**Trainee Role Description**

**Grower (Horticulture with Fruit and Vines focus) – 2 posts**

We grow organic produce at Hawkwood, our 12 acre community market garden and plant nursery, and distribute it to our own market stalls, box scheme and local restaurants. In our ½ acre glasshouse we grow heritage tomatoes, cucumbers, beans, chillies and seedlings for sale to local people and community groups. We have an orchard of over 200 young fruit trees; peaches fan trained against our glasshouse; cordons of apples and pears; almonds and hazelnuts. We also grow soft fruits including strawberries, blackcurrants, raspberries and rhubarb. Our vineyard has been planted with nearly 500 vines, for eating and drinking; we have a winery and make our own wine.

This traineeship will suit someone looking to develop their skills within the market garden, and in particular someone looking to develop their skills as a fruit and vine grower in a community setting and in organic viticulture and fruit growing. The trainee will learn the skills required to manage the vineyard and fruit growing areas of Hawkwood, and take on responsibilities for the fruit and vines. You will also pick up skills associated with the weekend harvest schedule and the growing of plants and vegetables across the season.

# Details of the role

* Unpaid voluntary role
* Time commitment: 1 day/week for 9 months
* Dates: Friday 3rd April - Friday 17th December 2021
* Hours: Fridays from 9.00am - 5.00pm (with possibly to 2 Wednesday evenings a month for workshops and ‘production walk’.)
* Based at: Hawkwood Community Plant Nursery
* Occasional weekend commitments: 4 days over the traineeship to support weekend outreach events, open days and plant and produce stalls

**Supported by**

* monthly check-ins with an Organiclea mentor
* monthly discussion and learning workshops
* travel expenses, within London, if needed.
* A seasonal, vegan, organic lunch will be provided

If you are unable to commit to the full nine month placement it may be possible to create a shorter 3- 6 month structured placement instead, focusing on fruit and vines. This would need to be agreed at interview.

**To apply:** Please send a CV or a description of your employment (and volunteering) history; and a covering letter detailing how you meet the person specification and why you want this post to volunteering@organiclea.org.uk or by post to the Hawkwood Address: Organiclea, 115 Hawkwood Crescent, Chingford, E4 7UH

For more information about this role please contact Heidi at: volunteering@organiclea.org.uk

**Deadline for applications:** 17:00 on Monday 22nd February

**Interview date:** Friday 5th March 2021

**Start day:** Friday 9th April 2021

# Main objectives

# To learn about and assist with all aspects of planting, preparation and maintenance of the vineyard and soft and top fruit areas at Hawkwood

# To learn about and assist with harvesting and processing of fruit from Hawkwood and scrumped from trees in streets and gardens in the borough

# To assist with the vegetable and flower harvest and with the vegetable production

# To provide support for the volunteer programme

**Main Activities
Fruit and vineyard**

* Planting vines, trees and fruit bushes
* Pruning
* Training restricted forms
* Orchard management
* Propagation from cuttings
* Wine and juice production
* Organic weed, pest and disease management
* Assisting with development and maintenance of the site’s infrastructure
* Undertake other activities in support of Organiclea, as appropriate

# Scrumping

* Take part in fruit picking around the borough
* Sort the fruit into storing and juicing quality
* Keep good records of fruit available, picks undertaken and amounts juiced
* Help to process scrumped fruit into juice

# Growing

* Assist with the harvesting of fruit, vegetables and flowers to agreed methods, ensuring quality control
* Weighing, packaging, sealing, labelling and organising despatch of produce
* Assist with all aspects of vegetable production including: formulating propagation media, raising plants from seed, planting, harvesting, weeding and maintaining salad crops, vegetables, green manures and companion plants

**Working with volunteers**

* Work to ensure all volunteers on site are safe, welcomed, valued and supported
* Lead tasks with volunteers

**Person Specification**

## **Essential**

* Interest in sustainable food production and the desire to put that interest into practice
* Some experience of growing
* Interest in winemaking, and other fruit preservation and processing methods including juice and vinegar making.
* Ability to supervise and explain tasks to volunteers
* Happy to work mainly outdoors throughout the year
* Ability to carry out shared tasks and work within a team
* Ability to work on own initiative, prioritise tasks and work to deadlines
* Commitment to and understanding of the aims of Organiclea

### Desirable

* Experience of working with volunteers