



### About Sarah...

I am at my happiest outdoors and after years of working as an office administrator in various fields I thought it was time to follow my passion. I have always been interested in gardening and horticulture. Living next door to the beautiful Bedgebury Pinetum, visiting and exploring whilst walking the dog made me want to learn more. In March this year I left my office job and started to work with Bedgebury's Tree Team as an agency worker employed through the Friends of Bedgebury Pinetum; so just as the world was about to embark on a very strange time I started a new adventure in the Pinetum.

Although Bedgebury was sadly closed to the public for a few weeks in April and May, work in the Pinetum still needed to continue. One of my first projects was planting a new natural hedge on Park Lane with Kevin, a member of the Visitor Centre team who was kindly helping us to learn a little about what happens in the Pinetum behind the scenes. With help and guidance from Dan and Julian, Kevin and I built a fence to protect the young plants from rabbits and other threats. We then learnt the best way to lay a hedge, then set about the planting using a mix of guelder rose (*Viburnum opulus*), common hazel (*Corylus avellana*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), and spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*). The hedge will eventually replace the original post and rail fencing and provide a habitat for the many species of wildlife that reside at Bedgebury. Possibly one of my favourite things in the early days was planting my first tree, a California walnut (*Juglans californica*). I felt very honoured to be adding to the tree collection and making an addition that visitors will enjoy for many years to come.



As my temporary role went on, I fell more in awe of Bedgebury and the fabulous team I was working with. In June, when the opportunity arose to apply for a forest craftsperson apprenticeship, I jumped at the chance to apply and was over the moon to learn I had been successful. I look forward to continuing Harry's blog and sharing my journey with you through our monthly updates.