



THE BOTANIC GARDENS EDUCATION NETWORK

Connecting Plant Educators.
Strengthening Nature Education.



WHO ARE WE



BGEN is the UK and Ireland’s professional network for people delivering plant and nature education in outdoor organisations - such as botanic gardens, arboreta, and plant collections.

We connect, support and champion educators who are inspiring the next generation to understand and value plants.

“Plant educators often work in small teams or in isolation – BGEN ensures you’re never working alone.”



OUR GOAL

Plant education is more important than ever – yet often under-resourced and under-recognised. BGEN exists to ensure that those delivering this vital work are supported, connected and heard.



WHY JOIN BGEN?

BE PART OF A PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

- Access to a UK-wide network of 200+ professionals
- Peer support and shared problem-solving
- Learn through our email list and online community

ACCESS DIVERSE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Annual BGEN Conference (member exclusive rates)
- Training events and webinars (member exclusive rates)
- Access to shared educational resources and best practice
- Opportunities to present and share your work

ADVOCACY & SECTOR VOICE

- BGEN represents plant education at national level
- Join collective responses to consultations
- Boost visibility for botanic and garden education

COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES

- Cross-garden and sector partnerships
- Shared funding bids
- Research and evaluation collaboration
- Inspiration to develop your own programme offerings

ORGANISATIONAL SUPPORT

- Policy sharing
- Governance guidance
- Practical templates and advice
- Promote job vacancies directly to the sector



Botanic Gardens Education Network

BGEN CONFERENCE 2027

SAVE THE DATE!

26th and 27th January, 2027

Where: University of Leicester Botanic Garden

Theme: 'Small Gardens, Big Impact'

This conference celebrates the powerful difference plant education can make – regardless of site size or budget.

You can look forward to:

- Interactive, hands-on workshops with tangible take-away ideas
- Sessions showcasing innovative practice from gardens large and small
- Space for meaningful networking and peer exchange

Whether you work in a small site or a major institution, this conference will equip you with practical tools, new connections, and renewed confidence to amplify your impact.

Spaces are limited, with BGEN members getting discounted and priority access.

[Find our more on our website.](#)





WHO CAN JOIN?

BGEN membership is ideal for:

- Botanic gardens
- Arboreta
- Nature based institutions including: zoos, national parks and wildlife institutions
- Community gardens with education programmes
- Heritage and cultural sites with nature based education
- Independent plant-focused education providers
- Freelance educators working with plant collections
- Volunteers with a passion for nature

“BGEN has transformed how connected I feel in my role.”

- Feedback from an anonymous 2026 conference attendee





MEMBERSHIP PLANS

Choose the level that's right for you:

01 ORGANISATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

We offer tiered organisational membership. You choose your membership based on how many individuals you want to have access to our programmes and network:

- 1 - 3 Members - £145/ year
- 4 - 8 Members - £190/ year
- 9 - 15 Members - £300/ year
- > 15 Members - £500/ year



02 INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS

For individuals, not employed at an institution or organisation, we offer individual membership:

£40/ year



03 STUDENT MEMBERSHIPS

For students, at any level of their formal education in college or university, we offer a subsidised membership:

£18/ year



All memberships run from 1st April - 31st March.



OUR BOARD

Bgen is led by a governing Board, made up of members working in or passionate about the botanic sector. The Board oversees our programmes and operations, and leads the delivery of member communications, training days, and conferences. Each Board member serves on one specialised workstream group: Training, Conference, Fundraising, Communication & Membership and Governance.

A word from our Chair
DR LAUREN DALY

I joined BGEN shortly after beginning my role at the Oxford Botanic Garden and Arboretum in June 2020. The shared expertise, unparalleled networking opportunities, and valuable training programme provided through the BGEN membership transformed my work. Let us do the same for you.





JOIN BGEN TODAY

www.bgen.org.uk/join-us

Membership takes just a few minutes to set up, and you'll gain immediate access to our network and resources.

HAVE A QUESTION?

CONTACT US

Our BGEN Coordinator, will happily assist you with any enquiries:

Email: info@bgen.org.uk

By joining BGEN, you are not just accessing a network - you are strengthening the future of plant education in the UK.

