

Having bowed out of my teaching career nearly 3 years ago, I have been busy building a new career as a gardener, with the ultimate dream of working in a public garden. Currently I am self-employed as a gardener and am a volunteer at Clumber Park Walled Kitchen Garden. Having finished and passed my RHS Level 2 exams and started my RHS Level 3, I was advised that obtaining the PA1 and PA6 pesticide certificates would be a positive step to obtaining a job, as well as being potentially useful in my current gardening work. I was lucky enough to be pointed in the direction of the Professional Gardeners Trust and even luckier to be awarded £250 towards the cost of the course. After the course was delayed due to lockdown, I completed the training at Brooksby Melton College in October and passed both certificates. The course was much more in depth and complicated than I had expected, but I enjoyed it and found it a very positive experience. As I continue to work for my RHS Level 3 exams and gain even more experience as a self-employed gardener and as a volunteer, I now feel much better equipped when it comes to applying for jobs.

