



Programme

- 2:00 Welcome and Introduction - Simon Ryder
- 2:20 Approve minutes from last meeting
- 2:45 Overview of the past year – Sam Hardiman
- 3:00 Accounts 2010 – Richard Swann
- 3:10 Budget 2011 presentation– Richard Swann
- 3:30 Core Group introduction to new members
- 3:45 Tea (bring and share cakes and biscuits)
- 4:00 Presentation by photographer Ruth Davy on an Irish CSA
- 4:15 Vote in Core Group Members
- 4:30 The future? Presentation and Discussion by Martin Large (Stroud Common Wealth and SCA member, Stroud Woodland Co-op) on:

'How can we secure more land e.g. via a proposed Biodynamic Land Trust?' followed by discussion.

(Martin is carrying out a feasibility study for the Biodynamic Association on setting up a Biodynamic Land Trust. For this he would like to identify farms where such a trust would be a helpful vehicle. For his presentation he will present the principles of Land Trusts and ask whether the SCA Membership would like to engage in a process of acquiring new farm land through long leasing from such a trust).

Contents

- Farm Report - Sam Hardiman
- Vegetable Report - Mark Harrison
- Membership Report - Carol Mathews
- Core Group
- Finances - Richard Swann
- Budget - Mark Harrison

(note : the rest of the papers will be given out on the day)



FARM REPORT

This has been a year of contrast, undoubtedly dominated by the weather. The year started out with lots of snow and cold weather. Whilst beautiful it defiantly makes farming more challenging. The winter seemed to turn into summer without much of a spring at all. The would be spring brought us a good crop of lambs. They all came full of life and health. They were soon followed by calves. These to were all healthy and grew well. By the time June came around the weather had become really quite hot. This enabled us to make some good quality hay which unfortunately turned out to be not enough due to the cold spring and dry summer. The prolonged dry spell meant the grass struggled to grow throughout the summer. This made keeping the animals with enough to eat an ongoing challenge. The highlight though was a litter of fourteen piglets in July; these are the big pigs you see now at Brookthorpe. The weather in autumn was more favourable bringing much needed rain and warmth. The grass grew well because of it. The cattle came into the barn in November. This brought the start of the winter feed routine. The hay shortage soon became apparent. We have been able to stretch the feed out with help from a great crop of fodder beets grown in the summer. Another feature of this winter has been the extreme cold weather. The pipes in the barn remained frozen day and night for over ten days. We had to carry a lot of water and come up with some convoluted alternatives. A big thank you must be given to Ute for keeping the animals fed and watered at Hawkwood throughout the winter.

A big disappointment was finding out that our sow was not pregnant. This means we miss out on a litter of piglets and set back four months. She has now gone back to visit the boar and we can expect piglets in May with a bit of luck.

We have had class three from Wynstones work on the farm through the year. This is a rewarding experience for both class three and me alike. It's great to see these youngsters getting stuck into their work with such commitment. Class nine also came for two days and completed all the jobs I had assigned them in record time.

Tim our apprentice also finishes his time with us soon. It has been a pleasure to work with him. He will be missed, but a great asset to his new projects in Bristol. Good luck Tim.

We have plans to reseed some fields at Brookthorpe to help with the fodder shortages and an increase in the vegetable growing area. With this in mind I am looking forward to the coming year with enthusiasm and optimism. Here's to a fruitful and productive year to come

Sam

VEGETABLE REPORT

Overall the 2010 season was a difficult one for the market garden. We began the year with very cold weather but March turned dry and mild, giving us an opportunity to plant potatoes and onions early. We had no significant rain in the hot months of May, June and July, and this gave us a lot of problems establishing some of our crops. Despite watering we only managed to establish a quarter of our normal carrot crop and a lot of the cabbage family vegetables stopped growing for a month. Then the last 5 weeks of the year were intensely cold and very damaging to some of the usually hardy crops (all of the purple sprouting broccoli and cauliflowers were killed).

As well as the weather related problems we had two major pest problems, leek moth and cabbage root fly. The leek moth destroyed two thirds of the leek crop, and the cabbage root fly inhibited growth of the broccoli (but that was killed by the cold anyway).

So, did anything good happen in the garden in 2010? Well, yes. Crops that were established early grew very well. Our potato crop was the biggest we've grown (a bit misshapen maybe), and parsnips, celeriac, squash, and brussel sprouts are just a few of the crops that also did well. We also managed to protect the winter salad from the worst of the cold.

However, the net result of all of this is that we had to buy in much more vegetables for the shares than we had planned.

We purchased a very cheap old horticultural machine in April called a steerage hoe. With one person driving the tractor and one person sitting on and steering the hoe, we were able to quickly and efficiently weed between the rows of vegetables. (£30 on Ebay, bargain!) We had expanded the area of vegetables grown at Brookthorpe to include all of the 4 acre veg field so this small improvement in our working practice was significant.

Once again this year we had a great staff team. Tim completed his apprenticeship in July but stayed on for the rest of the year, reducing his working week with us slightly as he concentrated on developing his own projects in Bristol. We were also helped by Siggie, who came to live in the caravan at Brookthorpe and worked with us from April to the end of October, before returning to the US for the winter (sensible woman). We also had two worksharers for the season, Sue Dance and Emma Karran, who worked alongside of the staff with all of those seasonal jobs.

Lets hope we have a as good a team for the next season, with less pests and more benign weather.

Mark

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Summary comments from Carol Mathews, Membership Administrator

My main observations from 2010 are:

- the number of vegetable shares being collected has stabilised around 194
- this means we did not maintain the 8% increase of the previous year and so have still not reached our target of 200 veg shares
- this was due to a small drop in new

members coming in (42 in 2010; 47 in 2009); as well as a large increase in people leaving (41 in 2010; 32 in 2009)

- our most successful recruitment method continues to be word of mouth and contacts made through other local networks
- the balance between shares for Tuesday and Friday harvest is now almost 50/50

Membership figures as at 03/03/11

	Feb 2008	Feb 2009	Feb 2010	Feb 2011
Households who are members	190	208	231	240
Adult members	310	344	402	391
Households collecting veg shares	157	174	187	196
Number of veg shares collected every week	161	180.5 (12% increase)	194 (8% increase)	195 (1% increase)
Number of veg shares collected from Hawkwood (Tuesday harvest)	56 (35%)	44.5 (25%)	45 (23%)	46 (24%)
Number of veg shares collected from Hawkwood (Friday harvest)	53 (33%)	67.5 (37%)	74 (38%)	82.5 (42%)
Number of veg shares collected from Painswick Inn, Stroud (Tuesday harvest)	8 (5%)	10 (6%)	9.5 (5%)	8.5 (4%)
Number of veg shares collected from Painswick Inn, Stroud (Friday harvest)	13 (8%)	10.5 (6%)	12.5 (6%)	12.5 (6%)
Number of veg shares collected from Green Spirit, Nailsworth (Tuesday harvest)	12.5 (8%)	17 (6%)	15.5 (8%)	7.5 (4%)
Number of veg shares collected from Brookthorpe (Tuesday harvest)	18.5 (11%)	31 (17%)	34.5 (18%)	35 (18%)
Number of veg shares collected from Gloucester (Tuesday harvest)	n/a	n/a	3 (2%)	3 (2%)
Total number of veg shares from Tuesday harvest	95 (59%)	102.5 (57%)	107.5 (55%)	100 (51%)
Total number of veg shares from Friday harvest	66 (41%)	78 (43%)	86.5 (45%)	95 (49%)
Households on waiting list for veg shares	0	0	0	0
Length of time that people on the waiting list generally wait before they get veg	0 months	0 months	0 months	0 months

New members

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Number of households joining as new members during the year	44 (23% increase)	42 (22% Membership increase)	47 (23% increase)	42 (18% increase)
Monitoring Forms received from new members during the year	42 (95%)	30 (77% of new members)	41 (87% of new members)	36 (86% of new members)

(Percentages below are of the total forms returned)

Households that include someone on a low income	12 (29%)	8 (27%)	15 (37%)	10 (24%)
Households that include someone who is receiving state benefit	8 (19%)	0	12 (29%)	4 (10%)
Households that include someone who is disabled or chronically ill	3 (7%)	1 (3%)	5 (12%)	3 (7%)
Households that include someone who is under 25 (inc. children)	18 (43%)	12 (40%)	21 (51%)	18 (43%)
Households that include someone who is unemployed	5 (12%)	3 (10%)	5 (12%)	4 (10%)
Households that include someone who is over 60	6 (14%)	4 (13%)	4 (10%)	6 (14%)
Households that includes someone from an ethnic minority	1 (2%)	2 (7%)	1 (2%)	3 (7%)
Households that are not within walking distance of a shop selling produce of equal quality to SCA produce	17 (40%)	7 (23%)	12 (29%)	10 (24%)

<p>We asked all our new members how they heard about SCA. Their responses were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Transition Gloucester meeting ➤ Through a friend on Facebook ➤ Word of mouth x 6 ➤ Through Demeter office 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Google search “organic veg boxes” and “community” ➤ Living at Brookthorpe ➤ Seeing the sign for the farm at Hawkwood ➤ A stall at Eden project ➤ Star Anise cafe
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Members who have left

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Number of households cancelling veg shares during the year [this does not include those who reduce their veg shares]	24 (13%)	30 (16%) (6 of these stayed on as members)	32 (15%) (11 of these stayed on as members)	41 (18%) (8 of these stayed on as members)

During 2010, we had 41 households leave our vegetable shares. We ask every 'leaver' to give us feedback. We received feedback from 12 households.

Reasons for leaving include:

The logistics of the pickup – we used to share collecting with friends who have left
We live too far away – the travelling is too much
A bit of waste – we are not getting through everything every week / we are wasting veg we waste veg due to our restricted diet / We couldn't manage the huge quantities of beetroot and swede
Feeling of pressure to consume veg
The rotten potatoes were the tipping point
Family budgets
I am growing a lot of food myself / Our own veg patch is doing rather well
Moving to Bristol / US / away
I joined to support a great project from the beginning and to spend time with the pioneers making it happen – I now don't see those people.
I don't make it to Farm Days as I don't feel so connected with Brookthorpe and it clashes with other engagements.

There were no suggestions for improvement

And many forms included appreciation for SCA:

We've enjoyed being members and the children have good memories of the pigs!
I think SCA is brilliant!
Really enjoyed being a member – thank you!
I am very thankful to have worked at SCA for the season

I think SCA is marvellous and I talk about it to others

We have enjoyed the vegetables – keep up the good work

We've loved going up to Hawkwood and it has pleased us to be supporting such an important and worthwhile project. Most veg has been fresh and delicious.

Bursaries

We offer bursaries to households on low incomes to make our veg shares affordable. We ask all new members if they would like to donate into our bursary fund. We currently receive donations of £89.75 per month into the bursary fund (£8 more per month than this time last year). We are currently paying out £63.50 per month in the form of bursaries (£17.50 more than this time last year). This means that our bursary fund is growing by £26.25 per month and core SCA funds are not subsidising the bursary fund. The core group agreed that the core funds could subsidise the bursary fund up to a maximum of 1% of veg turnover (currently = £61.90 per month). We therefore have lots more capacity for more bursaries, should they be needed. The standard bursary is £5 off a £35 veg share.

Membership enquiries

Huge thanks again to volunteers Paul & Claire Sheridan who deal with all initial enquiries.

Carol Mathews
Membership Administrator

CORE GROUP

During the past year the Core Group Members were:

Kevin Ashby (Secretary), Sue Dance, Simon Hanks, Sam Hardiman, Andy Jones, Simon Ryder, Richard Swann (Treasurer), Justin Tait, Tamsyn Widdon
Justin left the area last summer.

Simon Ryder and Richard Swann are stepping down this year after 3 and 4 years respectively on the group. The rest of the group are happy to continue.

To date there has been one nomination for the coming year - Ute Schlossmacher. We are still looking for other nominations. If you are interested please contact Simon Ryder on s.ryder@artnucleus.org

A written report of the Core Group work will be given out at the AGM.

Ute Schlossmacher

Having moved to Hawkwood 4 ½ years ago, I found myself living on the site of a working farm, which happened to be a CSA. There was no question, I joined as soon as the waiting list allowed. I started with a work share and relatively soon became a member of the farm team, currently working two and a half days on the land.

I love the work but I am particularly interested in the aspect of community involvement.

I have 20 years experience in biodynamic farming in different countries. My other field of work is nursing. Currently I work part time as RN in a dementia unit in a local nursing home.

I am standing for the core group because I would like to contribute to the community involvement on a more practical level. I would like to see projects coming off the ground, for example creating a sheltered sitting area at Hawkwood.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2010

The weather over past year has been challenging for the SCA. This is clearly reflected in the finances for the period. The very cold winter both earlier in the year as well as before Christmas affected the crops severely. At the other end of the scale, even though we all enjoyed the very warm summer, especially in June, this held back the vegetables and meant that more vegetables were brought in to supplement the shares.

In April the farm workers, Sam, Mark, Ute and Tim all needed to change their employment status from being self employed to employed. Despite this change the actual wages paid out came within budget to £62,824 as against the budgeted £64,317.

The budget for the year was made with the hope that the numbers would rise to 200 by the year end. However this goal was not reached and so

the share income ended up being £2000 less than anticipated.

Meat sales were also down with five cattle being slaughtered for meat in the year as against the budgeted 7. This along with decreased pork sales meant a £5000 less income than planned. This was offset on the expenditure side.

Along with the reduction of income from the single farm payment (as written about in Mark's report) this has resulted in a £4105 cash flow loss for the period January – December 2010.

Several small capital items were bought during this period, the most costly being a rotovator for £600.

A summary of last year's financial activity can be found in the accounts at the end of this report.

Richard Swann (Treasurer)

BUDGET REPORT 2011

The table opposite sets out the cashflow forecast for the coming year, January to December 2011. It shows the totals for the year only, with comments on some of the figures that maybe of note.

Most of the figures are similar to those of last year, adjusted for inflation. We didn't meet our target last year of building the number of veg shares to 200, but we hope to be able to do that by the end of 2011.

We are increasing the area of vegetable production at Brookthorpe (increasing from 1.5 ha to 1.75ha). These extra vegetables will mainly be sold to Hawkwood College or through our wholesaler.

If things go to plan (and they have never done in previous years) we should have a surplus

of some £5000 at the end of the year.

We are planning to buy 17ha worth of Single Farm subsidy entitlements in 2011. These entitlements are traded on the open market (currently trading at £220/ha). We can then use them to claim the Single Farm subsidy, which should pay about £200/ha in 2011, and more in 2012. The scheme is due to end in 2012 but the current thinking is that it will be extended until 2013 while a replacement scheme is developed. So we should get most of our money back at the end of 2011, and then be able to claim some £3400 in 2012 and in 2013. None of these figures has been included in the table on the next page.

Mark



INCOME			
standing order	membership	5400	we plan to increase membership from the current
	farm income	74515	190 shares to 200 shares by Sept
	bursary	960	contributions from members to the bursary scheme
	other income	2400	this includes farm subsidy and training fees
	consultancy	2400	work commissioned by DEFRA
sales	veg wholesale	5300	we are extending veg area and growing for Hawkwood College
	beef	8000	a total of 8 beasts
	pork	9000	total of 20 pigs
	lamb	1200	total of 8 lambs
	shop	8000	sales of eggs, fruit and extra veg
TOTAL INCOME		£117,175	
OUTFLOWS			
admin	admin farm	200	
	admin SCA	1300	includes accountancy fee
	marketing	1000	
	consultancy	800	
beef	butcher beef	4800	
cost of sales	shop	6000	
	veg	10000	veg bought in for share
employment	administrator	1040	Carol
	apprentice	3900	apprentice and students
	Sam	15380	net pay, full time
	Mark	15380	net pay, full time
	Ute	6364	net pay, half time
	Tim	2360	Tim leaves in April so this figure maybe over estimated
	tax & NI	14226	Tax, employers NI & employees NI
farm	certification	500	Demeter inspection cost
	contractors	2200	making hay and mucking out barns
	electricity	400	
	fuel / repair	2400	tractor and machinery costs (not van)
	insurance	1900	
	rent	2686	£55/acre/annum
	straw	800	
	hay	500	contingency sum for bought in hay
	vet	1000	
	water	1000	water metered at HW but not BT
	sundry	1400	
pig	butcher pigs	3200	
	feed pig	2200	
sheep	butcher	480	
training	training	600	staff training, 5 days each per year
transport	van	2400	all expenses of running Mark's van now met by farm
	Sam	400	paid at 40p/mile for own use of vehicle
veg	compost	400	
	seeds	3800	
	sundry	800	
TOTAL OUTFLOW		£111,716	
TOTAL PROFIT		£5,359	

Stroud Community Agriculture Limited

Balance sheet

31 December 2010

	Note	£	2010 £	2009 £
Fixed assets				
Tangible assets	5		9,986	10,805
Current assets				
Stocks	6	5,975		4,705
Debtors	7	2,115		211
Cash at bank & in hand			14,108	22,031
			22,198	26,947
Creditors: amounts due within 1 year	8	(4,223)		(4,668)
Net current assets			17,975	22,279
Net assets			27,961	33,084
Capital and reserves				
Profit & loss account			27,961	33,084
Total funds	9		27,961	33,084

In preparing these unaudited financial statements advantage has been taken of the exemption under section 477(2) of the Companies Act 2006. No notice requiring an audit has been deposited by the members under section 476 of the Act.

The directors have acknowledged their responsibilities for ensuring that the company keeps proper accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006, and preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial period and of its loss for the financial period in accordance with the requirements of section 393 of the Companies Act 2006, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of this Act relating to accounts, so far as applicable to this company.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by the directors on 10 March 2011

K Ashby (Director)

M Harrison (Director)

R Swann (Director)

Stroud Community Agriculture Limited

Detailed trading profit and loss account

For the period ended 31 December 2010

	2010		2009	
	£	£	£	£
Turnover				
Sales				
Vegetable share	79,172		74,768	
Pork sales	684		848	
Vegetable sales	2,078		2,976	
Shop sales other	15,419		13,190	
Beef sales	2,170		5,460	
Fruit share	8,268		-	
Other income	<u>4,587</u>		<u>4,735</u>	
		112,378		101,977
<i>Cost of Sales:</i>				
Opening Stock	4,705		4,470	
Livestock Purchases:				
Pigs	-		120	
Purchases:				
Eggs	4,588		4,127	
Vegetables	9,415		8,252	
Seeds	-		1,950	
Fruit share	8,200		-	
Other	354		190	
Labour/Contractor Costs:				
Cows	1,885		-	
Pigs	1,249		1,673	
Farm	18,165		14,331	
Vegetables	39,489		39,082	
Holiday and training	5,010		-	
Slaughter/Butcher Costs:				
Cows	3,339		4,250	
Pigs	1,717		861	
Sheep	305		49	
Animal Feed:				
Pigs	1,929		833	
Sheep	112		51	
Vegetables (Compost, seeds and sundry)	4,000		273	
Closing Stock	<u>(5,975)</u>		<u>(4,705)</u>	
<i>Total cost of sales:</i>		<u>(98,487)</u>		<u>(75,807)</u>
Gross profit		13,891		26,170

Stroud Community Agriculture Limited

Detailed trading profit and loss account

For the period ended 31 December 2010

Continued

Administrative expenses:

Farm:

Fuel	675	657
Insurance	2,503	1,967
Repairs and renewals	1,920	3,619
Rent	2,960	1,510
Sundry expenses	1,282	1,318
Services	1,041	921
Travel	1,644	1,164
Straw	765	1,250

Vegetables:

Travel	279	638
Sundry expenses	-	414

General

Vet fees	831	813
Administrative expenses	2,135	2,745
Bank charges	1	13
Training	324	675
Depreciation	2,179	2,402
Accountancy	500	320
Livestock revaluation	150	900

Total administrative expenses **(19,189)** **(21,326)**

Operating profit / (loss) **(5,298)** **4,844**