

AUTUMN NEWS SHEET

The peppers going into the share this week and the green tomatoes left in the gift box at Hawkwood are the very last of the summer veg. The frost in October killed all the tomato and pepper plants but the fruit survived and ripened a little more. Now we look forward to the hearty winter veg, of which we have plenty.

LEEKs. We have a large crop of leeks at Brookthorpe. However, they were attacked by leek moths in September. This moth lays eggs in the plant and the grubs that hatch tunnel down into the stem. Our experience from last year showed that the plants do recover and grow on, but there is still some damage. Please bear with us if they are a bit scrappy, we are actually very pleased with how good they are. There isn't anything that we can do about this moth that we know of and it is most likely to be a persistent problem each year.

ROOT VEG. We have plenty of carrots, parsnips, celeriac, swede, and beetroot in the fields. We have some squash stored at Brookthorpe, some kohlrabi, and some Jerusalem artichokes growing between the polytunnels at Hawkwood. I think that this should be enough to keep us going through most of the winter.

WINTER GREENS. We have plenty of cabbage (white, savoy, and green), kale (curly and Cavolo Nero), and brussel sprouts ready for picking in the field at Brookthorpe. There has not been as much calabrese as we had hoped as the pigeons ate a lot of the plants when we planted them out in July. There should be cauliflower for the share once or twice over the winter, and purple sprouting broccoli next year.

SALAD PACKS. At the moment we have plenty of mixed salads growing for the salad packs. The endives, sugarloaf and radicchio are in the walled garden, and the other salads are in the polytunnels. These salads are mizuna, mibuna, mustard, lettuce, sorrel, coriander, rocket, purslane, corn salad, land cress, tat soi, chrysanthemum greens, spring onions and two that we haven't grown before, sessantina and serifon. These will all go into the bags at some stage through the winter. Hope you don't get too many that you don't like!

CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS. This year we will have a week off over Christmas and so do a large share the week before. There will be no collections on Friday 26th Dec and Tuesday 30th Dec. We will remind you about this nearer the time.

REUSABLE BAGS. The new veg bags used for those people collecting at PIP and Greenspirit are working well. Thank you for returning them so diligently. It is much more satisfying for us to use them than the old plastic bags.

MEAT. We have a good supply of meat at the moment with everything that we normally have. This includes:

- Beef – Mince, Stew, Burgers (lots of these!), steak (rump and fillet) and sirloin, forerib and topside joints of various sizes,
- Pork – Bacon (back and streaky, smoked and green), chipolatas and sausages (mild and the more meaty Toulouse) and leg joints.

I try and keep the freezers stocked, but if there is something missing please let Laurence know. I am also very happy to get particular pieces of meat cut. I just need plenty of notice so that I can inform the butcher.

FARM. We have a new litter of piglets at Brookthorpe. They were born on the 18th of October and are doing very well. It is a great time to see them now.

SINGING TO THE COWS. We will be singing to the cows at both farms on Christmas Eve. Please look out for times closer to the date.

Mark, Laurence, Ute and Tim.