

At RHS I was a fully-fledged member of EAGER, the Eager Action Group for Environmental Reform, inspired by our enthusiastic biology teacher, Mrs Clemons. This prompted my choice of work experience, a hands-on week with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust.

RHS encouraged me to make my own mark and project manage the build of a wildlife pond and marsh on the school grounds. The school's trust in me built a level of self-confidence which has stayed with me throughout my career.

My passion for wildlife never left me but my love of writing led me to a successful career in print and online journalism. Covering Chelsea Flower Show for the BBC is my highlight so far. Uttering those influential words, "I'm here from the BBC" always had the desired effect, allowing immediate access to stunning show gardens and top garden designers!

When I had my daughter I wanted a break from paid work to relish the time with her growing up. I made time to study and volunteer and reignite my links to RHS, creating the Facebook page for the Old Girls Society.

Heading back to work I opted for part-time, preserving time to enjoy being a Mum. And my new workplace? Warwickshire Wildlife Trust - I've come full circle!

Louise Barrack

RHS (1988 - 1994)