

SOUTH EAST ESSEX ORGANIC GARDENERS NEWSLETTER NO: 91 – MAY 2010



Soil Association

<http://www.seeog.org.uk/>
<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/?ref=home>
Southend Food Growers (and producers)
<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/group.php?gid=10150117854010788&ref=ts>

SEEOG 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.

SEEOG Group Nights/Events/News

We meet at St. David's Church Hall, 400 Rayleigh Road, Eastwood (off The Rodings) at 8.15pm.

Here, you can browse both the The Garden Way magazine <http://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/> and the Soil Association's Living Soil <http://www.soilassociation.org/Whatwedo/tabid/58/Default.aspx>

The new book 'Stuffed – Positive Global Action to prevent a Good Crisis' is now in our Library – please see Graham.

The next Rochford market is on 5 June in the WI Hall, Market Square, at 9.30am.
The next two Leigh markets are in the Leigh Community Centre (Elm Road) on Saturday 29 May and Friday 25 June, 9.00am – 12.00 noon.

We were very upset to read in the Echo that Maureen Vince, Chairman of Rochford Parish Council, died suddenly in March. She worked tirelessly for a range of community causes, including the Rochford Farmers' Market.

Andrew Tann at Crapes Fruit Farm reports 'buds are waking slowly but are very late.'

Our Webmaster, Graham Burnett, has kindly added a blog section (look right at the top of the website), at http://www.spiralseed.co.uk/seeogwp/?page_id=90

Kamil has initiated a page on Facebook called the Southend Food Growers (and producers) <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/group.php?gid=10150117854010788&ref=ts>
This is for all Southend-on-Sea allotmentiers, back garden food producers, windowsill herb growers, container gardeners, community food projects, chicken keepers, beekeepers, local farmers, home jam makers, local food businesses, restaurants using local/organic produce etc.

Saturday 15 May

As you all know, the date of our Plant Sale is rapidly approaching.

Date: Saturday 15 May Time: 11am to 2pm

Place: Growing Together Gardens, 47 Fairfax Drive, Southend-on-Sea SS0 9AG (corner of Fairfax Drive and Prittlewell Chase)

Can you please take your plants down to Growing Together by 10am, potted, labelled, etc. and give a hand with setting up and generally helping to make the whole thing run nice and smoothly?

Please either ring Graham on 01702 558871 or email grahamoster@aol.com if you want some of his used aluminium litho plates for plant labels.

Monday 17 May

Monday 17 May - Peter Garrod, Teacher in charge of Garden Organic at The Sweyne Park School.

The Sweyne Park School is a flagship school for the Food for Life Partnership, which promotes the part nutrition plays in young people's lives and in the wider community. Peter is, in fact, a Maths teacher who has been the driving force behind the garden and has the expert knowledge of all things that are green! He will have all the pictures of the progress and is keen to present to SEEOG. Peter is also a member of the local garden group and will be available to answer any questions on the garden and its progress.

Saturday 12 June

Remember Mo Perkins' talk about soft fruit? We've finally been able to arrange a visit to Hilltop Farm, in Benfleet, at 2pm. Please make your own way to the farm in Hill Top Avenue, Benfleet, SS7 1PH. We may be able to arrange a lift as and where necessary.

Monday 19 July

AGM followed by 'Sustainable Farming and Climate Change' with Permaculture Diploma holder, Spencer Christie, of Lauriston Farm, near Goldhanger.

Monday 20 September

Damien Errington has just embarked on his third season as Horticulture tutor at Hadleigh Training Centre.

Friday 22 October: Apple Day Ceilidh

Monday 15 November

John Williams, who works in the Storehouse Community Centre, Southend-on-Sea, tells us about Landshare, where the landowner, grower or helper posts a listing, telling others where you are and what you are offering or looking for; hopefully, you get responses using their mail system to receive and send messages and then you have a chat and see what happens! New season, new website at <http://www.landshare.net/>

Allotments

Twigs Way, garden historian and writer <http://www.twigsway.com/> will give a talk on the history of the allotment movement on Thursday 17 June in Southend Central Library to tie in with the BBC's 'Dig in' promotion - either in the Lecture Theatre or on the second floor.

Coach to Cherry Festival, Brogdale Farm, Faversham, Kent: Saturday 10 July

There are plenty of seats available at the moment but we don't intend to wait until the last minute to decide whether the trip will be viable. If you want to come, please let us know as soon as possible!

The price on the attached booking form includes coach only and does not include admission.

Details of pick-up places and times are as follows but please note that they are approximate and may be subject to change:

8.00am: Depot

8.10am: Bus Stop Opposite Hockley Library

8.15am: Rectory Road

8.20am: Sapwood's

8.30am: Southend, Queensway, Sainsbury

8.30am: The Plough

8.35am: Chalkwell Park

8.40am: The Elms

8.40am: Thames Drive

8.50am: Hadleigh Church

8.55am: Vic House Corner

8.55am: Bread And Cheese (Kenneth Road)

8.55am: Kents Hill Road (Bus Stop Just After Traffic Lights)

9.00am: Sadler's Farm

Brogdale festival and events entry charges:

Adults: £8.00

Children £4.00

Families £20.00 Children under 2: FREE

See their website for further details <http://www.brogdalecollections.co.uk/fruit-festivals.html>

At their fruit festivals and events you can celebrate fruits in season with them - you can taste them and take them away (when they are in season), see them growing and hear the stories about the different varieties all through the year. They also have local Kent craft stalls and **local Kent produce** and a range of things for children to do and enjoy. Their food events include cookery demonstrations, tastings of the food cooked and new recipes for you to try with the different fruits in season. They also have **a cafe** which serves home-made food throughout their fruit festivals and events, using the seasonal fruits.

Correspondence

From Graham to Steve Ott, Editor, Kitchen Garden

Subject: Bayer Garden

I notice that Bayer Garden (www.bayergarden.co.uk) is sponsoring your organic gardening section of Kitchen Garden. On looking at their website, I could see nothing organic. Far from it, everything seemed non organic. Apart from money, there seems no logical reason why you are letting a company with a notorious history of chemicals sponsor organic gardening.

Dear Graham

Many thanks for your email.

I do appreciate your comments being aware of Bayer's background. However, in this instance they are promoting their developing range for organic gardeners and I would see that as a positive thing. The garden market for chemical products is shrinking all the time so it is natural for them to want to reposition themselves in order to maintain their place in a fast-changing market where only a handful of garden chemicals remain of the 20 or 30 that were available to gardeners only 15-20 years ago. They are obviously acknowledging that fact and I don't think it will be long before they and other manufacturers will be forced to produce an entirely organic offering for the gardening public.

Please be assured that I have taken note of your comments and they will be seriously considered should we contemplate any similar sponsorships in the future.

In the meantime I do hope that you continue to enjoy your copy of KG each month and that the gardening season ahead is a good one for you.

Very best wishes,

Steve Ott

Editor, Kitchen Garden

01507 529396

07738 455014

Mortons Media Group, Morton Way,

Horncastle, Lincs LN9 6JR

Has anyone else cancelled their subscription? If so, we would like to hear from you!

Food for Life Partnership

Approximately seventy Essex schools have now registered. See their website

<http://www.foodforlife.org.uk/in-your-region/east-anglia>

Through their work with the Food for Life Partnership, Garden Organic is responsible for getting schools and their communities to set up sustainable food growing gardens. They deliver training, offer advice and encourage the whole school community to participate in the project. They want fresh, seasonal produce that has been grown using organic methods in or near the school grounds to be used for cooking sessions and in school meals.

Unfortunately at this time, Garden Organic is unable to offer resources to schools enrolled on Garden Organic for Schools. They are, however, able to offer schools that sign up to the Food for Life Partnership a selection of resources, including the Food for Life Partnership Growing Manual. The manual is packed with practical advice and activities in growing organically. It gives information for all ages on how to start and maintain an organic food growing garden. Schools can sign up by visiting <http://www.foodforlife.org.uk/>

For more information, please contact Rebecca White, Administration Team, Food For Life Partnership, Garden Organic, Wolston Lane, Ryton-on-Dunsmore, Coventry CV8 3LG; fflp@gardenorganic.org.uk; 02476 217 747

GM Watch

GMWatch has a fan page on Facebook - please join and invite all your friends, too. And don't forget to follow them on Twitter for all the breaking news.

Monthly Review editor: Claire Robinson

Website: <http://www.gmwatch.org>

Profiles: http://www.spinprofiles.org/index.php/GM_Watch:_Portal

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/GMWatch>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/GMWatch/276951472985?ref=nf>

Growing Organic: Our Very Own Seminars Introducing the Concepts of Organic Gardening!

Saturday 5 June Crowstone Christian Centre, Westcliff-on-Sea SS0 8LH, 9.30am

Saturday 3 July Scout Hall, Church Walk, Hall Road, Rochford SS4 1NN, 9.30am

Saturday 6 November Village Hall, 25 Hullbridge Road, South Woodham Ferrers CM3 5PL, 9.30am

Event contact details

Carole Shorney, 01702 201914, caroleshorney@hotmail.com

Robert Wiseman, 0794 107 8135, robert.wiseman@talk21.com

Huntington's Disease Association Southend Branch

The Southend branch also collects used postage stamps for their charity. Please send yours to Pat Nelson, 137 Rochford Garden Way, Rochford SS4 1QL, terrynelson123@btinternet.com

<http://www.hda-southend.org.uk/>

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

SEEOG Talks/Events (with own stall)

1. Talk to the Thursday Ladies Club, The Broadway, Thorpe Bay, on 27 May at 7.30pm.

Useful websites

1. Grow your own revolution gets major land boost - we were passed the link below and thought it might be of interest:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1492679>

2. GRAIN is a small international non-profit organisation that works to support small farmers and social movements in their struggles for community-controlled and biodiversity-based food systems -

<http://www.grain.org/about/?org>

Women's environmental network

Plans are going ahead for a local CULTURE KITCHEN event in October this year when World Food Day will be marked by a day-long celebration of food, encouraging locally sourced and locally grown food, with the emphasis on multi-cultural cooking. Highlight of the day will be a shared lunch - if you'd like to help with plans for the day, please contact Carol on 01702 342148.

A REMINDER: After a brief break during the winter months, work is underway on their community plot DIG IN on the Manchester Drive allotments. Phone Pauline on 01702 712596 or Carol on 01702 342148 or Eileen on 01268 752264 if you'd like to know more. Even if you have only a small time to join in, you will be very welcome.

SEEOG Committee

Ron Bates	Chair	01702 477681	anebates@hotmail.co.uk
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Graham Oster-Ritter	Membership Secretary	01702 558871	grahamoster@aol.com
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Maureen Nightingale	Committee Member	01702 540030	
Martine Vyse	Committee Member	01268 781694	

Please post/phone/email your contributions for the July newsletter to Carole by the end of June at the very latest. The next committee meeting will be on Wednesday 19 May at 7.30pm, kindly hosted this time by Violet. 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,

