**Trainee Role Description - Grower (Horticulture with Fruit focus) – 1 post**

We grow organic produce at Hawkwood, our 12 acre community market garden and plant nursery, and distribute it to our own 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 blackcurrants, raspberries and rhubarb and grapes.

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 grower in a community setting. The trainee will learn the skills required to manage the fruit growing areas of Hawkwood, and take on responsibilities for the fruit. 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 14 April - Friday 15 December 2023
* Hours: Fridays from 9.00am - 5.00pm (with possibly to attend a Wednesday evening each month for ‘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
* quarterly discussion and learning workshop with peers and mentors
* general volunteer tutorials which happen over several months (Wednesday/ Friday) at the end of the working day
* travel expenses, within London, if needed
* bicycle repairs and servicing whilst-you-work for cyclists
* a seasonal, vegan, organic lunch will be provided on Fridays

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

**To apply please:**

1. Complete and return the OrganicLea application form and monitoring form, available on our website.
2. Indicate clearly which role(s) you are interested in. If you would like to apply for more than one role please list your preferred 3 in order.
3. Send to: debbie@organiclea.org.uk or post to the Hawkwood Address for the attention of Debbie Ladds, OrganicLea, 115 Hawkwood Crescent, Chingford, E4 7UH.

**Deadline for applications: 9pm on Friday 17 February 2023**

**Interview date: Friday 24 March 2023**

For more information about the role, start by contacting Debbie at: debbie@organiclea.org.uk (Tuesdays and Fridays are good contact days).

# Main objectives

# To learn about and assist with all aspects of planting, preparation and maintenance of the 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**

* Planting trees and fruit bushes
* Pruning
* Training restricted forms
* Orchard management
* Propagation from cuttings
* 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 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