

HAZELHURST CSA



Newsletter no 8 May 2012

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This e-newsletter brings you a regular update on Hazelhurst Community Supported Agriculture Co-operative. To subscribe, email admin@hazelhurst.coop

SOS!! We need plastic bottles to make cloches for little plants

Big pop bottles (not coloured), water bottles, milk bottles (2 litre+ size). At least 10cm diameter. Please keep any you can. Drop them off at the front of 147 Albert Road, S8 9QX or phone 07541209661 to arrange collection

Latest news

Our veg box scheme will be starting in June. We will soon be sending out details and an invitation to join so that you can receive a weekly box of organic vegetables. Be prepared to order from Hazelhurst!

Events

Sadly, our camping weekend event in April was rained off, so we've rescheduled it. . . .

1st – 3rd June: Camping and Working Weekend at Hazelhurst

Come for some fresh air and horticultural fun! Planting out, sowing seeds, building a compost heap and more. . . Camping from Friday night. On Saturday you can join *Hedgerow Medicine: A herb walk* led by Carol Burnett, medical herbalist

There will be campfires, sowing of a wild flower meadow, a Tai Chi session, a moonlight slug hunt and perhaps a visit to the pub. To find out more and book a place, email stellah231@gmail.com or phone Stella on 07541209661

More Events. . .

- **Hazelhurst Social evening.** There will be a Hazelhurst social meet-up on **Wednesday 23rd May** at **the Rutland Arms** (86 Brown St, S1 2BS)

This is for anyone who is involved and/or interested in Hazelhurst to get together for a drink and a chat. If it's sunny (ha!) we'll be in the beer garden; if there are lots of us we may retire to the upstairs room; otherwise we'll be in the downstairs bar. Food is available, and any time from 7pm is likely to find some of us there. Come and join us!
If people enjoy this, we'll make it a regular event once a month.

- **People might be interested to know that on Thurs 28th June, there will be a public meeting about Food Sovereignty** (7.45pm, Central United Reformed Church, corner of Chapel Walk / Norfolk Street). **The speaker will be Patrick Mulvany**, senior policy adviser to *Practical Action* and Chair of the **UK Food Group (UKFG)**, an independent network of UK organisations concerned with global food and farming issues.

Report from the land

The cold wet weather of the last few weeks has set everything back by a couple of weeks. The lane to Hazelhurst was under water and impassable by car for several days. Most work has been focused on the polytunnel, although beds have been prepared with green waste compost for brassicas and leeks, and the rhubarb bed has been planted. The broad beans are coming on nicely, some still under fleece. Inside the polytunnels are tray upon tray of seedlings ready to plant out when the weather improves. Courgettes are in the ground in there, and beds and supports are ready for climbing beans. Salad crops are coming along nicely.



We are still much in need of **plastic bottles** for cloches, and any donations of **tools, wheelbarrows, tables, trestles or wooden stakes** (2 to 3 inches thick) would be most welcome. Also (in case this weather continues) we would be really glad of donations of **boots, wellies and rainproof clothing** for volunteers.

Volunteering on the land

Report from Stella, Volunteer Co-ordinator

Now is a very exciting time to volunteer at Hazelhurst. The polytunnel is full to bursting with germinating and emerging seedlings. We are sowing everything, and potting on lots of seedlings to larger pots. Keeping them all looked after, and watered is a full time job.

The French and Italian courgettes are now carefully planted out in the polytunnels. Each has a cloche made by Maureen out of a plastic drink bottle (we need more of these) to protect them from wee nibblers.

Out of doors we are digging potato trenches. There are 9x70 meter rows to be dug, and the first 7 are complete. We are working faster as a team than before. At first we only dug half a trench before lunch, now we can dig and plant out one trench before lunch and another dug and filled and covered before we go home.



The wind blew the Mypex off the rhubarb bed so Matt had to re-dig the trenches around it again to make it fit, and tuck the edges under the soil. The rhubarb is planted out now and looking good.

The wind also blew the fleece off the broad beans, they are doing fine now. We had to cover some of them again and weigh down the fleece with more soil.

When it started bucketing down with rain, we all ran into the polytunnels, where it was warm and dry. Sowed some more seed, and pricked out the giant red mustard. We took off our wet jackets and flung them over the bars of the polytunnels to dry, and exercised to keep warm.

Ways to get involved

Hazelhurst needs lots of help and there are lots of different ways you can be involved. Volunteering on the land – the days are every Wednesday and Thursday and 2 Sundays per month. Contact stellah231@gmail.com or phone Stella on 07541209661 for details.

The next volunteering Sunday is Sunday 20th May

Or you can help with administration, committee work, finance, IT, planning, publicity, marketing, distribution, fundraising, organising events, training, giving talks, writing newsletters, just joining in. Contact admin@hazelhurst.coop to discuss. We'd love to hear from you!

We are still looking for volunteers to help staff the Hazlehurst stall at summer festivals and farmers' markets. Please email admin@hazlehurst.coop if you would like to do this

Volunteer's quote of the month

(After 2 weeks of rain) 'This must be the trickle down effect'



The lane was impassable by car for several days. . .

Interesting stuff about CSAs

In November last year the Soil Association published *The Impact of Community Supported Agriculture* . This is the final report of their project to support CSA, as part of the Making Local Food Work programme. Its findings, from information gathered from more than 80 CSAs in England, are very encouraging. Although the number and scale of CSA projects so far is relatively small, the positive impacts on environment, health and social life and the economy of farming are significant. Cheer yourself up! Have a look at the full report at <http://www.soilassociation.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=l3kfHnNhvxg%3D&tabid=373>

CSA Management Committee

The CSA Management Committee will next meet on **6th June** . Please get in touch if you have any comments, queries or things you think we should be discussing.

Who are we?

The Hazelhurst Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Co-operative is based on a field in the Moss Valley, just beyond the ring road. Our aim is to grow and distribute organically grown, affordable food for the benefit of the community, using ecologically sustainable methods and 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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