

# HAZELHURST CSA



Newsletter no 9, June 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](mailto:admin@hazelhurst.coop)

**The first weekly vegboxes will be going out on 26<sup>th</sup> July. If you haven't already done so, sign up for a vegbox now!**

[vegbox@hazelhurst.coop](mailto:vegbox@hazelhurst.coop)

Each box will contain potatoes, onions, carrots plus other seasonal vegetables and fruit including broad beans, celeriac, purple sprouting broccoli, kale, cauliflowers, salad leaves, tomatoes, courgettes, french beans, beetroot, apples and rhubarb.

**Vegbox sizes and prices:** Large- £13 (10 types of vegetables) Standard- £11 (8 types of vegetables) Small- £8 (6 types of vegetables)

We anticipate delivering to a small number of convenient collection points around Sheffield every Friday

Hazelhurst members get first refusal!

## Events

### Open day at Hazelhurst

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 11- 4pm

Come and see what we're doing!

Hazelhurst is one of four growers on the site of Sheffield Organic Growers. On Saturday the whole of Sheffield Organic Growers site will be open to visitors. Come and admire what we've done, ask questions or just look at the fabulous view. There will be activities for children and refreshments. Let's hope the rain holds off!

For directions, see [www.hazelhurst.coop](http://www.hazelhurst.coop)

Look out for the Hazelhurst stall at all this summer's local events - Heeley and Sharrow Festivals, Nether Edge Farmers' market, Meersbrook Walled Garden Party, the Green Fair and more. . . It's our opportunity to tell people about the CSA and, we hope, offer a taster (for sale) of our produce. If you would like to help out on the stall we would be delighted. You don't need to worry that you don't know enough about it to talk to the public, there will always be a member of the Management Committee or the Land Group there as well.

- **Hazelhurst Social evening.** There will be a Hazelhurst social meet-up on **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June at the Rutland Arms** (86 Brown St, S1 2BS) This is now a regular event on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month

It's 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!

- **Reminder: Thurs 28th June, there will be a public meeting about Food Sovereignty** (see our May newsletter) It's at 7.45pm, Central United Reformed Church. For more information see <http://groups.wdm.org.uk/sheffield/> or contact [o.blensdorf@virgin.net](mailto:o.blensdorf@virgin.net)

## Volunteering on the land

Report from Stella, Volunteer co-ordinator



Summer, the warmer season arrives, and everything in the CSA land is thriving, despite the extreme alternating hot and wet weather.

The beetroot seedlings are emerging from sowings we made in May and are 5cm high and more. The broad beans we sowed in November have produced long slim pods and are nearly ready to harvest. The peas have come up that were sown on in May and they are now pushing up the fleece that protects them from nibblers.

Matt, our grower, has a very methodical way of working. He makes the things we do interesting, by focusing on specific tasks each day and every week and completing each task before beginning the next.

On the hot days 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> May our job was to plant out the courgettes and squash. Holes are dug a metre apart, and then half filled with well rotted manure. These holes are then covered with top soil, and heaped up to create a small mound. On top of the mound a stick is placed, and seeds are sown two or three at a time close to the stick. Then each one is covered by a little cloche made out of a plastic bottle cut in half with a hole cut directly in the middle above for letting in water. Two rows of 70 courgettes on the Wednesday and two rows of 70 squash on the Thursday, was hard work.

The following week we spent Wednesday clearing the brassica bed at the top of pernicious weeds, then planting out the kale. The weather was a little gentler, so more suitable for this work. And the milder weather helps the kale get established well and not dry out too much.

On Thursday morning we added manure to potato trench number eight and planted main crop Romana. The potatoes we sowed in March are now well on their way and flowering so will be ready to harvest in a few weeks' time.



We weeded more and more couch grass, then planted another row of broccoli, and protected these with butterfly netting to keep cabbage white from laying her eggs on them, and hungry caterpillars spoiling our crops.

We now have a supply of salad leaves: rocket, mizuna and the hot spicy one, red mustard, and

more seedlings of these are on their way, creating a steady supply of delicious leaves, for your veg box.

Matt has also sown a variety of lettuces; some are almost ready, looking fine planted out in blocks. And again more are on their way so there will be a continuing supply of lovely lettuces for your salad days.

And there is the polytunnel, with the courgettes advancing at a great pace, flowers appearing already. We are keeping them well watered and weeded and free from slugs. The tomatoes are beginning to flower as well; the warm weather and constant attention are giving them the perfect environment in which to flourish. And the climbing French beans we planted out on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May are nearly a metre high, twirling their tender tendrils around the strings.

So there is plenty to look forward to at the launch of the Box Scheme at the end of July.

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## Wildlife moment of the month

Yellowhammer spotted yesterday. (sorry, no picture)

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## Our camping and working weekend

Report from Rita, a new volunteer

Stella and I pitched our tents at the top of the field on the flat, wide, grassy strip which Hugh had kindly mowed for us. From here there are wonderful views of this part of the Moss Valley – even when the sky is overcast – and to the south west we could see the village of Coal Aston. We were the only volunteers to camp, as the grey overcast weather and forecast for rain had put some people off, but we also heard that the camping weekend had clashed with other events in Sheffield. It is the first time I had met Stella and she is a very kind and welcoming host.

During the days on Sat and Sun I met other people for the first time: Martin, who is doing biodynamic growing on the neighbouring field, and two of his volunteers. Sarah Golding the herbalist who came to guide us on a herbal discovery walk on Saturday afternoon and Matt (the grower) and Sarah came on Sunday morning and the four of us worked together in the polytunnel whilst it poured with rain outside.

Bardy came on Saturday afternoon providing us with tasty flapjacks, and more hands to do weeding and potting on. I quickly learnt that the flapjacks are part of a tradition at Hazelhurst of people bringing cakes / treats which are yummy and relatively healthy. During

the weekend I also tasted banana bread (Stella), spiced apple soda bread (Sarah, herbalist) and lemon and raisin pancakes (Stella). So I must remember to get baking!

Another treat – of a different kind - was mine and Stella’s walk to the national Trust wild flower meadows nearby. Just down the lane and turn left onto a dirt track (at NT sign) and we beheld the glorious sight of a field full of buttercups, clover, various grass heads, and other beautiful flowers I’ll need to look in a book to identify. To our surprise a gap through the hedge at the bottom of the first field led through to another much larger wild flower meadow, with views of parts of the Moss Valley we cannot see from Hazelhurst. Must go back and make a round walk of it.

The other great thing about this place is that it is accessible by public transport. My local no. 47 bus can take me fairly near, combined with a pleasant walk down a country lane to get here. Luckily we had lifts with our camping gear, but I’ll try this other route soon.

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## 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](mailto:stellah231@gmail.com) or phone Stella on 07541209661 for details.

### The next volunteering Sunday is 17<sup>th</sup> June

We also need people on a Thursday to help with packing and distribution of vegboxes. A driver (with car) would be really welcome. Please contact [admin@hazelhurst.coop](mailto:admin@hazelhurst.coop) if you would like to help, or phone Stella on 07541209661

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

We are still looking for volunteers to help staff the Hazelhurst stall at summer festivals and farmers’ markets. Please email [admin@hazelhurst.coop](mailto:admin@hazelhurst.coop) or phone Bardy on 07734426661 if you would like to do this



## Volunteer’s quote of the month

“Now I know where plastic bottles come from,” Carolyn

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## CSA Management Committee

The CSA Management Committee will next meet on **4<sup>th</sup> July** . Please get in touch if you have any comments, queries or things you think we should be discussing.

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## 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](mailto:admin@hazelhurst.coop). Have a look at the website [www.hazelhurst.coop](http://www.hazelhurst.coop)

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