

Bernard Jarman 757436
Jade Bashford 885233
Greg Pilley 885233
Dave Kaspar 01452 813602
Simon Charter 755614



Mark Harrison 753866
Nick Weir 840037
Paul Sheridan 855989
Louisa Dimmock 01452 814825



Greg Pilley: gpilley@soilassociation.org - Jade Bashford: jadebashford@hotmail.com - Nick Weir: nick.weir@freeuk.com

In this newsletter.

Farm project takes on more land, closer to Stroud
Pick-up points now set up in central Stroud and Nailsworth
Plans for meat and other produce being considered
Public meeting 28th May at Hawkwood College
Come and work on the farm - 24th May and 28th June

'Hog hands'

Share the work and share the rewards! Home reared organic pork, home made sausages and even a chance to do some home smoking and curing.

As a way of introducing livestock to the Stroud Community Agriculture (SCA) initiative, it is proposed that interested members rear a litter of pigs as a co-operative venture. The pigs will be kept at Hawkwood College in an enclosure to the rear of the walled garden.

How does it work?

1. A budget has been drawn up to include their purchase, feeding, slaughtering and butchering.
2. Share costs are approximately £125, payable in advance ensuring commitment and that responsibility and risk is shared and not left to others.
3. We purchase a litter of weaned pigs (8-10+).
4. A feeding/checking rota is drawn up between participating members. We estimate 1 visit/fortnight to feed, water and observe.
5. The scheme will last approximately 6 months between July 2003 and Feb 2004 - by which time all pigs will have fattened.
6. Meat from all pigs will be divided equally by weight amongst participants.
7. We estimate approx 32kg per share.

To make it viable we need 10-15+ participants:

If you are interested in becoming a 'hog hand' please give Greg a call 01453 885233 for more details. An initial meeting will be held during the public meeting on 28th May at Hawkwood.

Gloucester Old Spot by Alexandra Churchill



VEG NEWS

Well it's the beginning of May and I'm eking out the last of our winter veg and picking the very first vegetable of the new season, radish. It has been such a glorious spring, though I must say that I am happier now that it has rained. I cut the last vegetables from the field at Brookthorpe on the 6th of May and have been busy up at Hawkwood planting this season's early crops. We should have the first lettuce before the end of May but there won't be a lot else really until later in June.

However don't despair, because I will be buying in vegetables during this time, UK produce as much as possible, or maybe from the Continent if there is no UK veg available.

As part of the changes for this year we have had to move into the small shed in the walled garden. We now only have a half of the garden, the furthest half past the apple trees. We still have the two polytunnels and a part of the greenhouse. The vegetable patch at Hawkwood is on the left as you go up the drive. It is about equivalent in size to that which we had last season at Brookthorpe. Duchy Home Farm will supply us with veg as they did last year, and I can always obtain other supplies, if needed, as we expand into the coming year.



Greg and spuds

There will be two work days coming up on Saturday 24th May, and Saturday 28th June. These will be from 9.30am to 1pm with a shared lunch to follow. Please come along for all or any part of this time. The first one will be at the walled garden at Brookthorpe but please check with me for the venue of the one in June.

Thanks for your continued support,
Mark (01453 753 866).

UPDATE

The Stroud Community Agriculture project has now taken on additional land around Hawkwood College, near Stroud. We are considering various options to use this land for production of meat and other produce. Any ideas, suggestions and help in setting this up would be welcome. Either come along to the public meeting on 28th May (details below) or contact a member of the core group.

**Everyone welcome to the Stroud Community Agriculture (SCA)
public meeting on Wednesday 28th May.**

Come up to Hawkwood to see how our veg are doing.

Meet some of the Kolisko cows!

Picnic at 6pm

Meeting in Hawkwood college 7.30pm to 9.30pm

to include update on plans, discussion of various additional produce options and a chance to make requests and ask questions of the core (planning) group.



COLLECTION POINTS

The Stroud Community Agriculture project has been providing people with locally-grown, organic vegetables (and supporting a local farmer) for over a year now. Some people have said that travelling out to Brookthorpe to collect their veg has made it difficult to join the project. So we have now set up 2 vegetable collection points and started a small-scale delivery service.

There is one collection point at the British School (Gloucester Street/Slad Road junction) in Stroud and one at the Green Spirit shop in the centre of Nailsworth. There is no extra charge for using these collection points, although we do ask for a deposit for the key for those using the Stroud collection point (it is a 24 hour DIY access job!).

Clare Sheridan has offered to use the Ecocar to deliver veg in Stonehouse, Stanleys, and the Stonehouse side of Stroud from Easter. There will be a small charge for deliveries.



Nutrition Study Group



Jade in walled garden



Veg box



Jade in greenhouse



Candlemas event at Hawkwood

NEW NAME

We have now set up the farm project as an Industrial and Provident Society. It is called Stroud Community Agriculture Ltd. Being legally incorporated has various benefits, including the fact that we can now start fund raising.

If there is anyone out there who is able to do some fund raising on behalf of the project, please contact Nick Weir on 01453 840037



PRINCIPLES

One of the principles that our farm community wants to work towards is "To be fully inclusive. Low income shall not exclude anyone". We are seeking ways to make this possible, at the same time as keeping the farm budget running. As a small step, we are considering offering one or two places for people to contribute work for a share if they find it difficult to contribute money. The hours will be flexible and no particular skills are required. If you would like to discuss options please call Jade on 01453 885233.



Candlemas event at Hawkwood



Candlemas event at Hawkwood



Gift box

THANKS TO CLAUDIA AND EDEN

Sadly for us, Claudia and Eden have accepted an offer to work with another CSA project in Yorkshire - Stanfield Hall, Pickering, despite several months of involvement with Stroud Community Agriculture. They had been considering joining us as stock farmers but feel that the Yorkshire project fits their needs more exactly with its association with the Camphill movement, the availability of more biodynamic land and its location in a part of the world that Claudia most loves.

They have been bright, active and have contributed a great deal during the time that they have been helping here - having to drive for several hours and stay overnight for each core group meeting - many thanks are due, and we wish them success in their new life.

Future Meetings and Other Events

Wednesday 28th May Everyone welcome to the Stroud Community Agriculture (SCA) public meeting on Wednesday 28th May. Come up to Hawkwood to see how our veg are doing. Meet some of the Kolisko cows! Picnic at 6pm Meeting in Hawkwood college 7.30pm to 9.30pm to include update on plans, discussion of various additional produce options and a chance to make requests and ask questions of the core (planning) group.

Saturday 24th May & Saturday 28th June will be two work days. These will be from 9.30am to 1pm with a shared lunch to follow. Please come along for all or any part of this time. The first one will be at the walled garden at Brookthorpe but please check with Mark for the venue of the one in June. Mark (01453 753 866).

Newsletter design and layout : Sean Nolan (01453 884850 / dobbin@clara.co.uk)

Please submit any reports, or anything else you might like to Bernard Jarman. bdaa@biodynamic.freeserve.co.uk