

Professional Gardener's Trust Report

Rachel Pratt

Derby, Derbyshire



Photograph: Whiffle Pig Allotment in central Derby.

My name is Rachel Pratt and I work in Derby. My career has revolved around customer service all my life, from Medical Secretary at the local hospital to Receptionist at a local Arts Centre. I am also co-founder of a community interest company called Whiffle Pig that works creatively with individuals and families to combat mental illness caused by social isolation. I designed and coordinated the construction of a wheelchair accessible allotment last year to begin exploring social and therapeutic horticulture and to also support our community with locally grown fruit and veg, promoting proper nutrition and health.

The £600 award from the Worshipful Company of Gardeners, administered by The Professional Gardeners Trust, was able to pay for my Level 2 RHS Garden Planning training at Derby College. I was so grateful to be selected for this award as the opportunities and learning I have gained from being able to study this course has seen me pass my exams with commendation. It also gave me the opportunity to submit a design for the MS Society's Gardener's World show garden, which was submitted through the college and selected to represent their company at GWLive 2021. I have gained so much confidence in my abilities as a gardener and designer as a result of this course and I am looking forward to applying my training to help and inspire our community further, as well as exploring and promoting the importance of gardening for health and wellbeing in a future professional gardening position.

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