

HAZELHURST CSA

www.hazelhurst.coop

Newsletter no 5

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This e-newsletter brings you a regular update on Hazelhurst Community Supported Agriculture and how to get involved. To subscribe, email our mailing list on admin@hazelhurst.coop

Happy New Year, everyone!

Launch event for Hazelhurst share offer

We are about to launch our new share offer, which we hope will raise substantial funding to advance the work. We are planning an event on Thursday 2nd February to launch this offer. It will be a public showcase for Hazelhurst with talks about the project and a presentation from Rebecca Laughton, who wrote *Surviving and thriving on the land*. Do have a look at her book if you can, and if not, look at this:

<http://transitionnetworknews.wordpress.com/2009/04/28/review-surviving-and-thriving-on-the-land/>

Rebecca has extensive personal and research experience of organic, sustainable cultivation and I think her talk will give us both inspiration and sound ideas for a successful project.

There will also be a presentation of the Hazelhurst Oral History project – work that has been done over many months to find out the history of the land at Hazelhurst and the Moss Valley. This includes the experiences of the local farmers – knowledge from which we have much to learn.

The evening will be an opportunity to find out about what is involved in investing in Hazelhurst CSA Cooperative, and we hope lots of people will! **But please come along to find out about what is happening, even if you have no plans to buy shares at present.**

Please put this date in your diary:

Thursday 2nd February
Quaker Meeting House, St James St, S1 2EW

(time to be announced)

Recruiting the Grower

We have just recruited a part-time grower. Shortlisting and interviews have been done, so there will probably be somebody starting work very soon! This recruitment is being done in conjunction with Heeley City Farm, which is helping the management committee and will provide support for the grower when he/she is in post.

Volunteer days: report from Stella, volunteer coordinator

The next volunteering date for your diary is Sunday January 15th and every Wednesday during the week.

The volunteering days we have had so far were good fun. On Sunday 16th October there were 10 volunteers, who worked 35 hours in total. We raked in the hay, dug out the rest of the potatoes, and prepared wood for kindling. We each took turns at different tasks so that no one was bored. We then had the job of sorting all the potatoes, and trying to identify their variety, some were huge! We took home the potatoes which were unfit for sale, as a reward for volunteers for all the hard work.

We enjoyed another successful work day on the 20th of November, with one or two new faces appearing through the mist. We forked up the remaining onions, covered over the green waste compost heaps with hay, and spot-weeded the docks, dandelions, thistles, and twitch. It was very misty. We stopped and had a cup of tea and cake and meditated about the field, visualising the wonderful vegetables we will be growing in the near future. Marion arrived at lunchtime and brought some organic broad beans. We dug and weeded a square of land at the top, added some green waste compost and sowed some of the beans that may or may not survive the winter. The mist cleared by 2pm and the sun shone for a while creating a magical atmosphere, as the sun went down.



Marion said on Sunday that Huw needed volunteers to help wheelbarrow cement for the polytunnels on Wednesday. When we got there Huw, James and Danny were very busy digging out deep holes to prepare the foundations of the polytunnels. This was hard work as the soil is very heavy clay and full of rocks. The cement lorry arrived while we were eating, and we had to grunt up and down the field with wheelbarrow loads of wet cement. We took turns barrowing and digging, barrowing and digging until all the cement was used and the poles were secured firmly, and in line with the strings, before the sun went down.

The volunteering days during the week have now changed to Wednesdays. We have plenty to do: there is cultivation of the polytunnels, more spot weeding and leaf collecting. Rainy day tasks include tool sharpening, making plant labels and marking out the beds. There are now two lock-ups to provide storage for tools on the site, (and shelter in changing weather cycles) with a gas stove to make tea or soup. And a wonderful composting toilet that separates poo from wee. So come on along. Working the land is exhilarating and joyous, it opens your heart and helps you lose your inhibitions and it de-stresses and creates sense of purpose, in being part of the beginning of this exciting community enterprise. So get digging, come on along, volunteer!

Other kinds of volunteering

More volunteers are always needed on the land, but this is not the only way to be involved in Hazelhurst. We need more people to help with many aspects of the project. In particular at present we need people to begin planning for marketing our produce and to help with fundraising and publicity. While of course we welcome people with skills and experience, it doesn't necessarily matter if you have no experience – we are all learning and sharing what we know. It is the essence of a co-operative to share and learn from each other. Enthusiasm and a little time are the important things. Please get in touch either via admin@hazelhurst.coop or by phoning Joan, Chair of the Management Committee, on 0114 249 8613

The committee will next meet on Wed 1st February. Please get in touch if you have any comments, queries or things you think the committee should be discussing. And don't forget to come to the launch on 2nd Feb!



Who are we?

The Hazelhurst Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Co-operative project is based on a nine acre field on Hazelhurst Lane, in the Moss Valley, S8 8BG. Our aims are to grow and distribute organically grown, affordable food for the benefit of the community, using ecologically sustainable methods to protect and enhance biodiversity.

What's your inspiration? Tell us about your ideas for Hazelhurst CSA by emailing admin@hazelhurst.coop. Have a look at the website www.hazelhurst.coop

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