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**A Community-Supported Farm**



JUNE 2002

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## CSA Farm Days



Come and join the gardeners at Kolisko walled garden, Brookethorpe  
All welcome to come and tend the vegetables

9.30am - 1.30pm

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June. Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June.

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July. Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July

Contact Mark Harrison 01453 752 484 for information about the Farm Days,  
or other days you may like to work.

## Launch and Celebration!

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July at 1.30pm in the walled garden Brookthorpe.

A day to meet others and see the gardens and celebrate what we have made together.  
Bring picnic food to share with others. Friends and children welcome.

There have been offers of:

Face painting, a BBQ, music, children's clog dancing,  
a treasure hunt, and artistic contributions.

If you can bring your violin, some sparklers, ceremony making ideas, seeds to give away,  
or any other thing to share on the day, please do,

let Jade Bashford know on 0117 9237398.

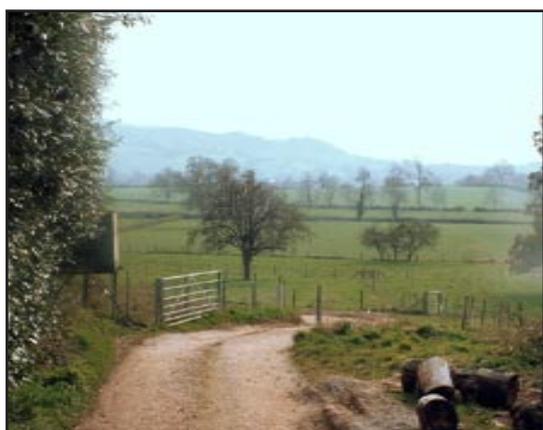


178 people have asked to be kept informed of what's happening  
with the CSA. Of these, 85 have verbally committed,  
of which 64 are actually contributing a total of £745 per month.  
This is enough to both rent the walled garden and to employ  
Mark Harrison for 2 days per week to tend it,  
and also to cover administration costs of the CSA.

**A**s the time for launching the CSA approaches, it seems a good moment to reflect on the founding goals and intentions of Kolisko Farm as they were back in 1992. Not only was community supported agriculture an important aim of the farm, it was recognised as being essential to the farm's long term development.

**Three core goals lay at the heart of the Kolisko Farm project:**

- Building up a sound, self-sustaining and diverse biodynamic farm.
- Creating a strong community support association or CSA around it.
- Developing a range of educational, therapeutic and social opportunities linked to it.



To achieve these goals, certain structures were conceived which were to include a land ownership trust, a CSA association, and the farm company. At the time only the latter could be implemented. The company directors were chosen according to the core goals identified. Farm development policy was to be formed out of a balanced partnership between farmers, educationists and members of the community support association on the basis of a set of clearly defined constitutional objectives.

During its first ten years the farm has developed the first of these three goals and achieved a sound and healthy agricultural identity. The time is now ripe for taking further steps by establishing a strong CSA and enabling the development of land based educational and other social initiatives.

The CSA project is now considering whether to commit to Kolisko Farm (see page 3). One of the great challenges in the coming months will be to adapt the arrangements and support structures of the farm, so as to enable CSA members and supporters to become real stakeholders in, and identify with, the individual reality of the farm.



The great concern, of the farm, over the last few months has of course been to find the team with the skills and enthusiasm to take on the practical management of the farm. Such people are now waiting in the wings and when they are confirmed we can move forward confidently towards an exciting new future for the farm during the coming months and years.



## Your thoughts?

The last public meeting covered four important decisions that need to be decided soon. There is still a little time to contribute, so if you have any comments or views on these issues please contact any member of the core group.

1. How can we best publicise CSA events?
2. Do we want to be responsible for the running of the farm or just 'supporters' of it?
3. We are suggesting we make a commitment to the land at Brookthorpe and take on additional land near Stroud. How does that proposal sound to everybody?
4. Should the CSA project become a LETS member?

## The Last Meeting

The last meeting felt very exciting to us because of the process which was adopted to discuss important issues (see above). This gave us a real feeling of not only being directly involved, but also of being able to make a difference.

### Volunteer jobs

Help with the celebration on 20 July - eg organise a teddybears' picnic, publicity, play an instrument, organise an artistic activity, etc.

### Also needed

CSA Treasurer. Distributors and packers.  
Farm workers. Help with Publicity.

Please call core group with offers.

### Phone Round

Telephoning people has proved a very effective way to let them know what's happening with the CSA. Can anyone help with ringing members to tell them about meetings, events, etc, or to update the phone tree? If so, please contact the core group soon.

(expenses will be covered)

## Your views

This newsletter is intended not only to let CSA members know what's happening with the project but also to allow anyone to make a contribution.

So if you have any ideas, views, personal comments, or anything about the CSA which you would like to share with others, then please let either a Core Group member know or contact us direct at 4 Queen Square, Chalford Hill, Stroud, GL6 8EG (email : [dobbin@clara.co.uk](mailto:dobbin@clara.co.uk)) and we will do our best to include it.

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## Future Meeting

There can be time put aside at the launch day on Saturday 20th if anyone has any points they would like to raise. Please contact:

Jade Bashford 0117 9237398

[jbashford@soilassociation.org](mailto:jbashford@soilassociation.org)

Nick Weir 01453 840037

[nick.weir@freeuk.com](mailto:nick.weir@freeuk.com)

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Please submit any reports, or anything else you might like to - we'll do our best to include it.  
We can't accept any responsibility for anything we've written or made up within this newsletter!