



# August 2009 newsletter

Growing-wise we've had a pretty good season this summer. It's been much warmer than last year and any rain we've had has been fairly welcome to get the plants off to a good start. Most of the winter crops are now well established and although there is still a certain amount of weeding to do, we have some great brassicas, parsnips, leeks and squash all coming along really well – a bonus on last year. With every success unfortunately come some failures and sadly the tomatoes have already started to get blight. Our irrigation system is overhead which can help control red spider mite or keep aphids at bay, but it also creates a lot of humidity; and this coupled with a few rainy weeks and perhaps not-too-good air flow led to blight. Next year we plan to have trickle tape irrigation for the tomatoes; it's always good to try different methods.

## Festival on the Farm

We hope that some of you managed to come to the Festival; it was a huge success and all tickets were sold out as we were limited to 500. This is a yearly event run by Planet Pursuits Event management, based here at Purton House, and it has grown from a small staff/family party to quite a large event, this being the fourth year. We took groups of people various farm walks to see how we work and all the vegetables used in the catering tent were from Purton House, as was the beef for the burgers. Most of the bands playing were local groups too, so it was a really local affair.

## Open Day & Work Participation Day

We still plan to have an open day on the farm, but this won't be until October. However we are planning to have our work participation day this Saturday, 29th August. We know it's Bank Holiday weekend, but traffic can be awful so spend Saturday here doing a bit of weeding, planting and harvesting! We'll provide you with a delicious meal and some veggies to take home too. If you're interested please turn up at our veggie shed at 9.30am on Saturday. Make sure you wear appropriate clothing: you may be spending a lot of time on your hands and knees!

Although we try to keep flyers in our boxes to a minimum, we've included one this week which we feel is too good to miss – I've already signed up! Your Ecolife is a small, independently run local business that delivers to your door and will take back empties too.

On the subject of advertising, this year my family and I took a summer holiday in the Alps with Pure Mountain, a company run by my brother. Pure Mountain are doing some amazing offers for the last few weeks of the season; definitely worth checking out if you fancy a great activity holiday fully catered! Visit [www.puremountainholidays.com/summer](http://www.puremountainholidays.com/summer) and say where you have heard of them and they might give you an even better discount...

*The farmer: Rowie Meers*

