

Penpont Organic Grower and Gardener

We are seeking an experienced organic grower/horticulturalist to help us to continue develop and manage our vegetable production unit here at Penpont in the Brecon Beacons National Park, Mid-Wales.

How to apply: Send CV and Cover letter to penpont@btconnect.com. Please title the email subject with your full name followed by the job title you are applying for.

Application deadline: November 27th 2022

Work Location: Penpont Estate, Brecon, Powys LD3 8EU

Line Management: Davina Hogg, Estate Owner & Grower

Start Date: Mid to End of February 2023

Contract: Full-time

Hours: 37 hours per week, with flexibility according to seasonal growing demands

Salary: £16,000 plus rent-free cottage

Housing: The Old Diary, a cosy one-bedroom cottage located on site, 5 minutes walk from the walled garden.

Other Benefits: 20 days annual leave plus public holidays, a workplace pension and development opportunities



About Penpont

Situated in the heart of the Brecon Beacons National Park, Penpont is a country estate of 2000 acres, located on the River Usk near Brecon. At the core of the estate is a Grade I listed house, and a historic collection of outbuildings with walled gardens and grounds extending to approximately 40 acres. The house and estate still remain within the ownership of the original family.

In 1992, Gavin & Davina Hogg, a trained arborist and landscape designer, moved to Penpont. As well as managing an extensive restoration program of the buildings and gardens, they have also

established a number of on-site business enterprises including: a holiday cottage, a livestock enterprise, a campsite, a wedding & events venue, a biomass heating system and the organic fruit, flower and vegetable unit supplying the on-site farm shop.

Gavin and Davina's sons Forrest and Josh are also based at the estate working alongside a Forestry Apprentice and two part time staff. Penpont is partnering with Action for Conservation, a youth engagement charity, who run an education programme on the estate inspiring the next generation of conservationists and land workers.

About the Walled Gardens

The walled gardens and orchard extend to 1.52 ha, and have been certified with the Soil Association since 2002. A wide variety of vegetable, fruit and flower crops are grown and the farm shop is open from June to Christmas. From January to June, we supply our regular customers with a veg & fruit box, using produce from a local organic wholesaler as well as some of our own.

The gardens have 3 polytunnels, a large lean-to glasshouse, as well as tool & storage sheds. The soil type is a fluvial loam over red sandstone. For the last 20 years a system of green manures has been used to maintain soil fertility, enhanced by creating our own compost and by operating organic principles.

In this role you will:

- Be responsible for maintaining the walled gardens and organic vegetable & cut flower production at Penpont
- Manage the operation and maintenance of glasshouse and the other protected cropping systems
- Undertake ground care maintenance: including care of grass & gravel paths, fruit trees, and shrubs, perennial and annual herbaceous plants
- Ensure that the farmshop is well stocked
- Organise veg & fruit boxes for collection, liaise with customers and manage the payments
- Propagation of perennial plants for sale
- Manage occasional volunteers during the busy season
- Help improve aspects of Penpont gardens and grounds as time allows
- Support with other tasks as required, including occasional education days with young people
- Explore and trial innovations in the growing area to improve soil health, productivity and biodiversity
- Be able to help out with watering and irrigation needs on occasional weekends.

Experience and Knowledge:

- Minimum of three growing seasons of organic vegetable production – **Essential**
- Qualifications or trainings in Horticultural skills - **Desirable**
- Proven knowledge of organic systems, certification standards, and record keeping - **Essential**
- Working knowledge of current legislation regarding health and safety at work – **Desirable**
- Experience of operating farm and horticultural machinery – **Desirable**
- Experience in marketing, liaising with local markets, restaurants and farm shop customers – **Desirable**

- Experience in managing, instructing and supervising volunteers & hosting garden visits – **Desirable**
- An understanding and interest in historical landscapes and structures – **Desirable**

Skills & Abilities:

- Self-motivated and a proven ability to plan, organise, lead and implement work to agreed goals – **Essential**
- Able to work alone as is often the case, as well as working as part of a small team – **Essential**
- No job is too small attitude – **Essential**
- Basic office skills (e.g. spreadsheets, mailing lists) – **Essential**
- The ability to record data as required – **Essential**
- A First Aid Certificate – **Desirable**
- A full and clean driving license – **Essential**

Next steps and how to apply

To apply, you must send us a CV and Cover Letter by the **27th November, midnight**. We are looking to hold interviews for this position on the **6th & 7th December** at Penpont.

Address: Gavin and Vina Hogg, Penpont Estate, Brecon, Powys, LD3 8EU.

Email: penpont@btconnect.com

Web: www.penpont.com

Tel: 01874 636202

