

Sims Hill AGM 27 February 2020

Freya's soup was delicious!

AGM Board election

Every year at least 2 members of the board must stand down. They can however stand for reelection. Damien is standing down. Kristin is standing down but standing again. Alex Reuer is also standing. Kristin and Alex were re-elected/elected.

Review of 2019 Accounts:

We reviewed slides of the provisional 2019 accounts.

A few highlights:

Income

Our veg share income has gone up by around £5k. We received some supporter donations. We ran a crowd funder to fund a trainee. In addition we have a grant from UWE for hosting groups of students in 2019/20.

Costs:

Our bought-in veg expense for the year went down. James thinks it will be static for this year, but that it will continue to go down based on us having more of our own produce.

Costs for wages went up, this was largely because of adding the trainee.

We had some unexpected expenses such as a tractor repair.

We have a business profit of around £1000 for the business. Hopefully this small profit building will continue into the future.

We have the highest membership rate we have ever had of 90 full share equivalents.

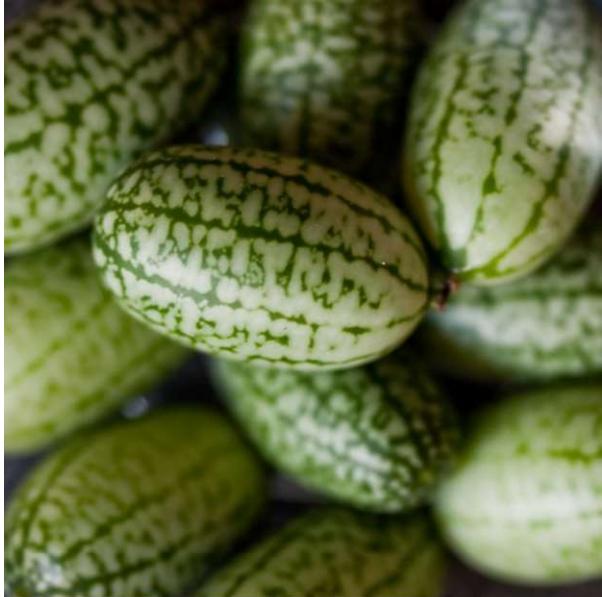
Grower report

James showed some photos.

We have had 3 student groups from UWE so far. The UWE student groups come to the farm to learn about our operation and also help do some practical work. One of the main objectives is building partnerships and relationships with the University and the students. We will have another 3 or 4 visits between now and May.

We are also involved with a PhD student in Sheffield who is doing a very detailed study of both conventional and organic farms around carbon footprint and efficiency, with farms both in the UK and in the US.

We have had two loads of green waste compost from BCC. We have had well-attended volunteer days that have helped spread the compost down. The extra no-dig outside areas let us plant out earlier than we would be able to do outside normally. James showed the chard growing in a polytunnel in the big field. We are going to have spring onions to harvest soon. We should have carrots from the big polytunnel in May, and we are still harvesting lots of winter salads. We have agretti as a new crop this year, which tastes much like samphire. We will also be growing some cucumelon, New Zealand spinach, kalette, Tigerella tomato, habanero peppers.



The advert for this year's part time trainee position is on the website and will go out more widely via other organisations tomorrow.

A member asked why we charge monthly for shares when there are more than 4 weeks in some months and how we compensate for this? James said that he is aware of this too and it means that people are getting 52 weeks veg but paying for 48 weeks. He thinks we should keep it in mind when thinking about whether we need to raise prices in future.

A member asked whether there was any news on the Park and Ride? Freya said that the Joint Spatial Plan that it was part of was sent back to the drawing board, however this doesn't mean that the proposals have gone away altogether. We are trying to keep up to date on this.

Sims Hill at 10 years

Sims Hill is 10 years old this year! Kristin talked about the history project including the founding principles. Some of the other members shared some of how they have experienced the project changing. Julia has been telling some of the story on Facebook.



Sims Hill Shared Harvest - founding principles

1. Community Supported Agriculture
 - ▶ Sharing the Risk, Sharing the Harvest
 - ▶ Diversity, Seasonality and Efficiency
2. Permaculture
 - ▶ Earth care
 - ▶ People care
 - ▶ Fair shares
3. Community Development
 - ▶ Values for this defined as:
Social Justice, Participation, Equality, Learning, Collaboration



More recently the Board has been learning how to pull together after we decided no longer to have a formal Chair. Damien expressed his appreciation for how the project has gone from strength to strength since he has been a member of the Board. We need to fly the flag of local community food longer and louder!

We are thinking about putting some slides together from the history of SH, and the CFC to use as an outreach tool.

AOB

Emily, a student doing research on community-supported agriculture told members about her project and asked people to let her know if they were willing to be interviewed for it.