Cropshare Shares Crop and Donates Apples to Charity

Community Farming Project Cropshare will be handing over free apples to the local charity Winter Comfort this Friday 2 November at 10am and giving more to another charity, Foodcycle, on Saturday.

Cambridge CropShare is a fruitful partnership between local farm Waterland Organics based at Lode near Cambridge and community group Transition Cambridge. The scheme, now into its second year, aims to let the people of Cambridge experience life as an organic farmer, and have a lot of fun at the same time. This fruitful partnership supplies much needed labour in return for some fruit and veg at the end of the season - plus good fun days out in the country for the townie activists who help out a dozen times through the growing season April to October, then get to share in the harvest of crops they helped to cultivate.

The provision of hand labour by CropShare volunteers helps Waterland Organics farmers Paul and Doreen Robinson in their drive for producing low impact food, which they distribute through a veggie box scheme. In 2011, Cropshare volunteers contributed to a bumper harvest of 6.5 tonnes of onions for the farm, and dramatically cut down the amount of tractor diesel needed to produce it by hand weeding.

And CropShare has a charitable side. The sharing of farm produce with local charities, and the wider Cambridge community takes place each harvest time. Last year saw 250 kg of onions donated to local charities including FoodCycle, Emmaus and Winter Comfort. This year charities have benefited from fresh salad donations, and CropShare are looking to share some of their autumn crops with the locals as well. To make the most of local in-season food, CropShare hold cookery workshops in the city centre which use surplus fresh produce from the farm. In 2011, volunteers created a gorgeous onion chutney and this year redcurrant jam-making sessions made surplus berries from the farm into tasty preserves.

For more details on Transition Cambridge and Cropshare, see www.transitioncambridge.org

In case it's of any interest, the blog is: http://cambridge.cropshare.org.uk/

If you are interested in an organic veg box from Waterland Organics at Willow Farm, contact Paul Robinson on email: office@waterlandorganics.co.uk at Willow Farm, Lode, Cambridge CB5 9HF on tel: 01223 812912.

Contact: Sue Woodsford Tel: 01223 562983 Mobile: 07582825545 Email: sue.woodsford@ntlworld.com

Photo opportunity Friday 2 November at 10am at WinterComfort For The Homeless, Overstream House, Victoria Avenue, Cambridge CB4 1EG Telephone: (01223) 518140 Email: info@wintercomfort.org.uk