**Trainee Role Description**

**Plants and Pollinators - 1 post**

We grow organic produce at Hawkwood, Organiclea’s 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. Hawkwood also has areas preserved for the wildlife we share our site with, and as Organic growers it is essential we continue to provide habitat, and learn about these creatures, especially those we rely upon as pest predators and pollinators. In Summer 2018 we began a 2 year project, funded by Heritage Lottery, called BeeWild, to learn, and educate others about pollinating insects.

A placement within the production team at Hawkwood: this traineeship will suit someone looking to learn about pollinating insects and how we can work with them as Organic growers. The trainee will work as part of the production team carrying out harvesting, and horticultural tasks as well as focussing on pollinator work, including habitat improvement, and surveys.

# **Details of the role**

* Unpaid voluntary role
* Time commitment: 1 day per week for 9 months on Fridays
* Dates: Friday 3rd April - Friday 11th December 2020
* Hours: Fridays from 9.00am – 5.00pm and Wednesday evenings once 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
* AQA Certificate ‘Supporting Pollinators in the Garden’
* travel expenses, within London, if needed
* A seasonal, vegan, organic lunch will be provided

**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 below. For more information about this role please contact Clare at volunteering@organiclea.org.uk/020 8524 4994.

**Deadline for applications: 10 am Monday 17th February**

**Interview date: Wednesday 26th February**

# **Main objectives**

# \* To learn about pollinating insects and develop skills in field identification

\* To assist in pollinator surveys and develop confidence to carry these out independently

\* To learn about sustainable bee keeping

\* To learn about and create habitats for wild pollinators

\* To assist in pollinator plant propagation and aftercare

# To assist with harvesting and preparing produce in accordance with the needs of the Organiclea stalls or other independent outlets

# To provide support for the vegetable production at Hawkwood

# To provide support for the volunteer programme

# **Main Activities**

* Harvesting
* Planting and maintaining glasshouse crops, field vegetables, salad leaves, green manures and companion plants
* Maintaining and improving wild pollinator habitats

 \* Surveying and recording wild pollinator species

 \* Assisting in bee keeping tasks

* 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 pollinating insects and the desire to learn about ways we can help them.

* Interest in sustainable food production and the desire to put that interest into practice
* 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