

## **Job Description – Land Manager – farming and wild spaces**

We have recently bought a small farm in Mountain Ash, Cynon Valley, South Wales, traditionally used for sheep and poultry. There are 210 acres of upland grazing, 65 acres of pasture and 55 acres of woodland. It has not been worked for the last five years, except from some grazing undertaken by a neighbouring farmer, but generally the land is in poor condition due to neglect and over farming.

The farm is owned by Tim & Joy Watson, we are new to farming but have a real passion to actively care for this piece of land. Our vision is not motivated simply by profitability or productivity rather a deep desire to see restoration and healing. We see our role as stewards of this plot of land and want to focus on sustainable and regenerative farming practices which will benefit not only whatever animals we keep, or food we produce, but the very land and environment itself. To that end, we are partnering with A Rocha UK, a Christian ecological charity working with farmers and land owners to improve biodiversity and address climate change. Our goals are not simply around traditional farm management but also wider land management seeking to improve threatened habitats and declining species.

In addition we are hoping to host a number of community growing projects on the land. We are currently developing a relationship with a local housing association where they will be using a small area to grow fruit and vegetables, keep bees and provide opportunities for tenants to learn skills, grow collectively and enhance wellbeing. We are hoping and expecting that other things like this will develop over time.

We are looking for someone who shares our values and vision and has a passion to help us shape this new farming enterprise by working with us to see Bryn Gobaith Farm become a place of hope and life once again. The role is for 3 days per week initially although we hope that this will become a full time post within a year or so. The role will involve collaborating in developing a land management plan and then working on implementing it particularly in the following areas:

- Assist and sometimes lead in choosing and purchasing livestock (type, breed, stock density)
- Lead (with assistance from Tim & Joy) on policy formation and forward planning
- Keep on top of all projects and keep up to date with progress
- Joint lead with Tim on developing a robust supplier network
- Ensuring compliance, advising and calling in expert advice where required on all aspects of health and safety and government regulation
- Organise maintenance and repair of farm equipment/machinery
- Joint lead on business profitability and financials
- Assist with any infrastructure projects as required – fencing, land management etc
- Habitat management for wildlife

Tim and Joy will continue to work part-time in paid employment and part-time on the farm. The individual will need to demonstrate maturity, be confident in their own decision-making, able to use their own initiative, able to manage themselves, hardworking, enthusiastic and able to operate within the vision and values of the farm enterprise.

### TERMS & CONDITIONS

Annual salary : £25,000 per year (depending on experience), pro-rata for the days worked.

24 days holiday pro-rata for the days worked.

This role is for one year fixed term and is a part time role for 3 days per week.

There will be an initial 3 month probation period.

There is the possibility of this role being extended and possibly becoming full time at the end of the year.

As this is a new post we can be flexible regarding the start date, but we would like this person to be in post by autumn 2023. Closing date for applications 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

### ESSENTIAL PERSONAL REQUIREMENTS

Previous experience in land management (farming/horticulture/conservation)

Good team player

Good listener

Quick learner

Self motivated and a self starter

Well organised

Knowledge and experience of core Microsoft systems (Word/Excel etc)

Articulate

### DESIRABLE PERSONAL REQUIREMENTS

Active Christian faith

Educated to degree level in environment or farming related subject

Previous food growing experience

Good basic knowledge on ecology and climate change

Ability to identify commoner native UK species

Small event organisation skills

Public speaking skills

PLEASE FORWARD ALL EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST, ENQUIRIES & CV'S TO:

Tim & Joy Watson

Bryn Gobaith Farm

Cwmpennar

Mountain Ash

RCT

CF45 4DP

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07846 797005

# VISION FOR BRYN GOBAITH

To create a safe, beautiful, productive, transformative space where people can retreat, be refreshed, envisioned, energized, learn new skills, volunteer and work, become empowered and experience 'community' so that they can return to their communities enabled to do life really well.

## CORE VALUES

- Bryn Gobaith is God's Place, He is first in everything
- Love for and worship of God are the interweaving threads that hold everything together
- Loving and honouring relationships are nurtured and pursued
- God's Word and His truth are the marker against which everything is measured
- Caring, stewarding and respecting the land, each other and the good things that God has entrusted to each of us
- Collaborating to create a hope filled space for the benefit of the land, local people and those from further afield.

## CORE VISION

1. To farm the land in a sustainable and regenerative way.
2. To manage the land in such a way that bio diversity is enhanced and to positively impact threatened habitats and declining species.
3. To impact the local community of Mountain Ash:  
to partner, as appropriate, with local projects and individuals to identify needs and seek to provide opportunities to positively effect the wider community. In particular through growing food, keeping bees and providing opportunities for engaging in old farming skills like dry stone walling/hedge laying etc.
4. To work on 'doing good' to the whole Cynon Valley:  
by providing opportunities for work/volunteering/leisure/activities/learning, whilst boosting the local economy.
5. To be a resource to the Welsh Valleys and further afield:
  - a place of retreat for days away, time out, space.
  - a place for learning, skills both physical, practical and emotional. (see below)
  - a place of hope, possibilities, inspiration and fun.
  - a place of excellence, inspiring and modeling to others – what is possible.

## TO PROVIDE

### Opportunities for physical and practical learning on the farm/land

Looking after animals

Community farm

Tree felling and management

Forest School for kids

Growing – vegetables, leaves, herbs, fruit etc

Fence and boundary maintenance

Building – restoring old and new build projects eg yurts/tree houses

Cookery School learning how to cook with produce from the land

Walking/camping/orienteering/exploring/den making

### Opportunities for emotional learning

Looking after and spending time with animals

Creative workshops and courses – eg art/drama/dance/music/writing

Personal Development and Wellbeing courses

Special interest groups – eg parents/bereaved/sexually abused/dads and lads/eating disorders etc

Counselling / mentoring / ministry

### Opportunities for spiritual learning

Time out, space away to think, reflect, explore personal issues on an individual basis

Retreats and workshops to enable and support people on their spiritual journeys

Celebrations days