

# HAZELHURST CSA

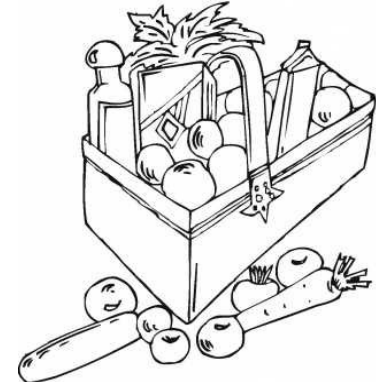
Newsletter No.1 February 2011

**Hazelhurst Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Co-operative** is well on the way to establishing itself as an independent organisation. Here are **progress reports** from the Management Committee (MC) and some other working groups:

## **Management Committee & Business Group**

Many of the necessary business preliminaries have now been completed: Hazelhurst CSA Co-operative Ltd is now registered as an 'Industrial and Provident Society bona fide co-operative'; a bank account has been set up; and the CSA is now registered with the Financial Services Authority and Co-operatives UK.

The MC has also successfully bid for a Small Funds Grant from Co-operatives UK of £500. This money will be used to produce joining packs for members. However, further funds will be needed. To this end, the MC is now ready to launch the sale of **Membership Shares** and **Pioneer Shares** – see below:



## Invitation to buy a Membership Share

Many of you have been involved with the Hazelhurst CSA since it began as a meeting of local folk in Meersbrook Pavillion in 2009. We are delighted to announce that it is now possible for you to formally become a Member by buying a Membership Share. Membership will give you voting rights at the AGM to appoint the Management Committee and participate in key decisions. The cost for the coming year has been set at:

**£25.00 (£1.00 share value + £24.00 administration fee)**

*Please note that we are striving to be inclusive of all income levels, family backgrounds, and abilities. To this end we'll try to ensure that cost, access and other constraints do not stop anyone from joining, within the requirements of the enterprise to sustain itself. We are therefore committed to waiving part of the annual membership fee in the case of hardship. This will need to be requested on an individual basis.*

## Invitation to buy a Pioneer Share

In order for the Management Committee to continue to the next phase of development there is a need to generate money. This is specifically to a) buy in land management and commercial growing expertise and invest in start-up capital equipment, and b) identify our membership and set up legal, administrative and financial systems. Towards both these ends, an initial Pioneer Share Offer is now being offered. These will be a '**high risk investment**' (meaning there is no guaranteed return), but a necessary step to take as the CSA works towards achieving a sustainable business plan. Hazelhurst CSA still has options for another year to buy the Hazelhurst site from Huw Evans' Company.

**The Pioneer Share Offer is for a minimum stake of £200 and a maximum stake of £2,000.** We are looking to raise £20,000 in total to finance the set-up work required to fund the enterprise while we prepare a full prospectus and Business Plan. This includes expenditure to test and demonstrate the viability of the land; install power, security, water, polytunnels; buy a small tractor/ rotavator, other tools and seeds; build storage facilities; set up ICT systems; pay for insurance, legal, audit and financial operations; and cover the costs of recruitment, training, events and publicity.

*This will be a vital year, and the support of Members will be crucial. You can register your interest in buying a Membership or Pioneer Share by completing the CSA's 'Contacts Form' circulated with this newsletter. If you cannot buy any shares, the Form also lists other ways to support the CSA.*



*Planting Onions: Nov 2010.  
There'll be more work days  
in the spring.*

## Land & Volunteer Groups

Members of these two groups have been working hard with volunteers: the land has been fertilised with green waste compost and by growing 'green manure' plants; several beds of onions and broad beans have already been planted, with plans afoot to put in potatoes and garlic. Unfortunately, the snow scuppered plans to bring in and sell the holly berry harvest. Bee hives have also been installed on the land.

Money for trees has been secured from both the BCTV Keep Britain Tidy Project and also the Permaculture Association. A first tree planting day took place on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, with a second one planned for March 13<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully, as well as strengthening the land's border, this will add fruit and nuts to the list of food being produced.

**Seasoned and new volunteers are needed to help.**

Other Hazelhurst CSA working groups include an **Oral History Group** and an **Inclusion Group** – news from these groups will be included in future newsletters.

## Dates for your diary:

### Hedgelaying Course

19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> February 2011  
9.30am – 4.00pm

Rowan will be providing tuition.  
Cost: £15.00 per day with proceeds going to Hazelhurst CSA funds.  
Come for one or two days.  
Maximum numbers will be 6 per day.  
Beginners welcome.

#### Information for attendees:

Please make sure your tetanus protection is up to date.  
Hedging tools will be provided but bring your own if you have them.  
Bring gloves, wear strong boots and come prepared for cold and wet.  
Bring your own lunch.

Please contact Marion to book: [marion@hazelhurst.coop](mailto:marion@hazelhurst.coop)  
Tel: 01142662512/ 07791105452

### Tree Planting Day

13<sup>th</sup> March 2011  
Times to be confirmed

The Permaculture Association is granting Hazelhurst £200 to plant trees.  
Willing volunteers are needed to help – no experience necessary.  
Further details to follow.

Please contact Ronin to register your interest: [ronin@hazelhurst.coop](mailto:ronin@hazelhurst.coop)

Many thanks for your support so far. We hope that you will continue to support our aim to set up a co-operative business that can supply the local community with fresh, organic, locally produced food from the Hazelhurst land. To register your support, please complete the Contacts Form accompanying this first Newsletter by 18<sup>th</sup> February 2011 (although later replies will always be welcomed).

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

### **Contact details:**

[admin@hazelhurst.coop](mailto:admin@hazelhurst.coop) for all general enquiries, or  
[yvonne@hazelhurst.coop](mailto:yvonne@hazelhurst.coop) to contact the Management Committee.