

HAZELHURST CSA



Newsletter no 11, September 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

Events

Hazelhurst CSA Co-op Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 3rd October

6.00 drinks and snacks for 6.30 start

Quaker Meeting House, 10 St James St S1 2EW

Followed at 7.45 by

The Fun, Figures and Freedom of Community Food Initiatives

An illustrated discussion with Nick Weir

Nick is a founder member of Stroud Community Agriculture which is now held up by the Soil Association as a Beacon Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) project. He is also a founder member of Stroudco Food Hub (<http://www.stroudco.org.uk>), which is providing a new economic model for community food distribution

Hazelhurst Community Supported Agriculture Co-operative will hold its Annual General Meeting at 6.30 with a report on the last year at Hazelhurst and election of the Management Committee. Everyone is welcome to attend the AGM, although only members can vote

Please come to the meeting! And tell your friends. It's a chance to hear more about what's happening in local food and about Hazelhurst. There will be a chance to talk to some of the volunteers working for the CSA and hear about the many ways you can be involved.

Members are receiving a notice of the meeting requesting nominations for the Management Committee.

More Events

Hazelhurst CSA Co-op invites you to join us for



The Big Dig

Come to the field on Sunday 16th September and join us for some serious digging in the potato patch

Get fresh air!

Get fit!

Get tired!

For details contact Stella on 07541209661 or

stellah231@gmail.com

Find out more at www.bigdig.org.uk
<http://www.facebook.com/thebigdiguk>



Weekend

There are plans afoot for a Women's Creativity Weekend at Hazelhurst on 29th/30th September. May include camping if the weather is right. Contact Stella for details on 07541209661 or stellah231@gmail.com

Hazelhurst at the Rutland

On **Wednesday 19th September** there will be a Hazelhurst pub night at the **Rutland Arms** (86 Brown St, S1 2BS) This is a regular event on the 3rd 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!

News

The vegbags go live!



On 27th July the first weekly vegbags went out. Many of you will have subscribed and we hope you are enjoying your veg. We have a fantastic team of volunteers who have organised harvesting, transport and distribution. Surplus produce is going to local restaurants and shops and some is being sold on Albert Road on a Friday evening. Feedback from customers has been enthusiastic and we look forward to the weekly vegbag continuing throughout the year.

We're looking for a Project Manager

Since Hazelhurst is now working so successfully we have received some funding which will allow us to employ a part time project manager to help take the business forward and develop the environmental justice (local and global) aspect of the project.

If you are interested in the job, or know somebody who might be, contact Joan ajmiller@blueyonder.co.uk

Or phone 0114 2498613

Job Title: Hazelhurst CSA Project Manager

Job: A project manager is required to coordinate the cooperative's veg bag scheme and develop the environmental justice aspect of the co-operative.

Organisation: Hazelhurst Community Supported Agriculture Co-operative.

Job Description:

Hazelhurst CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) is a co-operative enterprise growing vegetables sustainably in the Moss valley, just beyond Sheffield's SE ring road. A part time grower is in place supported by volunteers. This new post is central in our ambition to develop a thriving veg-bag scheme for the Heeley-Meersbrook community and introduce more people to locally grown organic produce.

An exciting part is to develop the Environmental Justice aspect of the job, locally and globally.

An experienced professional with good management and people skills, you will manage and co-ordinate the business administration side of the enterprise and play an important part in developing our new three year plan. You will demonstrate good IT skills and sound financial management, together with an understanding of the cooperative ethos.

Job Location: Home working with some travelling to the Hazelhurst field site and within the local community.

Salary: £17.161 (hourly rate of £8.80) pro rata

Job Type: part-time, 12 months with the possibility of extending for a second year.

Hours: 15 hours per week

Benefits: Opportunity to work with enthusiastic, committed volunteers and contribute to the local food agenda.

Closing date: 12 noon, Monday 1st October. Interviews Tuesday 9th October.

How to apply: Please contact Caroline Krzesinska, Fundraiser at carolinekrz@gmail.com for a job description, person specification and a simple application form.

Grower's news

Harvesting has been going on apace at Hazelhurst over the past 2 months. We've dug up about 1,500 onions - all drying now in the polytunnel. We've also dug up 700kg of potatoes - Cara and Nicola proving to be the best for productivity and taste respectively.



In the tunnel the french beans have been prolific - over 100kg in all. The tomatoes have been very slow to ripen due to low light levels - we hope to start harvesting them mid September. We've recently pulled out the indoor courgettes as the field sown plants are cropping well, and the squashes are just ready - we hope to store them for the bags over the winter. With all the rain, beetroot has been a success - volunteer quote - "they're like bowling balls!" and the celeriac has also enjoyed the wet weather.

Marion's bees have been feeding on blue flowered phacelia that was sown as a green manure - now it's going to seed we plan to chop it down and leave it to rot into the beds to increase fertility. This will also provide a mulch over the winter. We'll be sowing rye grass in the old potato beds later in the season which we can dig back in next spring to improve soil structure.

Volunteering on the land

Report from Stella, Volunteer co-ordinator

September - time of mists and mellow fruitfulness. The skies begin to darken and the leaves to fall and yet the days just now are warm and sunshine ripens all the pumpkins, just when we thought it wouldn't.

The courgettes are still going strong we are harvesting a wheelbarrow full each week and most delicious they are as well. The tomatoes are almost ripe; some are red Matt says they are not to be picked because the red ones help ones to ripen. So we will have to wait until they are all ripe have tomatoes in the veg bags.

The onions and potatoes are all harvested. We could not keep ground any longer because of airborne fungal diseases. Now safely stored in the perfect conditions in some kind person's

There are always mangetout peas to pick although the French dwindling, as the runner beans are ripening ready to take their

The beetroot we are harvesting are huge - some as big as woods, and the swede still in the ground are the size of a footballs.



enough but
the green
before you

them in the
they are all
garage.

beans are
place.

bowling

There are more and more volunteers enjoying helping on the land at Hazelhurst, 9 or 10 each work day at the most. If you haven't volunteered yet, now would be a good time to join in the fun. We need your help more than ever. There's so much to harvest and there's weeding, clearing and soil preparation, seed sowing and planting out new crops. It is enjoyable working together and helps you lose your inhibitions and get talking. One quiet shy volunteer when we were discussing Occupy, said 'I may be old fashioned but what is needed is a revolt'.

The Earth rewards our labour of love with an abundant harvest.

Yours with gratitude, Stella.

Getting 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 Sundays are 16th September (also known as The Big Dig)
& 7th October**

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

Who are we?

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 coming to the AGM on 3rd October, or by emailing admin@hazelhurst.coop. Have a look at the website www.hazelhurst.coop

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