

Oh tidings of great joy! November's full moon has passed and the materialistic storm surge that is Christmas is once more racing towards the nations unsuspecting bank accounts. Soon your heads will be reverberating with the familiar mantras "the perfect gift", "inexpensive stocking filler", "shop at Argos for a more Christmassy Christmas", "for the man who has everything", etc., etc. Yes, the three wise men that are Overeating, Overspending and Generally-overdoing-it are aboard their camels and hastening towards a fibre optic Christmas tree near you!

But despair ye not for there is much good news to be had. Thanks to England's undignified (and lets admit it deserved) departure from the 2008 European Championship yours truly will be able to spend the middle of next summer growing and delivering organic veg instead of rescheduling my entire life in order to catch vital matches, Richard Branson looks likely to lay his healing hands on Northern Rock and should the Treasury prove true to form all our tax records will have been lost in the post before long enabling us to pay off our Christmas overdrafts with the resulting windfall. Oh, and of course British culture, which we're all supposed to be nourishing, will have been enriched by the news that The Spice Girls have reformed. No doubt environmental campaigners will be equally delighted, as along with wind power, solar power and tidal power we in Britain will now be able to harness inexhaustible amounts of girl power to help meet our Kyoto commitments.

For those of you who'd like your Yule to be a bit greener this year there are some interesting ideas from Friends of the Earth on their website (http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/press_releases/dreaming_of_a_green_christ_15112005.html).

Whilst I'm on the subject of encouraging greenness, to help the more sceptical amongst you weigh up your own contribution to saving the World, we've pinched an article from New Scientist entitled "Why bother going green?" and you can read it by clicking the newsletter button on our website.

WHAT'S GROWING ON

Right. Back to the important stuff. As you're probably aware, much of our winter production was badly affected by the July floods. Perhaps the saddest of the casualties was our sprout crop and as we're doubtful that we can source good organic sprouts we will not be supplying any this year. Sorry. However, we did manage to make a planting of spring greens in one of the new tunnels and although they're not quite the traditional accompaniment for the Xmas roast they do make a tasty substitute and will be available to order.

BOXERS BRIEFS

IMPORTANT STUFF - PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

DELIVERY DATES FOR THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD

All pick up point customers - **FRIDAY 21ST DECEMBER**. - We will aim to get your box to your respective pick up point by 3.00pm

If your normal delivery time is Thursday morning/early afternoon - **FRIDAY 21ST DECEMBER**

If your normal delivery time is Wednesday evening - **SATURDAY 22ND DECEMBER**

If your normal delivery time is Thursday evening - **SATURDAY 22ND DECEMBER**

THE DEADLINE - All orders and holiday cancellations must be submitted by **12 NOON ON THURSDAY 13TH DECEMBER**

FIRST BOX DELIVERIES 2008 - **WEDNESDAY 9TH / THURSDAY 10TH JANUARY**

Please note - Those of you who are unable to order via the internet will need to contact us so we can send you an order form. Because so few of you now require this service you will not receive an order form unless you specifically ask for one. Remember. If you do not place an Xmas order you will receive a standard box as usual.

CLASSIFIEDS-Entry free to all box customers

DAVE HALLIGAN ESQ. - Physician to those worried by Windows. Hardware and software problems diagnosed. Bespoke databases by appointment Tel.07730775085

JEFF LYNN - Interior and exterior painting and decorating - Tel. 01386 792198

FLADBURY PIES AND SAUSAGES - Church Street, Fladbury. Prize winning pies, sausages and ready meals. Various high quality meat products, ideal accompaniments for your organic veg. Catering service also available. Tel. 01386 860288

PINS & NEEDLES - MAKERS AND REPAIRERS OF SOFT FURNISHINGS - Loose covers, upholstery, blinds and curtains, bed throws, cushions. Alterations. No job too small or too large. Call Sally on 01386 861550

DUTCH LEWIS' BROADBAND - Music for all occasions. Tel. 01386 553557 or visit www.dutchlewis.com

HAWLEY'S EVESHAM HONEY We don't fiddle with our honey - jarred up straight from our hives in Charlton - deeeelicious!! Only £2.50/lb jar call Elaine 01386 860420 or mail el@hoho72.fsnet.co.uk

AROMATHERAPY/INDIAN HEAD MASSAGE - Experienced mobile therapist. Why not try these gentle effective therapies. Chris Tarplee 07707 675216

FOR SALE - PEUGEOT 106 KID - L reg. Pretty tidy and good runner. MOT 'til August 2008. Taxed 'til January. New stereo. £300. Great, inexpensive first car or run about. Contact Oxtons.

NO PLANS FOR NEW YEAR? - Why not stagger over to The Gardeners Arms, Charlton for **THE INEVITABLES NEW YEAR PARTY**. Live music, free food and no entrance fee. Be there or be, er, well, somewhere else only not so good!