



LINSCOMBE FARM NEWSLETTER

Thursday 13th January 2011

The short week (combined with the extra Crediton Farmers' Market) last week delayed our first newsletter of the year - so here it is. And a warm welcome (feels like spring already) to 2011 to those of our customers that we haven't already greeted at the markets.



Looking back to 2010, the first newsletter started off with "the Big Freeze has finally come to an end"! Little were we to know that it was just a warm up for an even Bigger Freeze at the end of 2010.

Miraculously, we seem to have managed to unite all of our customers with their Christmas orders (before Christmas, even!). There are some more photographs of the week before Christmas in the news section on the website for those who haven't seen them yet.

Having soaked up a huge amount of time in December, the website is now working - although not yet completely. The all

important repeat ordering facility (to have a weekly delivery without actually having to ask for it each week) is not yet in place and, until it is, we are going to continue to use the old system for most of the weekly boxes. Many of you now pay with BACS on this system, following a statement, and the absence of this on the website was undoubtedly the single greatest cause of confusion for those of you who ordered your Christmas vegetables online. We are intending to migrate the ordering system to the website once all of the elements that we and you need are in place and we are satisfied that the glitches have been fully ironed out. We will keep you all updated with repeat ordering progress..... In the meantime, do go and have a look and tell us what you think. We have had quite a bit of positive comment, even from some "techie" people, so something seems to have gone right. You can of course, use the website immediately to add extras of your favourites and fruit etc., to your weekly boxes, or select your own choice in it's entirety if you so desire. Please note that even if you are an existing customer you will need to create a new account on the website in the same way as everyone else - you only need to do this once. If you do wish to try the site and have any problems, please contact us and Phil will guide you through the

system. We would also be delighted if you recommended friends to give our new system a go! Thanks.



The recent weather has been a reminder to us that one needs a very healthy sense of humour to grow vegetables for a living. Having allowed ourselves some congratulations for getting christmas vegetables picked and packed against the odds, the smiles on our faces were soon wiped off by the appearance of a flock of some 200 pigeons. These were attracted by our vegetables peeking through the snow offering the best meal the pigeons had seen. It took 3 days to move the pigeons on, by which time the damage had been done, leaving us with skeletal plants , see left.

Even the salad crops in the tunnels finally succumbed to the freezing conditions and many rotted off at the base. However, all is not lost! There may be temporary problems with supply of some items (you can see salads “out of stock” on the website!) but we have already seeded new tunnel crops to replace those lost. With the warmer weather (it feels positively tropical out in the fields compared to before christmas) these new seedings will soon be growing well, especially in the tunnels.



Also you can expect to have some of the season’s UK supercrops in the next few weeks - spinach has survived and thrived and next week expect claytonia salad.



We have yet to see whether the heritage purple cauliflora (above) have survived the cold and will mature in February and March as usual, but it looks hopeful at present. It does help to know we have your support during such times of circumstance beyond our control and like most people at present, we are just extremely thankful we are not flooded! Enjoy your vegetables, all the best, Phil & Helen & Linscombe Team