

## Town is the Garden: Gardener in Residence

### Job Description / Application Pack

#### Deveron Projects

Deveron Projects is an arts organisation based in the rural market town of Huntly, Scotland. Through creative critical work we aim to contribute to the social wellbeing of the town, connecting artists, communities and places.

Deveron Projects has no building, instead *the town is the venue*; acting as studio, gallery and stage for artists of all disciplines invited from around the world to live and work here. Through artist driven projects we explore, map, inhabit and activate new spaces and places around Huntly. We believe artists are cultural activists that can energise people and communities, adding vitality to our society. By utilising creative and playful processes art can be employed to untangle and overcome real-life challenges, invent and enact alternative possibilities, and help solve problems.

#### Huntly

Huntly is an 18<sup>th</sup> century market town in Aberdeenshire and has a population of around 4500 people, with around the same living within its catchment area. We have been working here for 21 years, responding to the cultural, social, historical and environmental contexts of the town: Acting local, while thinking global. In recent years Huntly has suffered from the decline in the oil industry, as well as the loss of local business in the town centre, affecting the sustainability of the local economy. Through community consultation in 2016 the regeneration of the town was highlighted as a major concern for those living here.

#### Town is the Garden

Our programme for the next 3 years will focus on a re-reading and re-thinking of the local economy as if people mattered, exploring the idea that an economy is much more diverse than the current dominant model. There is a whole series of exchanges, values and relationships that take place in everyday life and contribute to the economy of a place.

*The Town is the Garden* is a one-year creative horticultural programme aimed at improving Huntly's potential to grow more of its own food and create a more sustainable local food economy. Through employing a **Gardener in Residence** we hope to develop Huntly into a garden town that celebrates locally grown produce.

Through adapting the idea of a ['garden city'](#) to apply to Huntly we are interested in the transformative act of gardening and its potential to regenerate the town, reducing our carbon emissions and making it a better place to live. To adopt this idea, we want to employ a town gardener in residence and a trainee gardener in residence. They will promote the positive impacts that growing food and composting can have for the residents of Huntly, through creative and innovative means. We want to make the most of those who already have horticultural skills and knowledge in Huntly, working with individuals and organisations to support and share their expertise, as well as creating new opportunities for those with less experience.

The overall aims of this project are:

- a) To reduce carbon emissions in Huntly in relation to food and food waste
- b) To promote and encourage the composting of food waste locally
- c) To celebrate and consolidate the skills of the local community in food growing, composting and horticulture
- d) To improve Huntly's carbon literacy and advance education on the impact of climate change
- e) To develop a legacy for Huntly as a low carbon economy 'garden town'

### **Gardener in Residence Task Description**

We are looking for a driven and experienced candidate with a keen interest in community development through gardening and creative practices. The ideal candidate for this position will have good practical horticultural knowledge as well as having creative vision. We believe passionately that gardening is an inherently creative activity with the potential to benefit people from all walks of life. We are looking for someone who shares this passion.

The Gardener in Residence will be in charge of delivering the Town is the Garden project and will be supported by Deveron Projects' Project Manager and Art and Community Worker.

Key tasks will be to:

1. Engage a selection of the community in a creative programme to reduce food waste going to landfill and reduce food miles through increased growing and composting of food locally
2. Provide free open-access practical and creative workshops on growing food and composting available to the wider community
3. Develop a community composting network for the redistribution of food waste/compost
4. Develop a surplus food exchange network/swap shop, where excess food produced can be re-distributed
5. Identify and assist with other community growing opportunities within the area
6. Organise a harvest celebration event
7. Organise a series of talks, film screenings and discussions on low carbon futures
8. Mentoring of a trainee Gardener in Residence

### **Requirements - essential**

- A proven practical horticultural knowledge
- A proven record of delivering creative projects
- The ability to teach and convey knowledge about food production to others

- The ability to relate and work well with people from all walks of life
- Self-motivated with strong organisational skills, the ability to demonstrate initiative and to co-ordinate production to deadlines
- Excellent administrative skills to report on activities, including calculation of carbon footprint savings and final report
- Excellent facilitation skills that can support participatory processes
- Willingness to work outside normal working hours as required by the project

### **Requirements - desired**

- Knowledge and understanding of community learning and development
- Good drafting and communication skills for publicity and other purposes
- Driving license (car pool scheme available)

### **Conditions**

Reporting to: Project Manager, Deveron Projects

Salary: £22000 (12 months)

Hours: full-time (40 hours)

Holidays: 30 days (including public holidays in Scotland)

Location: Huntly

Due to the nature of the work, the post requires to work flexible hours on occasions, to include unsocial and weekend times. A probationary period of three months from issuing the contract applies.

The Gardener in Residence is a one-year position funded by the Climate Challenge Fund.

### **Applications should include:**

- A covering letter not exceeding 1 A4 page (point12 text) stating why you wish to be considered for this position
  - A completed [application form](#)
- Please send your application to Joss Allen at [info@deveron-projects.com](mailto:info@deveron-projects.com) with the subject heading 'Gardener in Residence Application/YOUR NAME'

### **Closing Date: Mon 20<sup>th</sup> March**

Skype Interviews may be held on: Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> March

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for interview on Mon 27<sup>th</sup> March

**[www.deveron-projects.com](http://www.deveron-projects.com)**