

# SOUTH EAST ESSEX ORGANIC GARDENERS

NEWSLETTER NO: 87: JULY 2009

<http://www.spiralseed.co.uk/seeog/>



The group was formed in 1994, to promote the principles of organic gardening by:

- *Composting organic waste;*
- *Protecting wildlife;*
- *Reducing pollution;*
- *Encouraging species diversity.*

*Membership is currently £7.00 per annum, £10.00 family.*



**Soil Association**

"If you're looking for an entry point in to transition, use food. Most people can see how their food supply is all based on oil and that we need to do something about it."

*Rob Hopkins, winner of the Observer Grassroots Campaigner of the Year award, The Observer Magazine, 7 June 2009.*

## **SEEOG GROUP NIGHTS/EVENTS/NEWS**

Our venue is currently St. David's Church Hall, 400 Rayleigh Road, Eastwood (off The Rodings), at 8.15pm. We are, however, moving to Growing Together Gardens, 47 Fairfax Drive, Westcliff-on-Sea when the new building is completed.

Jill Poet has asked whether we know anyone who might be interested in a 3-bedroom house to let in the heart of the Northumbrian National Park, with a 2.2-acre 18<sup>th</sup>-century walled garden. Built in 1715 to provide food for the Hesleyside Estate, the house and garden sit in a beautiful sunny valley location. There is the opportunity to stamp your own mark on the garden and to develop a business from the fantastic resources which the garden offers.

For more information, please contact [garden@greensteps.co.uk](mailto:garden@greensteps.co.uk)

### **TIMETABLE FOR MONDAY 20 JULY**

**7.00pm: AGM**

#### **AGENDA**

1. **Apologies for absence**
2. **Minutes of last AGM**
3. **Chairman's Report**
4. **Treasurer's Report**
5. **Election of Officers**
6. **Election of Committee Members**
7. **Any other business**

**8.15pm: "The Maximise Recycling Scheme one year on"** with Miranda Curme, Rochford Recycling Officer. Miranda will be looking at the great success of the scheme (increased recycling rates, reduction of waste to landfill and increase in participation) and some of the challenges ahead.

## **MONDAY 21 SEPTEMBER**

What is WWOOF?

WWOOF is a world wide network - It started in the UK in 1971 and has since become an international movement that is helping people share more sustainable ways of living.

WWOOF is an exchange - In return for volunteer help, WWOOF hosts offer food, accommodation and opportunities to learn about organic lifestyles.

WWOOF organisations link people who want to volunteer on organic farms or smallholdings with people who are looking for volunteer help. Find out more with volunteer Trudi Warner!

## **FRIDAY 23 OCTOBER: APPLE DAY CEILIDH, HAWKWELL VILLAGE HALL**

Please put this date in your diary now!

## **MONDAY 16 NOVEMBER**

We have invited Alan Wilson again, on either *A History of the Potato* or his work with Waitrose. The content of this meeting may change at short notice, however, due to Alan's work commitments at this time of year, in which case we will have something else.

## **ALLOTMENTS**

Karen Kenny is the Eastern Region NSALG representative. Her mobile number is 07712766916 and her email address is karen.kenny@homecall.co.uk

Darren Fazackerley is the Essex representative of the NSALG and his email address is darren.fazackerley@harlow.gov.uk. His home number is 01245 490700. Please do not hesitate to contact them if you want help.

The new ARI Mentor for the East of England is now Frank Owens.

Tel: 0845 313 8461

fowens.ari@googlemail.com

N.B. ARI is not able to provide assistance with legal issues (e.g. site disposal threats), disputes between councils and ploholders, or internal disputes. Please contact NSALG if you require this type of assistance.

## **ASHLYNS ORGANIC FARM**

Since our last visit we noticed the new compost site in the middle of the farm, which is run by TJ Composting. They take green garden trimmings (essentially everything from grass cuttings, hedge trimmings to small branches etc) that people have taken from their gardens to their local tip to use as the farm's input material to make compost. All the material comes in from Council run local recycling centres.

Once they have sorted the material as best they can, they then shred it with a powerful 480HP machine that smashes it all up; this is then formed into a large pile called a windrow. Within two or three days the windrow reaches some 65 to 70 degrees Celsius. The windrows are turned several times over a 10 to 12 week period and then stockpiled before being screened to 35mm. The screening process ensures the compost is free of large stones, plastic, etc and is suitable for spreading across the fields. All the compost on the site is used on the farm. As an organic farm not using pesticides or artificial fertilisers, it is the principal source of fertility for Ashlyns' crops.

Ashlyns' address is The Courtyard, High Laver Hall, High Laver, Essex CM5 0DU; Telephone: 01277 890821,

Email gary@ashlyns.co.uk,

Website: <http://www.ashlyns.co.uk/>

## **CHALKWELL HALL, CHALKWELL PARK**

Grace Acton works for Metal, which is an arts organisation currently renovating Chalkwell Hall. Grace has asked whether any of our Gardeners would be interested in a project they are running. Metal, working with visual artists, Ackroyd & Harvey and Southend Parks Team, are creating a kitchen garden at Chalkwell Hall. The garden will have four plots, growing vegetables, fruit trees, vines, hops and herbs and the beautiful olive tree featured in the award winning garden of the 2008 RHS Hampton Court Flower Show.

Does this sound like something in which you would be interested? All are welcome - from the most experienced gardener to the absolute novice.

Tel: 01702 470 700

Email: [grace@metalculture.com](mailto:grace@metalculture.com)

## **FARMERS' MARKETS**

- **Leigh-on-Sea**: In Leigh Community Centre, Elm Road, on Friday 24 July, Friday 28 August, Saturday 26 September, Friday 30 October, Saturday 21 November and Saturday 19 December, 9.00am - 12.00 noon.
- **Rochford**: In the WI Hall, Market Square, on Saturday 4 July, 1 August, 5 September, 3 October and 7 November, 9.30am - 12.30pm.

We have stalls at Leigh-on-Sea, Rochford and Canewdon but not Hadleigh and Southend-on-Sea.

- **Hadleigh**: At the Salvation Army, Home Farm, Castle Lane, held on every second Wednesday of the month from 12.00 onwards.
- **The Southend-on-Sea Farmers' Market** takes place in the High Street every second and fourth Saturday of every month, 8.30am - 4.00pm.

## **FOOD FOR LIFE PARTNERSHIP**

Free Organic Gardening Workshop for Schools

29 Sep 2009 | 10.00am - 3.00pm

Audley End, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB11 4JG

As part of the Food for Life Partnership, Garden Organic offers a Continuing Professional Development Event for school staff and associated colleagues such as caterers. The training event will support schools to learn about growing skills and how these relate to achieving a Food for Life Partnership Mark award. The day will enable participants to work with pupils to ensure food is successfully grown through to harvest; to make successful compost and to engage the wider school and community in growing activities. Interactive sessions will cover starting out, sowing techniques, planning your plot, growing in containers, Health & Safety issues and curriculum links.

For further information about this event, or the next planned event in your region, please contact the Garden Organic Administrator, Angela Bridge: Tel: 02476 217 747; Email: [FFLP@gardenorganic.org.uk](mailto:FFLP@gardenorganic.org.uk); Website: [www.w.gardenorganic.org.uk](http://www.w.gardenorganic.org.uk)

Karen Brenchley is the East of England Regional Co-ordinator. T: 07917 671 416; E:

[kbrenchley@soilassociation.org](mailto:kbrenchley@soilassociation.org)

<http://www.foodforlife.org.uk/>

## **GARDEN ORGANIC FOR SCHOOLS APPEAL**

There's a growing food crisis in our schools. Now Garden Organic needs your help to tackle it head on. Many children around the UK simply don't know where their food comes from. They eat more and more processed and fatty foods which, combined with a lack of exercise and little outdoor play, means levels of obesity and ill-

health are on the rise, as we see daily. Garden Organic is working hard to reverse this trend. Can you help the Garden Organic for Schools programme to grow?

[http://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/support\\_us/appeal\\_schools09.php](http://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/support_us/appeal_schools09.php)

## **GROWING ORGANIC: OUR VERY OWN SEMINARS INTRODUCING THE CONCEPTS OF ORGANIC GARDENING!**

We are now looking for volunteers to assist with the Hockley and Canewdon seminars.

For more information, please contact Robert Wiseman, [robert.wiseman@talk21.com](mailto:robert.wiseman@talk21.com), or telephone 07941 078135.

Jill Poet now has links on her website to Bob's articles at [http://www.healthylifeessex.co.uk/pages/outdoor-life/Veg\\_growing1.html](http://www.healthylifeessex.co.uk/pages/outdoor-life/Veg_growing1.html)

1. Saturday 25 July, 1.30pm: Greensward Academy, Main Hall, Greensward Lane, Hockley SS4 5HG
2. Saturday 3 October, 2.00pm: Canewdon Village Hall, Lambourne Hall Road, Canewdon SS4 3PG

Further dates and venues are planned for next year.

## **MANURE**

1. Pam Mitchell, The Grange, Murrells Lane, Hockley (Tel. 01702 207491) has a very good, old supply of manure. If you ring her first, giving a couple of days' notice, she will arrange for a load to be brought to the gate to ease bagging up.
2. We now have another provider of free manure - chemical free - in Barling, near Wakering. Tel. 01702 219835

## **PLANT LABELS**

Have you tried Graham Oster-Ritter's used aluminium litho plates yet for your plant labels? We've found them very useful when we've run out of juice or margarine cartons! They can be cut with scissors quite easily and make sturdier labels than our cartons! If you're interested, please either ring him on 01702 558871 or email [grahamoster@aol.com](mailto:grahamoster@aol.com) - he can bring some aluminium to Group Night. There will be no charge for the above but a small donation to SEEEOG would be appreciated.

## **SEEEOG EVENTS TO WHICH WE HAVE BEEN INVITED**

1. Springfield Drive Allotments Open Day on Sunday 23 August, 1.00pm for 2.00pm.
2. Leigh Allotments Open Day, organised by Leigh Town Council with the support of the Manchester Drive Allotments Society) on Sunday 13 September, 11.00am - 3.00pm, entrance free, at Manchester Drive Allotments (Opposite Cricketfield Grove) - SEEEOG stall as in previous years.

## **SEEEOG TALKS**

1. Tuesday 4 August, 12.30pm: Rayleigh Ladies' Luncheon Club, Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh
2. Thursday 13 August, 7.30pm: MNO Club, Eastwoodbury Lane Centre (Southend Borough FC), Eastwoodbury Lane, Eastwood
3. Monday 14 September, 7.30pm: Hawkwell Ladies Club, Old Fire Station, Hockley
4. Thursday 15 April 2010, 7.30pm: Ladies' Club, Belfairs Methodist Church, Eastwood Road North, Leigh-on-Sea

Please, if you can offer a lift..... we very much need some assistance with these events (and those above!), otherwise we can't attend them without hassle and SEEEOG doesn't get the publicity it deserves.

## **SEEOG TRIPS: COACH TO GARDEN ORGANIC RYTON ON SATURDAY 18 JULY**

We still have seats available on our coach - please don't leave it too late to book as we have to let Ryton know in advance how many to expect under their group scheme. We will leave Kirby's depot in Princess Road, Rayleigh sharp at 7.30am. We may be able to arrange lifts to Kirbys if there is a problem with transport. Another booking form is attached.

The Suffolk Organic Gardeners said they had a great trip a couple of years ago. The gardens looked great and there was plenty to see. Folks enjoyed the shop and cafe/restaurant and people who hadn't been before said it was all much better than expected. They were extremely blessed with the weather (beautiful autumnal sunshine) ..... they booked everyone on a guided tour..... their guide was very capable but was less knowledgeable about gardening and HDRA history than some of their group apparently! But this won't bother us, will it?

## **S E ESSEX WOMEN'S ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK IS STARTING SOMETHING**

### **NEW.....**

How many times have you felt guilty for accepting a plastic carrier bag at the supermarket whilst knowing full well that you already have a loads stashed away at home? Did you know that plastic bags are a real threat to marine wildlife, as well as to the environment?

MORSBAGS.COM is a new UK wide initiative which aims to encourage people to make cloth bags, eventually to be handed out for free at supermarkets or along the street.

SAD FACT - Over 1 million plastic bags are consumed per minute globally

GUT WRENCHING FACT - Marine wildlife mistakes plastic bags for food and dies

FRUSTRATING FACT - Supermarkets and politicians will take years to sort it out

HAPPY FACT - We can get together to make Morsbags which will help, with immediate effect. If you'd like to join WEN's new Morsbag group, contact Carol on 01702 342148.

## **OPEN DAY**

Our potatoes are ready to harvest..... Lots of planting has taken place .. And we think the plot is looking good ..

So come along and see what our band of workers has achieved -

Saturday July 11th 10.30 - 12 noon

You can be sure of a warm welcome - and a cup of tea!

To find out more phone: Carol on 01702 342148

This project is funded by Grassroots Grants from the Office of the Third Sector

See our websites - [www.SEEWEN-ALLOTMENT.org.uk](http://www.SEEWEN-ALLOTMENT.org.uk) & [www.SEEWEN.org.uk](http://www.SEEWEN.org.uk)

S. E. ESSEX WOMEN'S ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK  
COMMUNITY FOOD GROWING PROJECT (NOW KNOWN AS 'DIG IN')  
MANCHESTER DRIVE ALLOTMENTS

## **SOIL ASSOCIATION NEWS**

They have recently launched their new website, which is much more attractive and easy to use. Please do take a look <http://www.soilassociation.org/Whatwedo/tabid/58/Default.aspx>

They've been highlighting the Children's Food Festival at the end of last month, the Organic Apprentice Scheme and the Organic Farm School courses.

Why not celebrate Organic Fortnight between 5-20 September by hosting an organic credit crunch dinner for friends? What's more, you can raise money and support the Soil Association's work directly by arranging your dinner through the [Dinner4Good](http://www.dinner4good.com) website, which provides everything you need to help you organise your event.

<http://www.dinner4good.com/soilassociation>

## **TIPS, HINTS AND REVIEWS!**

Terry says he has used Advanced Slug Killer pellets sparingly for the last few years in London and now in his new garden in Southend. He says it has made a big difference to the amount of plants that are munched and killed, including tomato plants and sunflowers, where they were previously eaten at the bottom even when quite large plants in the borders, causing them to fall over and die.....

Interesting to see the new packaging now has the words 'ORGANIC USE' in large letters, replacing the lettering 'RAINPROOF PELLETS' on his tub, even though it is produced by Growing Success Organics Ltd. His tub has lasted him well and is now about a quarter full at time of writing.

He has found the pellets most useful in his 4-tier mini greenhouse where the birds or other slug and snail lovers can't get to, having just discovered an old bird's nest in the ivy covering the fence absolutely full of broken snail shells!

Overall, he says he has found them to be an excellent product though, to use (as with everything) as a last resort and not as an all over cure. Feeding the birds regularly to encourage them into his garden definitely helps .....

## **USEFUL WEBSITES**

1. The Landshare Team have launched the new Landshare website. As someone who 'wants to grow' and is looking for land, they would like your details up and running on the new site now. In order for them to do this, they need to get you to log on to their website at <http://www.channel4.com/landshare>
2. You can receive alerts from Fight Against Blight/BlightWatch by registering with [www.blightwatch.co.uk](http://www.blightwatch.co.uk)

## **CHERRY FESTIVAL 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> JULY**

Summer is here at Brogdale Farm! Prepare yourselves for a great day out as our Cherry Festival is fun for all the family!

There really is something for EVERYONE!

With over 300 varieties of Cherry in the National Fruit Collection and up to 50 different varieties to taste and buy our festival offers a truly fruity experience.

Cherry Display, Art Piece, Tastings & Summer Bar. Advice on all aspects of Growing Fruit

- \_ Live Music with "Sejuice" Jazz Band Exclusive
- \_ Cooking Demonstrations
- \_ Gardening and Horticultural Talks
- \_ BBQ & Food Court
- \_ Orchard Tours, Tractor Trailer Tours & Walks
- \_ Goer Gun Dog Display
- \_ Local Shopping
- \_ Craft & Local Produce Market
- \_ Flower Arranging Workshop
- \_ Earth Craft Archery\*

Children's Activities including:

- Face Painting
- Bouncy Castle
- Miniature Railway\*

\* denotes extra charge

Entrance: Adults £6.00 Children (under 16's) £3.00 Family £15.00

Brogdale Farm, Brogdale Road, Faversham, Kent ME13 8XZ

Tel: 01795 536250

[www.brogdalecollections.co.uk](http://www.brogdalecollections.co.uk)

## ONE BROOK HALL COTTAGES, STEEPLE ROAD, LATCHINGDON, ESSEX CM3 6LB

Garden open for National Gardens Scheme charities.

Organic garden on 3 levels. Mixed borders densely planted with perennials and grasses. Decked area overlooking farmland with boardwalk leading to natural pond and bog garden. Narrow paths and steep steps. Vegetable garden

Plants for sale. Homemade teas

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July and Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July from 2 to 6pm

Admission £2.50

Further details [www.ngs.org.uk](http://www.ngs.org.uk)

### SEEOG COMMITTEE

Ron Bates	Chair	01702 477681
Patricia Wortley	Treasurer	01702 588115
Graham Oster-Ritter	Membership Secretary	01702 558871 grahamoster@aol.com
Violet Poulten	Minutes Secretary	01268 768391 violetpoulten@talktalk.net
Carole Shorney	Secretary	01702 201914 caroleshorney@hotmail.com
Vic Shorney	Committee Member	01702 201914
Ray How	Committee Member	01702 544632 ray.how@btopenworld.com
Maureen Nightingale	Committee Member	01702 540030
Martine Vyse	Committee Member	01268 781694
Penny Dally	Committee Member	01268 750994 pennydally276@btinternet.com

Please post/phone/email your contributions for the September newsletter to Carole by the end of August at the very latest.

The next committee meeting will be on Wednesday 29 July at 7.30pm at Maureen's.

Finally, please notify Graham Oster-Ritter on grahamoster@aol.com if you wish to receive your newsletter by post/email, or to change your email address,