

# HAZELHURST CSA

Newsletter No.3 April 2011

**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, healthy, affordable food for the benefit of the community, using ecologically sustainable methods to protect and enhance biodiversity.

If you've joined up, welcome to Hazelhurst CSA. If you've not joined yet, contact details for doing so are at the foot of this Newsletter. Below, there are reports from the Management Committee and other working groups.

## **Management Committee & Business Group Report:**

Public Meeting Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2011, 7.30-9.30pm  
The Heeley Institute, 147 Gleadless Road, Sheffield S2 3AA

A lot of work has been done on the land over the last few months, and we've also been developing the Co-operative's infrastructure 'behind the scenes'. Since the initiation of this newsletter, we've been able to tell you a little bit about this. But we're keen to share with you more detail on all this work, particularly as we are now building a committed membership - you!

What's incredibly exciting about being a Co-operative is that all of us have an equal part to play in the direction that the CSA will take. The Management Committee 'does what it says on the tin' - it manages the CSA's business on a day-to-day basis. What makes the CSA really strong is the opportunity to draw on the enthusiasm and commitment of its membership.

So please come along to a public meeting for the CSA on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2011 at 7.30pm to hear about how we have fared over the last few months since the formal set-up of the Co-operative at the AGM in September 2010.

We'll tell you about the progress in working on the fertility of the land, the field's boundaries, and the first few crops that have been planted. We'll also tell you about our development plans in the short to medium term.

We want to hear from you about your ongoing aspirations for the CSA, and what we can all contribute to make it a success. Hope to see you there!

## **Pioneer Share Update**

So far sixteen CSA members have expressed an interest in buying Pioneer Shares to help build our Co-operative. A meeting for them to discuss any questions they may have has been arranged for 18<sup>th</sup> April. If you are interested in buying a Pioneer Share and have not yet done so, contact [admin@hazelhurst.coop](mailto:admin@hazelhurst.coop) for more details.

## **Land Group Report from Heather:**

Children arrive, worms return and potatoes get planted on the Hazelhurst field

On a sunny Wednesday afternoon in early April, nine children and their teacher cycled from Valley Park Primary school to the Hazelhurst site as part of the Sustrans "Bike It" project. They were warmly welcomed by CSA Land Group people who had 16 varieties of potatoes to plant, 1000 potatoes in all. The children enthusiastically joined in the potato planting and took part in a worm survey. We were all delighted that there were so many worms around, particularly in the tilled area where there has been green manure and green waste compost.

Children quickly sorted mature worms, (those with saddles) from immature ones, and identified four different species: the Blue-grey worm, the Black-headed worm, the Lob worm and Brandling worm. Check out this Opal soil and worm guide: <http://www.opalexplornature.org/sites/default/files/7/file/Field-guide-OPAL-online.pdf>

While we were there a pair of buzzards circled over head signalling our field as a wild and brilliant place to be for children of all ages. The children and their teacher all want to return and build up close links with the project. If other schools are interested in visits, please contact [admin@hazelhurst.coop](mailto:admin@hazelhurst.coop) *[photo overleaf]*



### Report from Volunteer Co-ordinator, Joan:

As well as the monthly volunteer day, we are now also going out to Hazelhurst every Tuesday and one day every weekend so please contact me beforehand if you are interested to check times and transport etc. Last Tuesday we saw a pair of buzzards over the land and a duck trying out the pond.

We hope to have a few overnight events during the spring, summer and autumn. So far the ideas are for a solstice camp, a dawn chorus walk followed by visioning for the pond conservation, building of a compost toilet. Other ideas are very welcome, so please let me know your thoughts.

I am looking for someone to help with the volunteering especially to build up the numbers and diversity of helpers. Please contact me if you would like to be a 'joint volunteer coordinator' and we can chat through the role. Contact [joan@hazelhurst.coop](mailto:joan@hazelhurst.coop) or 0114 2498613

### Dates for your diary:

17 <sup>th</sup> April 2011	Regular volunteer day: planting more of the 16 varieties of seed potatoes we have. Contact <a href="mailto:joan@hazelhurst.coop">joan@hazelhurst.coop</a> or 0114 2498613
18 <sup>th</sup> April 2011	Pioneer Shareholder Meeting: contact <a href="mailto:admin@hazelhurst.coop">admin@hazelhurst.coop</a> for details
11 <sup>th</sup> May 2011	Public Meeting: 7.30-9.30pm The Heeley Institute, 147 Gleadless Road, S2 3AA

For information about joining Hazelhurst CSA by buying a Membership Share (£1.00 Share + £24.00 admin fee = £25.00), or for additionally investing in Hazelhurst CSA by buying a Pioneer Share (£200.00 - £2,000.00), contact [admin@hazelhurst.coop](mailto:admin@hazelhurst.coop).

Many thanks for your continuing support.

***Hazelhurst CSA Management Committee & Working Groups***