

# NEWSLETTER



May is one of the prettiest months of the year, when spring is truly upon us. The winter sown crops come quickly to life, the blackthorn blossoms, cattle shed their winter coats and are turned out into succulent fields of grass. In fact, for the farmer, May is a month to look forward to.

It is therefore sad that this year May has been marred by 2 very unpleasant and upsetting events on the farm which happened at the end of April. The first of these was the vandalising of a newly planted hedgerow at night. Half of this hedge was planted a week before Easter and because of the severity of the attack we had to wait until after Easter before attempting to plant the outstanding stretch. In the meantime, signs endorsed by Kent Police, were displayed informing the public that the hedges were being planted as part of an Agri-environment scheme, adding to and enhancing the bio-diversity which will be of benefit to the wildlife in this area, as well as providing shelter and shade for the cattle.

The second event was much more spectacular (and traumatic) which was caused by a stolen car being driven into the centre of our green waste compost site, turning it upside down, removing the alloy wheels and torching it. Needless to say this unhelpful event has caused untold inconvenience and misery for us, our immediate neighbours and our surrounding villages. You cannot set fire to several hundred tonnes of green waste without creating a nuisance! We are now working with KCC to improve site security and reduced access to prevent a re-occurrence happening in the future.

We believe that the composting of green waste, for use on the land, is a very worthwhile and environmentally beneficial activity, in which this farm should be fully involved. The alternative of putting this to landfill is not an option worthy of consideration. It was a sad sight to see this waste of a resource going up in smoke. The resulting potash will be used but will only be a fraction of what has been lost. A sad day for all.

Gerry - 06.05.09

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