

**Trainee Role Description – Grower (Plants and Production) - 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. In 2016 we produced over 2 tonnes of salad including 107 varieties of leaves.

This traineeship will suit someone looking to develop their skills as a community gardener, or a market gardener in a community setting. The trainee will learn the skills required to manage the production at Hawkwood, and take on responsibilities for growing plants and produce over the growing season.

# **Details of the role**

* Unpaid voluntary role
* Time commitment: 1.5 days/week for 9 months (with option to reduce to 1 day a week from end September)
* Dates: Tuesday 4th April - Wednesday 20th December 2017
* Hours: Tuesdays from 9.00am – 1.00pm and Wednesdays 9.00am - 5.00pm
* 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: training workshops one evening per month and monthly check-ins with an Organiclea mentor

# **Main objectives**

# To learn about and assist with all aspects of propagation in the glasshouses

# To learn about and assist with all aspects of planting and maintaining the vegetable growing areas of the Hawkwood site

# To assist with harvesting and preparing produce in accordance with the needs of the Organiclea stall, box scheme or other independent outlet

# To provide support for the vegetable production at Hawkwood

# To provide support for the volunteer programme

# **Main Activities**

# **Growing**

* Formulating propagation media
* Raising plants from seed
* Irrigation
* Planting and maintaining glasshouse crops, field vegetables, salad leaves, green manures and companion plants
* Organic weed, pest and disease management
* Harvesting schedules and techniques
* Undertake other activities in support of Organiclea, as appropriate

# **Harvesting**

* Cutting/picking produce to the agreed methods, ensuring quality control
* Preparing produce according to ‘product descriptions’
* Weighing, packaging, sealing, labelling and organising dispatch

**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
* 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