



Sims Hill Shared Harvest Pioneer Membership Offer

The story so far:

In the summer of 2009 an opening meeting to explore starting a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) project in Bristol resulted in a working group of 6 people setting out to develop the project. Fifteen months later we are ready to invite members to join us and to start work on the ground.

Sims Hill Shared Harvest is now incorporated as a Company Limited by guarantee with a cooperative structure and has leased 14 acres of land from Bristol City Council between Frenchay and the University of the West of England.

Our mission:

Sims Hill Shared Harvest is a community enterprise based on:

- providing quality fruit and vegetables, grown using natural farming methods
- offering opportunities for education, work and recreation to the wider community
- working to include and support people who are socially or economically marginalised
- building community life through creating a relationship with food and its production

Our vision is of a member-owned and led CSA which will help to reclaim Bristol's historic (and fertile) agricultural land.

What is a CSA? A CSA is a popular farming model where the members come together and invest in the running of the farm and receive a share of the Harvest, as opposed to being customers who pay for specific products. The budget for the farm and what members contribute is negotiated, seeking to establish a fair and transparent deal for all concerned. This may include subsidized membership for members on low incomes.

The risks and rewards of farming are shared between the farmers and the members who commit themselves to supporting the farm and providing a fair income for the farmers. The farmers can then develop the health and fertility of the farm, its wildlife and environment.

All members can choose to get involved in the life of the farm and join specific work groups as well as joining in social events and celebrations.

Membership:

Members commit to paying a monthly membership fee to support the general running of the project and a monthly payment for a weekly share of vegetables. Members who do not want vegetables but want to support the project and join the social events are also welcome.

Options	Cost per month
Membership	£3
Vegetables	£37
Half veg share	£20
Membership without vegetables	Set by member but at least £5

The cost of membership and vegetables will be increased annually in line with inflation.

Invitation to Pioneer Members:

Sims Hill Shared Harvest will start on the ground in January 2011 and expects to have the first crops by July 2011. In order to be able to pay the growers and buy the seeds we are looking for 50 pioneer members who are willing to start paying for a vegetable share from January even though there will not be produce until July.

Developing Sims Hill Shared Harvest:

There will be regular members meetings and the members elect a board to manage the affairs of the project. After the first 6 months the aim is to be able to produce vegetables throughout the year and members would be encouraged to invite a friend to collect their vegetables when they are away.

The membership is also expected to grow each year and the project could also diversify into other areas such as bees, poultry, fruit trees etc where there is member support.

If you would like to become a member please fill in the membership form and standing order mandates.

Sims Hill Shared Harvest is a Company Limited by Guarantee

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