



Canalside Community

Food

a community supported agriculture scheme

n e w s l e t t e r

no. 3, Thursday 24 May 2007

- 🌱 Great turnout for latest open day and meeting
- 🌱 First salads being picked
- 🌱 Doing battle with the slugs!
- 🌱 Second polytunnel now up
- 🌱 Planning permission granted for new farm track and barns

Our latest work/open day and meeting on Sunday 20 May was very well attended again. Many thanks to everyone who turned out to help weed the onion beds – it was great to have so many enthusiastic volunteers on hand! After a couple of hours work in the hot sun, we then had a walk around the project area, so everyone present could see what is going on, how things are



growing and how the project is generally progressing. This also served as an opportunity for people to ask questions of the growers and offer suggestions on how to take things forward.

We were also able to give all those present some of our first salad crop – we had both lettuce and mizuna ready to eat, so everyone was able to take a nice bag of salad away with them at the end of the day as a reward for all their hard work!

Unfortunately, with all the recent rain we've had, although being brilliant for all the growing vegetables, we've also seen a massive influx of very hungry slugs. We had to get a derogation from the Soil Association to be able to spread approved non-toxic slug pellets, in order to avoid the complete destruction of all our new crops. Just to give you an idea of the scale of slug infestation, on the first evening, a group of people went out to pick slugs off the plants and filled 2 carrier bags in an hour!

This Wednesday saw another beautiful sunny day, and a perfect opportunity for us to put the plastic on our second polytunnel. We had just the right number of people on hand to help out, and the slight breeze that was around did not prove a problem. So, that is now ready and waiting to be rotavated and planted up with things such as aubergines, peppers and herbs, plus more tomatoes, cucumbers and chillis.



And finally, we also had the very good news at the end of April that our recent planning application for a new farm entrance, track and barn has been approved. This new entrance will be a much more direct route for people coming to the project site in the future, also redirecting traffic away from the more residential side of the farm. Work will begin on the new track in the next couple of weeks, although it is unlikely we will have the new barn up until the end of the summer.

We now have just over 30 paid up veg share members, and, after a lull, this number is now slowly rising again. Please remember that in order for this first season to be a success, we need a minimum of 70 veg share

members, so if you haven't done so already, please send your Veg Share Subscription forms in a.s.a.p, keep spreading the word and get your friends to sign up too!



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