

HAZELHURST CSA



Project Co-ordinator's Report – January 2013

Happy New Year to all our members, veg bag customers, volunteers and supporters.

2013 had its triumphs as well as its fair share of challenges but with hard-work, resilience and optimism we have made it through to 2014.

At the AGM in September 2013 the Management Committee proposed not to renew the contract to employ our own grower from January 2014. We proposed instead to purchase produce from Huw



Evans and Martin Bradshaw, two of the other independent growers forming part of Sheffield Organic Growers. This was a difficult decision to make but the Management Committee felt this was the only viable option to ensure the CSA remained financially sustainable and could operate in the longer term.

It was a difficult and emotional meeting with lots of discussion and debate. In the absence of any other viable options, the proposal was passed. We invited people to a follow up meeting in October where we discussed the new direction and how we were going to move forward as a co-operative.

At the meeting we were all keen for Hazelhurst CSA to remain committed to keeping people engaged and involved. We want to be clear in our message that we are **still organic**, we are **still local** and our aim is still to **connect people with where their food comes from**.

We will be working closely with Sheffield Organic Growers and particularly Huw Evans who owns Big Pond Field and runs his food growing business as a social, environmental, not-for-profit enterprise. His principle motivation is to promote local organic growing and make it sustainable. At the follow up meeting, Huw stressed how volunteers are still critical. He will need the extra help in supplying the Hazelhurst CSA veg bags and in return can offer a broad range of volunteer tasks and share his knowledge and experience. By Hazelhurst being a reliable and regular customer, Huw will be able to employ an Organic-Grower Trainee for 30 hours a week for 6-7 months between April and September.

We move into 2014 with optimism, keen to encourage new volunteers and eager to increase our number of veg bag customers. We have exciting plans to develop the outreach work we do. We are working in partnership with Gleadless Valley Forum and local volunteers to progress the development of cook and eat sessions at Gleadless Valley food bank. We are launching this at an event on Friday 7th February where we will make Hazelhurst organic vegetable soup to share with the local community. Outreach volunteer and local Health Champion, Rita Wilcox and I are attending

the Women's conversation group at Lowedges later this month to talk to them about food, health and organic growing and encourage them to come out to visit the field when the weather is warmer.

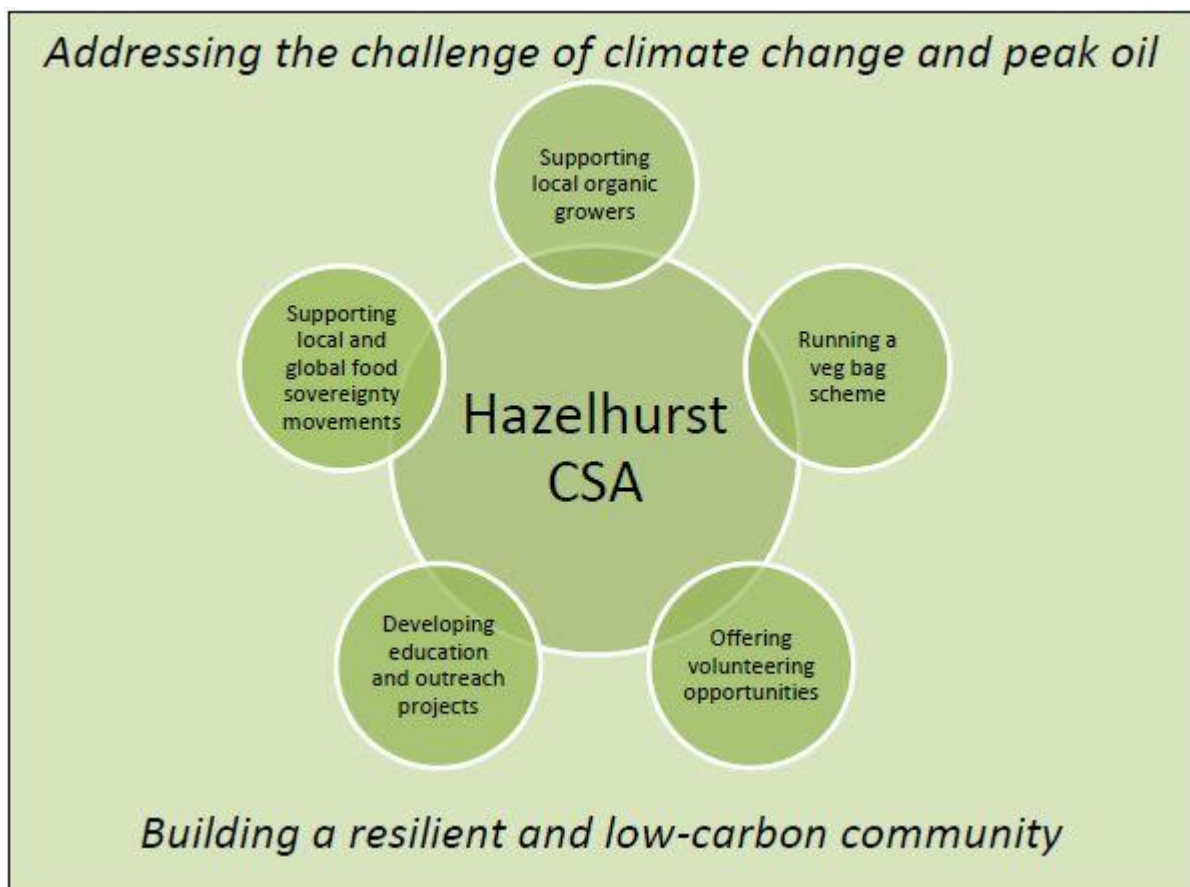
So as you can see lots of plans in this new chapter of the Hazelhurst CSA story. We would like to thank you for your continued support and would like to invite you all to a New Year's informal get together to keep in touch and find out more about our new direction and opportunities. This will be on:

Tuesday 21st January, 7.30 at the White Lion on Queens Road, Heeley.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Best Wishes
Naomi Hinch

Management Committee member, Alison Hilton has produced this diagram to represent the updated aims and objectives of Hazelhurst CSA



Full Circle Farm



A new group of five growers have taken on the land that Hazelhurst CSA used to grow on. Here, Fran Humphries from the team tells us more about Full Circle Farm:

To all members of Hazelhurst CSA,

Hello, my name is Fran and I am one of five growers who will be working on the land at Big Pond Field from January 2014. I would like to introduce the team and tell you about who we are, what experience we have and what we hope to achieve at the land rented from Huw at Sheffield Organic Growers. I would like to begin by thanking you for the effort, energy and love that you have put into the land. We can see that this has resulted in increased soil fertility and biodiversity and a piece of land that grows great, healthy vegetables. We are lucky to be able to inherit such a garden and we endeavour to continue your hard work.

Our foremost aim is to continue to build soil fertility, biodiversity and resilience. We know that working with nature, not against, offers the most benefits, both to us and to the land. We aim to grow a diverse range of vegetables, continuing the crop rotation that has already been used on the land over the past three years. We want to be a part of building a resilient local food system, and to be able to offer great, healthy vegetables to the people of Sheffield.

We are a young group of workers and friends and we all have experience on Organic farms across the UK. We all met as interns at a mixed farm in Hertfordshire called Church Farm. George, Jess, Luke and Simeon were horticultural interns whilst I was running the farm box scheme. That was back in 2011 and since then we have all gone in various directions, learning new skills, and have recently regrouped. George and Jess both have degrees in Organic Horticulture. They left Church Farm to take a job as trainee farm managers at Pillars of Hercules, an Organic Farm near Edinburgh. They

then moved to an estate in Badminton to keep the grounds and market garden. Simeon has spent the past year growing potted herbs and travelling across the country to sell them at large markets, fayres, shows and festivals. Luke and I left Church Farm and went to work on a goat and vegetable farm near Glasgow before spending 2013 as support workers on an Organic Farm called Primrose Organic Centre in Wales. We feel that our combined knowledge and experience enables us to be good stewards for the land. Our passion for developing a local sustainable food system means we will work tirelessly to succeed.

If you would like updates about what we are up to at Full Circle Farm then please email us at fullcirclefarm@hotmail.com. We will be very happy to have contact with you and also hope to arrange community volunteering and eating days throughout the year when we would love for you to join us on the land.

I would like to conclude by reiterating that we are incredibly grateful for the hard work that you have put in, which means we inherit a beautiful, rich and healthy plot of land. We will continue to treat the land well.

With Gratitude,

Fran, George, Jess, Luke and Simeon.

The future of volunteering at Hazelhurst CSA



We are working in partnership with Huw Evan's to continue to offer interesting volunteering opportunities each Thursday. This will be a mix of tasks but will of course include the harvesting for the CSA veg bags. There are tasks for all abilities and energy levels

In January and February, there will be weeding around the fruit trees and fruit bushes and mulching them with woodchip ready for the growing season. There will be winter pruning and an interesting piece of work establishing an area to propagate new fruit trees by grafting pieces taken from the best trees, for future sale or planting on another site. Huw has ordered some unusual edible shrubs and trees from the Agroforestry Research

Trust and will be planting these, when conditions allow, in late January.

The polytunnel will be prepared for the new growing season by adding compost and making it ready for seed sowing. The winter cover crops need ploughing in then a mountain of compost needs to be spread using the tractor, trailer and lots of people with shovels.

The one big event that is coming up is to put the cover on the new polytunnel. The bigger the group, the easier it is.

If any of this takes your fancy, get in touch at Naomi@hazelhurst.coop or 07857869740. If you require transport we will do our best to help.

Fresh start in 2014

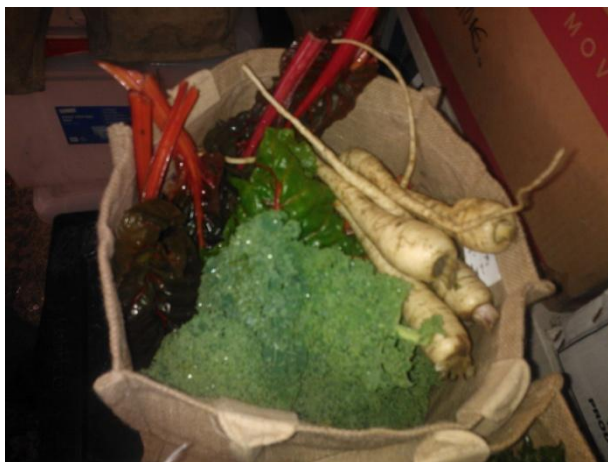
Why not make 2014 the year you reduce what you buy from supermarkets and shop locally or the year that you eat more healthily?

If you're not already one of our veg bag customers, why not give it a go? We are in a position to expand our number of customers. At the moment we deliver to hubs in the Meersbrook area but we are keen to expand and could go further afield. It looks likely that we will soon be able to have a hub in Nether Edge.

If you want to start receiving locally sourced, seasonal, organic vegetables from a community co-operative, get in touch at vegbox@hazelhurst.coop or call 07857869740.

Current vegbag sizes and prices:

Large £13* (10 types of vegetables)
Standard £11* (8 types of vegetables)
Small £8* (6 types of vegetables)



*Please note these prices are currently under review. Due to rising costs across the board, we may be looking to increase by no more than 10%

Our connection to the global movement for food sovereignty. Hazelhurst CSA joins the Land Workers' Alliance.

The Landworkers Alliance www.landworkersalliance.org.uk is an organisation of people who make their livelihoods from producing food, fuel and fibre on a small scale using sustainable methods of production in England. They campaign for the rights of small producers and a better food system. They are members of La Via Campesina, the international peasant farmers union and work in solidarity with our fellow land workers across the globe.

As Hazelhurst CSA supports local growers at SOGs and provides organic veg for local people, we have been welcomed into the Land Workers' Alliance. We see ourselves as part of the global movement for Food Sovereignty which is central to the identity of The Landworkers Alliance .

The campaign for Food Sovereignty was launched by [Via Campesina](http://ViaCampesina.org) in 1996 and defined as – “The right of communities to define their own food and farming systems”. The six pillars of food sovereignty :

- Focuses on food for people
- Values food providers
- Localises food systems
- Puts control locally
- Build knowledge and skill
- Works with nature.

The Land Workers Alliance brings together like-minded producers to identify and organise targeted campaigns and lobby UK and European parliaments on issues affecting the livelihoods of small-scale producers. The organisation will also provide a network for producers to share farming skills and knowledge through training, tours and working groups.

By joining we will be able to keep our membership informed and involved with relevant campaigns and opportunities. We will also be able to make useful connections and knowledge exchange with our global outreach initiatives with our current partners in Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe.

Here are two news items from the website of very current interest:

Mobilisation to Defend Farmers Rights, 20th Jan 2014 Brussels



FOR the rights of farmers to use and freely exchange their seeds and breeding animals, and to have unrestricted access to all available crop diversity

AGAINST patents on living organisms, and control of the seed market by multinationals

Mobilisation on Monday, January 20th 2014 at 13:00-Place du Luxembourg, in front of the European Parliament

The European Parliament will be voting on legislation on the marketing of seeds, animal and plant health and official controls on food production. The European Coordination Via Campesina is calling to organize action in Brussels or in your own country before the vote on this regulation.

FAO recognizes La Via Campesina's crucial role as the major international small food producer's organisation

Today, during a meeting between La Via Campesina and FAO's Director general Jose Graziano da Silva an agreement of cooperation was formalized which acknowledged the essential role played by small holder food producers. Their role was recognised as most important in the eradication of world hunger. The cooperation will focus on various key areas: strengthening peasant based agro-ecological food production, protecting small holders rights to access land and water, as well as improving farmers rights over seeds in accordance with international and national seed laws. This cooperation's framework will lay special emphasis on the



key role played by youth and women in food production as well as the need to improve their access to land and other productive resources.

Would members be interested in a film showing and discussion around some of these issues? If so, do let myself and Naomi know at Naomi@hazelhurst.coop

Heather Hunt

(Education and Outreach, Hazelhurst Management Committee)