



Newsletter

Sep / Oct 2013

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What's In Season?

Local.....

- Runner beans
- Onions
- Beetroot
- Courgettes
- Broccoli
- Cavolonero
- Kale
- Herbs
- Tomatoes
- Helda beans

UK.....

- Apples
- Cauliflower
- Spinach
- Swede
- Potatoes

Coming Soon.....

- Local squash !!

Food4Hull Bash & The Orchard of Dreams!

We were delighted to be involved in the annual Food4Hull garden party the other week. Thanks to everyone that came along and we hope to see even more of you next year.

It took place at the Pickering Community Orchard which if you haven't been, is an immense local growing space that seeks to educate and inspire about local food. As you can see from the images, the produce is amazing and the wildlife abundant.

The Orchard have some harvest days where anyone can come along and enjoy picking and eating the produce for a small donation. Contact Sue Goddard on 01482 329369 for more information. And don't forget you can now get UK apples added into your boxes!



Windfall apples – yum!
Photos by Lee-Ann



Bob & Jane Slater's update.... (one of our growers)

As the summer has progressed, even Bob has had to admit that the weather has been on the whole favourable to vegetable growing. His main concern recently has been the lack of rain – he had to use the irrigators on the courgettes and squashes to get them established, and he also had to irrigate before planting out the lettuce and brassica plants. All our produce is growing well, although the onions and carrots have been rather badly overgrown by weeds. In the other beds, Bob has managed to keep the weeds under control, by using the trimmer between the brassica plants; and by mowing carefully along the rows. This does leave a covering of weeds, but as long as they are mown

regularly they do not become a problem; if they are allowed to flower and set seed, they then become a real nuisance. The old saying One year's seeds give seven years' weeds may be a bit of an exaggeration, but weed seeds can lay dormant in the soil for many years.

I think it only fair that I should mention here my own small part in the ongoing war against weeds – I am becoming quite expert at wielding a hoe, though I fully appreciate that I will never rival the speed and efficacy of our son, Harry!

This is the first summer that Bob has been able to devote all his time to working in the garden, without the responsibility of packing and

delivering boxes. It has made a big difference to his daily tasks, and work that in years gone by would not have been done due to lack of time can now be completed. In the past the brassica plants were damaged by pheasants and pigeons, but this year Bob was able to cover them with fleece until they had grown sufficiently to withstand a bit of bird damage. He has noticed that we have had very few pheasants in the garden, and wonders if the rows of white fleece with no sign of plants persuaded them that the garden was no longer a good place to feed. I am not convinced that pheasants are capable of such higher level thinking skills, but I bow to his superior knowledge in such matters.

Other updates!

Market Stalls

Hornsea Food Market

28th Sept, 26th Oct.
At the Primary School
- town centre.

Ecotricity

We recently formed a partnership with the green energy people Ecotricity. All brand new customers that sign up with them receive a £40 fruit and veg box as a thank you, so please tell your friends!

Soil Association

Did you spot us in their magazine 'Living Earth' this month?

Weekly Updates

Subscribe to our weekly box updates, just send your email address to info@arthursorganics.com

Continued..

We have not been troubled by slugs or snails this summer either. They do not thrive in hot dry weather, and laying down the slime trail they need in order to move over the ground at such times apparently uses up a huge amount of energy.

Bob discovered one potential problem – for the workers, rather than the vegetables - just outside our workshop, where wasps have set up an underground nest in an old mouse hole. There is a constant stream of them buzzing in and out of their 'burrow'. Wasps are a valuable asset in a garden, as long as they do not sting you, since they eat aphids and caterpillars. Unfortunately Bob discovered their presence when he drove over the nest with the ride-on mower, and was pursued down the garden by a swarm of the angry creatures. They were easily able to outpace our

ageing grasscutter (the machine, not Bob), but I am glad to say he only suffered one sting on the back of the head. The site of the nest is now marked with a bamboo cane, and Bob always leaves a generous safety margin when mowing in the vicinity.

Harry, his partner Sarah, and our daughter Mary recently joined Bob and myself at the garden for a day of planting out and weeding. (Mary was particularly proud of her rows of aubergines, peppers and herbs, and we have to send regular progress reports to her in London.) You can see some photos of the happy workers on our website.

In honour of the occasion, and because it was such a blissfully warm day, Bob set up the gazebo, with chairs and a table, for coffee and lunch breaks. During one of these relaxing sessions, we spotted a duck and her nine ducklings on top of the wall

opposite us. Now, bear in mind that the wall is about 14 feet high, and you will have some idea of our bemused reaction to the sight of the waddling brood. When the mother duck reached the point where a brick stable building adjoins the wall, she flew down into our garden.

The maternal amongst us were most concerned over the plight of the tiny ducklings – fluffy, charming, but only a few days old, and no more able to fly than we were. However, all was not lost – one by one they executed a lemming-like leap to follow their mother, and miraculously, they all survived. We came to the conclusion that the mother had made her nest and hatched her brood on top of the wall, well away from scavenging foxes and cats; but she clearly needs to rethink her strategy in light of subsequent events.

Jane Slater

Carbon Footprint? Reduce it with Arthur's

A recent report by WRAP stated that nearly 30% of our personal carbon footprint is caused by our weekly 'big-shop' at places like TESCO, ASDA and Sainsbury's.

An easy way to reduce this in one fell swoop is to order the majority of your groceries or fruit and veg from someone that offers home delivery such as us.

Not only is your order 'on the rounds' with everyone else's (saving fuel and food miles),

but as a local company we buy local food direct from the producer, as close to home as possible, and avoid warehouses and air freighted goods wherever we can.

On top of that, if you also can shop a little more frequently, say in your lunch hour or take a quick walk to the local store for items on your way home, you will have less need to drive to the supermarket. A win win situation.



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