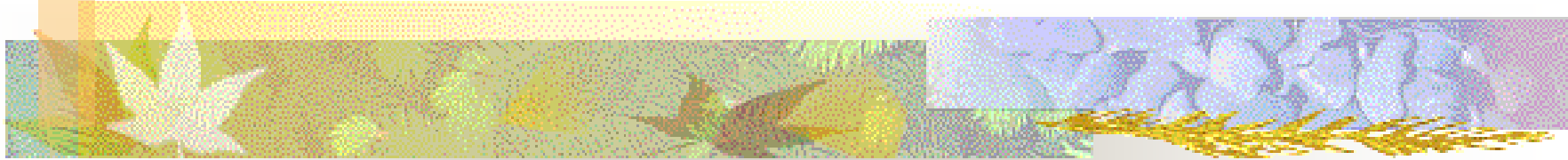


# Community Harvest Group – Skerries (CSA)



Part of Sustainable Skerries &  
Transition Town movement



# Who are we?

- Paddy Byrne, who has a organic farm which sustains our soil - Paddy is now trying to build a sustainable livelihood through supplying his locality with seasonal local wonderful produce
- A group of customers who want local organic produce - and are willing to commit their custom, pay a fair price and support the farm with their time as needed



# What is a CSA?

A CSA in essence is a mutual commitment:

Food producers + food consumers  
+ annual commitment to one another

A CSA fosters a partnership between a farmer and the members whereby we share both the rewards and also the challenges that independent farmers face every year



# Setting it all up

- **June 2010** - Sustainable Skerries decided to build an understanding of CSAs and see whether one could be achieved in Skerries
- **Early August 2010** - Met up Paddy, who had been organic farming in Skerries for 7 years and asked him would he be interested in the concept. He was open to the idea.
- **Sep 2010** - Carried out surveys locally to gauge level of interest – Responses very favourable
- **Oct 2010** – Agreed with Paddy to proceed
- **Oct '10** we extended invites to local people to join the Community Harvest Group – Skerries



# Setting it all up

- **Oct / Nov 2010** – Several meetings between Sustainable Skerries and Paddy agreeing breadth of vegetables, numbers of members, price, developing rules of membership, payment procedures, collection point etc
- **Dec 2010** - Membership agreements drawn up
- **Late 2010 - Feb 2011** - Held public meetings with potential members to discuss all the workings in detail and ensure those who joined would be strongly committed members
- **April 2011** – Target 30 families had joined ( mix of small & large boxes)
- **May 7<sup>th</sup> 2011** – Launched! – First Weekly Vegetable Box collection day



# How does our CSA work?

## ■ Members

1. Commit to the farmer for the whole season, paying monthly upfront at an agreed price
2. Accept whatever is in season
3. Collect the box at the farmers stall in the local market
4. A Core Group works with the farmer to ensure the project working well
5. Voluntary help on the farm when you can

## ■ Farmer

1. Agrees to supply a box of organic in-season vegetables weekly
2. Farmer will take all reasonable care against crop failure but members accept the inherent risks in farming
3. Farmer will pack and provide the weekly box at the farmers market
4. Farmer will facilitate four farm visits a year





# What have we learnt?

- A farmer open to trusting a new relationship with his customers is key
- Members commitment to a new relationship with the farmer and his farm is key
- We, as consumers, were clueless about the amount of work involved - organic farming is hard hard work and we need to ensure to invest our time at key points in the season to make this work.
- All positive feedback from members to date! Everyone loves the food and are really happy to be part of Community Supported Agriculture













**Now Paddys' version of what happened!**