

**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 2015 we produced over 1.8 tonnes of salad including 97 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
* Dates: Tuesday 5th April - Wednesday 14th December 2016
* 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 Day and plant and produce stalls
* Supported by: tutorials 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