grab and Go Lunch Provided.
Session 4 – Horticultural Inspiration		
Chaired by Sarah Owen-Hughes MCIHort , Head Gardener, Ridding Park Hotel		
1.35	Career Opportunities at <i>idverde</i>	Speaker TBC <i>id verde</i>
1.45	Career Story	Katie Rushworth Garden Designer, TV Gardener and Broadcaster
2.05	Career Story	Matthew Wilson MCIHort Landscape Designer, author and Broadcaster
2.40	Q&A Session	All Speakers
2.50	Closing remarks	The Countess of Harewood
3.00pm	<i>Depart</i>	

Speakers



Corrina Urquhart

Corrina Urquhart is Director of External Relations at Lantra. She has a 'squiggly career path' spanning over 15 years, having worked as a research fellow, a policy adviser and more recently, moving into strategy and advocacy. Corrina is passionate about diversity and inclusion, with sustainability driving her commitment to the land-based and environment sector. She recently introduced a national programme to recognise the achievements of learners of all ages in the sector, resulting in her reaching the final of the Women Who Achieves Awards 2024. In her spare time, Corrina is enthusiastic about gardening but is not naturally green-fingered!



Katy Merrington

Cultural Gardener at The Hepworth Wakefield. Katy has cared for the garden at The Hepworth Wakefield, since its creation in 2019, when an unused acre of ground at the art gallery was transformed into a free public garden, designed by internationally renowned landscape architect Tom Stuart-Smith.

Katy works with a small, dedicated team of local volunteers to nurture the planting, as well as collaborating with the art gallery's learning and events teams to devise exciting outdoor activities.

Katy has a background in fine art and began her horticultural training at The National Trust for Scotland, before moving on to Tresco Abbey Gardens on the Isles of Scilly, RHS Garden Harlow Carr, Longwood Gardens: Pennsylvania, USA and Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh at Logan, Dumfries & Galloway.



Niall Conboy & Tim Crittenden

Niall and Tim both work for Biobest UK, a company dedicated to sustainable crop protection and pollination solutions for horticultural growers across the UK. In this talk, Tim will give an overview of Biobest UK as company, what they do, their aims and ethos etc. Niall will give some insight into his current role as sales advisor along with an overview of his 'day to day' working tasks and responsibilities. He'll also speak about how he got into working in horticulture and his education/work background before joining Biobest.



Georgia Gilbert

Technical Manager, John Chambers Wildflower Seeds. Georgia joined Green-tech in 2019 in the Specification arm of the business, before transitioning into the John Chambers team in 2020. Starting off as a Technical Sales Advisor, Georgia worked her way up and is now the John Chambers Technical Manager. This involves overseeing larger bespoke projects, creating maintenance and management plans, and assisting the wider Green-tech sales team with their customers' wildflower sowing needs. In addition, Georgia is currently studying for a Masters in Landscape Architecture which will help her add a more technical and design led element to her role, enhancing the offering that John Chambers brings to its customer base.



Brad Bingham

Head Gardener, Norton Conyers. Brad has always been interested in horticulture since, since being at school, sharing an allotment with his uncle, helping out on Saturday mornings. Brad went on to study for two years at Askham Bryan college; a level 3 extended diploma in horticulture. He then went on to join the RHS on their level 3 traineeship at Harlow Carr, where he worked in the garden full time for a year. After this he joined the Professional Gardeners' Guild traineeship: living and working at The Garden House, Devon before moving onto Ashridge House, Hertfordshire for a year. This led him to gain his first head gardener position in Cumbria and then sole gardener position near home in Ripon. Brad is now settled in his dream job as Head Gardener at Norton Conyers, with a keen interest in the more unusual species and encouraging wildlife.



Katie Rushworth

TV gardener and garden designer Katie Rushworth has been an integral member of the famous gardener team on ITV's Love Your Garden for 12 years. Katie is also a self-employed gardener and garden designer and has been running her own garden consultation business from her home in Leeds for almost 17 years. Katie's passion and enthusiasm for gardening is infectious, she has excellent plant knowledge and a great eye for design – both for function and beauty.



Matthew Wilson

Matthew Wilson is an award-winning landscape designer based in Rutland. Over the course of a three decade career he has worked as a head gardener, landscaper, Curator of two RHS Gardens - Hyde Hall in Essex and Harlow Carr in North Yorkshire - and for the last fifteen years in landscape design. His design practice has won multiple awards including People's Choice at Chelsea Flower Show in 2016 and Gold for a large show garden at Shenzhen Flower Show 2022.

Outside of his design work he has written for multiple publications, including a ten-year stint for the FT, and is a long serving panellist of BBC Radio 4s Gardeners' Question Time. Current work includes residential projects in London, Hexham, Hampshire and Surrey, commercial projects in Yorkshire and as lead designer on the prestigious 'Reimagining our Landscape' project at Harewood House.



We are idverde. We harness the power of nature to develop green spaces that benefit communities, protect biodiversity and help cities manage climate change. We are Europe's leading landscape creation and maintenance provider, with more than 150 branches in six countries and approximately 10,000 fully committed employees.

At idverde, we create the green spaces that breathe life into our cities, towns and villages. We're pioneering the creation and maintenance of climate-resilient, biodiverse places where people and nature can thrive together. <https://www.idverde.co.uk/>



Stockbridge Technology Centre

Leaders in Technology Transfer to Agriculture and Horticulture

Stockbridge Technology Centre is an independent agricultural and horticultural centre of excellence for technology transfer, supported by both growers and supply sectors of the industry. From field crops to glasshouses and vertical farming, STC grows in a range of environments at its base in Cawood close to York. <https://www.stockbridgetechnology.co.uk/>



NEHS

NORTH OF ENGLAND
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The North of England Horticultural Society is the parent charity behind the staging of the successful twice yearly Harrogate Flower Shows. All profits from each event are returned to the charity for use in promoting and supporting horticulture throughout the north of England. To find out more about Harrogate Spring and Autumn Flower Shows, visit www.flowershow.org.uk.



We are a membership organisation that helps to preserve Yorkshire historic gardens and designed landscapes. We conduct original research (published) about the history of Yorkshire gardens and designed landscapes. A significant element is to comment expertly on planning applications that effect or could affect gardens and landscapes. A wide range of events are organised each year with visits to gardens and landscapes, these often include private estates and are guided by experts relevant to the site. A programme to work with schools and a small grants programme is also part of the organisation. Full details www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk



Biobest are of the world's leading companies in sustainable crop protection and natural pollination. From bumblebees to ladybirds, our products help growers pollinate their crops and control pests in a variety of different growing scenarios. Our expert advisors provide advice and expertise in IPM (integrated pest management) and sustainable pest control, helping each grower tailor their biological control programmes and pollination schedules for maximum efficacy. <https://www.biobestgroup.com/>



We are a family-run, Yorkshire based company, with a worldwide customer base. Our company is a leading supplier of long-life propagation trays. Supplying both the commercial propagator and the amateur grower. Our propagation trays are injection moulded in uv-stabilised polypropylene and are recyclable. We have many examples where our trays are still in use after 20 years, having been used three times a year. The extensive range of propagation trays are available in varying cell volumes and cell counts. Therefore, catering for a wide variety of crops from vegetables, flowers, nursery stock, salads and tree production. We pride ourselves on providing excellent customer service to all our customers. <https://containerwise.co.uk/>



Johnsons Nurseries Ltd is a three-generation family business located in North Yorkshire, equidistant between York and Harrogate, with over 100 years experience in growing and supplying trees, shrubs and plants to UK-wide planting schemes. 11 members of the family have an active role within the business, from senior leadership positions and administration to more hands-on roles on the shop floor. Our team is made up of 130 full-time staff, which increases by 50% during peak seasons. From those in the office, on the shop floor, or on the ground tending to the plants and trees, we strive to nurture and develop all our staff. Each staff member plays an important role in the growth of the business. <https://johnsonsnurseries.co.uk/>



Lantra is a charity dedicated to developing the agriculture and land-based workforce, to ensure that people have the skills to work safely, productively, and sustainably. We actively promote entry routes and pathways into a career in the sector, highlighted the diverse and rewarding opportunities that are on offer. <https://www.lantra.co.uk/>



With over 330 years of innovation and passion, Husqvarna is a world leading producer of professional and domestic products to help you manage your green spaces.

Throughout the years, we've developed and manufactured high performing products with industry-changing innovations. Husqvarna tools are born from a unique relationship between man, machine and nature – between our company and the people who use our equipment to shape nature every day. When the going gets tough, Husqvarna tools are tougher. When work gets hard, they're lighter, more comfortable to handle and easier to use.

<https://www.husqvarna.com/uk/>



East Riding Horticulture is a family-operated business nestled in the picturesque countryside of East Riding of Yorkshire. With a deep-rooted passion for our products, our journey began over 35 years ago on our farm. Since then, we've expanded and flourished into a leading horticultural supplier across the UK. <https://www.eastridinghorticulture.co.uk/>



Palmer Nurseries Ltd based in Calverley, Leeds, West Yorkshire has been growing plants for over 40 years. Palmer Nurseries has diversified over the last decade and is now a business with 4 product service offerings through The Horticultural Hub:

- Fibo click and collect concrete & mortar plant.
- A Recycling centre for Green waste, timber, wood and rubble.
- The Horticultural trade supplies counter along with Trees & Plants
- Property letting.

The Horticultural hub will appeal to local landscapers, builders, fencers, farmers and more looking to save time by collecting concrete and plants and recycling garden waste without the need to travel to multiple locations or wait for deliveries. www.palmernurseries.co.uk



John Chambers Wildflower Seed has a 35 year history of supplying native British produced wildflower seed and mixes to landscape and garden lovers across the UK. John Chambers is one of the leading authorities on native wildflower seed, distributing a comprehensive range of products that protect, enhance and improve the landscape environment.

<https://www.johnchamberswildflowers.co.uk/>



The Nurture Group, is an award winning national service provider consisting of three leading brands: Nurture Landscapes, Gavin Jones and Rokill Pest Control Services. Nurture Landscapes specialises in grounds maintenance, winter gritting and interior and exterior plant display services, mainly to the corporate sector.

Gavin Jones provide landscape construction services to a wide variety of clients across the UK, working alongside landscape architects, designers and main contractors. They also provide grounds maintenance services to military sites and public open spaces and are proud holders of the Royal Warrant. <https://www.nurture-group.co.uk/>



Throughout our 55 year history, LBS Horticulture has always focused on the need for flexibility and reliability for our customers. As a company we are passionate about adapting to the ever-changing horticultural trends, weather patterns and climate to keep our customers thriving in their business each year. We understand the importance of choice, we carry over 5000 horticultural, irrigation and landscaping products all with quick delivery times at great trade prices. Our staff are experts in the horticultural industry and are happy to help with any queries you might have on any of our products. <https://www.lbsbuyersguide.co.uk/>



Barnes Associates Ltd - Tree Consultants and tree surveyors providing Tree Risk assessments and advanced Tree Diagnostics. We undertake tree stability testing and tomography scans along with Tree Root Scans. Health and safety Tree reports, Tree Preservation Order advise and management plans. <https://barnesassociates.co.uk/>



The Association of Professional Landscapers (APL) comprises accredited landscape companies who design, build and maintain gardens throughout the UK. The rigorous inspection process to join is one of the toughest within the industry. Along with the initial inspection, each member is re inspected regularly to ensure each member has up to date insurances, complies with health and safety law and their quality of work is to the highest possible. The APL is the only landscaping scheme operator of TrustMark, a Government endorsed initiative that promotes professional trades to consumers.

<https://www.landscaper.org.uk/>



The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) will be in attendance with colleagues from the Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate and the Non-Native Species Inspectorate. Our Agency aims to protect the UK from animal and plant-related threats to human health, the economy and the environment. We look forward to meeting you!

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency>

The BALI Chalk Fund was established in 1975 with a legacy from the widow of Geoffrey Chalk, owner of Gavin Jones Ltd. and founder member of the British Association of Landscape Industries (BALI).

Since this date, the Fund has received other bequests and donations and has also benefited from specific BALI Charitable Fund Raising activities.

Our purpose is to support and develop a highly skilled and engaged landscaping community that meets the needs of the industry, its organisations, and its people. For further information www.balichalkfund.org.uk



Yorkshire in Bloom is a voluntary regional organisation that administers the RHS Britain in Bloom Campaign in North, South, East, West and North Yorkshire. RHS Britain in Bloom is the largest horticultural campaign in Europe and each year it grows in size and importance and involves more people, groups and organisations creating lasting improvements to local environments.

Villages through to cities in the region are judged in Spring, Summer, or both. The special categories which include public, private and charitable establishments, business premises, visitor attractions, caravan and camping sites, schools, youth environmental projects and further education establishments. <https://www.yorkshireinbloom.co.uk/>



The Working For Gardeners Association is a charity that creates opportunities for potential gardeners seeking their first steps on the ladder to a new career. It was established in 1899, with Gertrude Jekyll among its founder members. In 1993, the charity introduced the Work and Retrain as a Gardener Scheme (WRAGS), connecting would-be gardeners with beautiful gardens and inspirational head-gardeners, to learn the practical skills of gardening. Training covers all aspects of horticulture in a variety of settings. Among the first northern gardens to see the value of enthusiastic, committed trainees were Ripley Castle and Wentworth Castle Gardens in Yorkshire and Whalton Manor in Northumberland. More recent gardens participating in the scheme include Helmsley Walled Garden, Rudding Park and the Brantwood Estate in Cumbria. <https://www.wfga.org.uk/>



If any of your staff have a problem they can pick up the phone to Perennial in the knowledge that we will make sure they receive the support they need – for not only themselves but also their direct family. We have almost 30 caseworkers and debt advisers all around the UK who work personally with the people who need our full support. Our main areas of support include Financial and Debt advice, Health & Wellbeing including Physio support, Benefits and free Legal Advice via our legal helpline, advice on careers and training and recently we have introduced advice and support for Carers in our industry. We are also ready to tackle those devastating situations that come at us unexpectedly such as bereavement and critical illness or injury. <https://perennial.org.uk/>



Ever since Andreas Stihl invented the first portable chainsaw, the STIHL name has stood for revolutionary technology, driven by significant investments in research and development and a single-minded passion for making people's lives easier when working in nature. It's because of this that STIHL has been the world's best-selling petrol chainsaw brand since 1971. Over the last two decades, STIHL has been relentlessly focussed on developing battery-powered tools, which help make customers' lives easier and more peaceful when working in nature, and the latest STIHL premium battery tool range is ideal for demanding professionals. From hedge trimmers and brushcutters to lawn mowers, leaf blowers and of course chainsaws, no matter which tool you choose, you can be sure it will feature countless innovations and offer exceptional performance and lasting quality.

Wykeham Mature Plants grows mature trees, Instant hedges and specimen shrubs for the trade and retail markets



Visit: <https://www.wykehammatureplants.co.uk>



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Joining Instructions for Attendees

Grow Careers Day North is being held in the Courtyard at Harewood House.

Registration is from 9.30am, with all attendees being seated for a prompt 10am start. Please leave yourself plenty of time for parking, finding the courtyard and registering.

Getting to Harewood House

By Car

Harewood House is centrally located in Harewood village at the junction of the A61/A659 on the Leeds/Harrogate Road. Parking at Harewood is free of charge. Our postcode is LS17 9LG, although Sat Nav users are recommended to use **LS17 9LQ** as this should bring you straight to the main Archway entrance to Harewood off the A61. Or use the 'What3words' location- [///enveloped.music.intelligible](https://www.what3words.com/envelope)

Parking

Once on site, follow the road until you reach the main car park. Then make your way to the Courtyard on foot down the hill, past the playground to the Courtyard Entrance. There will be additional signage on site to help you navigate. Disabled parking available in front of the Courtyard and the main car park.

By Public Transport

Getting to Harewood House by public transport is easy, with a regular bus service (No36) connecting Harewood village with Leeds and Harrogate. For more details please call Harrogate and District on 01423 566061 or click here to visit their website – harrogatebus.co.uk

From Leeds

No36 Buses from Leeds City Bus Station (Stand 23) to Harewood in the direction of Harrogate/Ripon run every 10 minutes on weekdays. The journey takes around 30 minutes. Leeds City Bus Station is a 15-minute walk from Leeds Railway Station.

From Harrogate

No36 Buses from Harrogate Bus Station (Stand 7) to Harewood in the direction of Leeds run every 10 minutes on weekdays. The journey takes just over 20 minutes. Harrogate Railway Station is adjacent to the bus station.

From the bus stops in Harewood village, proceed to Harewood House (via Harewood Approach, under the Archway!) A Free shuttle service is available from there to transport you down to the Courtyard where you will find registration desks.

What do I need to bring with me?

A notebook and pen would be a good starting point.

Some of the workshop options will be held outdoors, so dress accordingly with sensible shoes and a jacket.

A refillable water bottle would be sensible, but refreshments and lunch will be provided, please make sure you have advised us of your dietary requirements.

Other than that, just bring your enquiring mind, lots of questions and be prepared to be inspired!