

New self-service, Organic Farm Shop, open 24 hrs a day in Whitchurch on Thames, in memory of the late, pioneering Organic Grower Lin Tolhurst.

Tolhurst Organic Partnership is a community interest company at Hardwick Estate, Whitchurch on Thames. They grow many different types and varieties of vegetables on an Organic, Stock-Free system; meaning there is no animal input at all. The Tolhurst family have been growing organically for 42 years, not only producing local food but as a teaching farm for people from all over the world who come to learn about stock-free organic systems.



They have recently opened a brand new **farm shop** (*above*) for farm-gate sales at the main gates of the Hardwick Estate. The beautiful purpose-built shed was built by Iain Tolhurst, funded by generous donations from customers, friends, family and community members. It is open all-hours and sells mainly Tolhurst Organics' own produce and a little other organic produce bought in from other farms, to bridge the 'Hungry Gap' at this time of year; when new-season produce is not yet available locally. Customers can park and shop any time of the day and night. The shop is fully off-grid with solar lights on until late. There is an honesty box safe on the wall for the payment. The farm harvests on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning so the selection is fresh and full from 2pm on those days.

The first farm gate sales were from a straw bale hut, started 5 years ago by Lin Tolhurst, one of the founders and directors of Tolhurst Organic CIC. Lin wanted a more permanent structure and planned to create a community hub for local food, promoting seasonal eating. She hoped it might become a place where people could stop on summer weekends to have a drink and cake as well as buy fresh vegetables. The day the fundraiser closed and received its 100th donation Lin passed away suddenly and without warning in the market garden at Hardwick. Amidst shock and with love and grief, the Tolhurst family have continued to build, set up and open the shop in her honour.

It has been named **Lin's VegShed** and is managed by her daughter Eugena Tolhurst (*right*). Eugena can be contacted by text initially on 07789 364926 for VegShed related queries and special orders. There will be regular pop up café events at Lin's VegShed serving seasonal salad bowls, soups, cakes and hot drinks – **the first of these is on 20th April, from 12 noon to 3 pm, all welcome but note that parking is limited.**



Visit www.tolhurstorganic.co.uk for more information on Stock-Free Organic, the Hungry Gap, all things vegetable related and upcoming events. The postcode for Lin's VegShed is RG8 7RA.