

## Braziers Park – Person Specification – all roles

Braziers Park is a community, a residential college and an architectural treasure hidden deep in the south Oxfordshire countryside in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It was founded in 1950 as an educational trust and is a continuing experiment in the advantages and problems of living in a group. Community members share responsibility for running the mansion house (a Grade II\* listed building), 55 acres of land, organic kitchen garden and livestock, facilitating courses and organising events assisted by visiting volunteers from around the world.

The ideal person for us:

- Can offer us a useful skill set and is keen to learn;
- Wants to be part of the roller-coaster life of the community;
- Doesn't mind breakfast with strangers, or clearing a blocked drain;
- Is open to new experiences;
- Wants to care for Braziers' house and grounds;
- Is brave enough to do the hard work sometimes;
- Is interested in non-didactic education;
- Aspires to further Braziers' research on Community living, and
- Is making a positive, forward-looking choice to join a community.

Having weathered the COVID pandemic, Braziers Park is moving away from its commercial hospitality business and back to putting more emphasis onto our own educational offering and research. We have created four new areas of focus for our employees, volunteers and Members: Research & Education, Preservation (House and Buildings), Hospitality and Community Cohesion.

Historically, our employed roles have a service occupancy element, meaning that you live and work at Braziers Park. Post the COVID pandemic, we are changing part of the way we employ people. In practice this means offering contracts of differing numbers of weekly hours and we are open to candidates who wish to become full time members of the resident community and those who might like to stay part of the week, or to travel in daily.

A successful candidate for any of our jobs will be able to demonstrate potential competence in all of the key tasks identified on the relevant job description through qualification, experience or other means. That said, we understand that potential comes in many forms: past experience and qualifications are not everything and some 'learning on the job' is possible. So try us: your enthusiasm may bowl us over!

We are definitely looking for people who want to be part of our community, not just employees. Being part of the community means attending our morning planning meeting, work-area meetings and the weekly Community Meeting, open to all residents and workers. These meetings will be in work time, but we would strongly hope that you would voluntarily attend either our online or house sensory meetings too.

Being part of the community means being prepared to do a bit extra to make life a bit better for everyone. It may mean cleaning a shitty loo. It may mean playing volleyball in your lunch hour or offering your party trick at a Wider Community Weekend. It will also mean having lunch with strangers, chatting with course participants and being an advocate for community life to our visitors.

Community life can be difficult. Living so closely with people, their little idiosyncrasies can annoy you and get you down. Sometimes you can shrug things off, but at other times you have to be brave enough to do the reconciliation work. Some people are attracted to community life when their outside life isn't working. This isn't always the best of reasons: please come to community life when it's your first-choice way to live, not the least bad option.