



The Hungry Guest

BAKERY, BUTCHERY, FOOD SHOP & CAFÉ



MEREWORTH MARKET GARDEN



Grown for Flavour

Mid-Winter is a time for pruning and training existing fruit, but priority has been given at the moment to the expansion of the infrastructure here on the market garden. A third large poly tunnel is set to be constructed, which will expand our protected crops, such as peppers, aubergines, tomatoes, melons etc. In addition, it will also enable us to consider long term perennial fruit crops like figs, apricots and pomegranates.

Essentially, a lot of planting will be taking place over the Winter, all the soft fruit, such as blackcurrants, red currants and gooseberries will be going in. We will be planting alongside apple cordons in the orchard outside the walled garden. To complement all of this we will be enhancing our ornamental planting with climbing and rambling roses, as well as herb and flowers borders, to attract the beneficial insects and provide biodiversity. We have selected numerous varieties of seeds and by February we will be in full flow with all the propagation for the forthcoming season and will be ready to go

Further Strawberry plants have been ordered and have just arrived and we plan to plant additional rows to last year in our new poly tunnel.

Another new and exciting project we have just introduced in the last couple of weeks, is the cultivation of wood mushrooms. We have been busy drilling in holes in logs, planting the inoculated dowels to produce 7 varieties of mushroom in 2/3 years. This is a first for Mereworth.

There were wins and losses of the extreme weather of 2022, we had an abundance of protected crops, peppers, tomatoes, aubergine, melons courtesy of unbelievably high temperatures. The storage potatoes however didn't obtain the size due to the heat and the purple sprouting broccoli bolted too early as heat forces it to premature crop. Further losses with the freezing temperatures in December sadly saw the loss of mange tout crop and bulb fennel. In the next month, we will be continuing wintering crops to include celeriac, leeks, cauliflower, parsnips and, as the days get longer, we are looking at harvesting a lot more of the winter salads crops.

