

# Tombreck Market Garden

Newsletter #17 July 2024

The wait for some summer warmth continued through most of July, meaning plant growth has continued to be slow. Courgettes and squash were putting out only male flowers until the last week of the month. Oddly, some were putting out double flowers - a sign of stress we're told. It's the female flower that provides the fruit, so there will be an even longer delay on those crops and probably a failure to ripen for most of the squash. On the plus side we've had some good carrots out of the polytunnel, bushy broad bean tops with quite a few beans on the way (soon, promise!), beetroots have done reasonably well, and the brassicas seem to be pulling through - the 'Sutherland' variety of kale looking particularly bushy, probably because of where it's from... Things are generally looking neat and tidy, but really they shouldn't be this time of year, when we would normally be struggling to keep up with harvesting and missing some of the weeding as a consequence.



Those complaints aside we've now started the veg boxes and are supplying some items to the recently re-opened village shop in Kenmore as well as keeping the farm shop stocked up at Tombreck. The various berry bushes that have been planted around Tombreck over the years have fruited well, and we were generously given permission to harvest them for sale and jam-making. So look out for blackcurrants, white currants, gooseberries and worcesterberries (a tasty cross between a blackcurrant and a gooseberry) which will be available as add-ons via our website. We'll have some jams for sale come the Autumn along with more of our popular green tomato chutney - only five jars left!



Otherwise, we've occasionally seen the juvenile wagtails flitting about the place (see June's newsletter), and there do still seem to be four of them. Not as confident or adroit as the adults yet, but doing ok. The flax which was sown as part of the 'field lab' experiment being run by the Innovative Farmers organisation (see: <https://www.innovativefarmers.org/>) is looking like it might reach its target height of 1m. And we'll be participating in the **Open Gate Festival**, with a farm tour on **August 24th** and volunteer day on **August 31st** (<https://www.healthiesttown.org/open-gate/>) Also, we'll have a stall at the **Killin Agricultural Show, August 17th**, where we've agreed to be the judges for the best veg competition. It's for non-commercial producers only, so no conflict of interest, honest!

<https://tombreckmarketgarden.co.uk>