

## **SOUTH EAST ESSEX ORGANIC GARDENERS NEWSLETTER NO: 94 – NOVEMBER 2010**

<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 £8.00 per annum, £12.00 family.**

### **[SEEOG'S NEW VENUE IN JANUARY 2011!](#)**

**As from January 2011, we will be holding all our meetings at Growing Together Gardens, 47 Fairfax Drive, Southend-on-Sea SS0 9AG (corner of Fairfax Drive and Prittlewell Chase).**

**<http://streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?>**

**[x=587281&y=186914&z=0&sv=SS0+9AG&st=2&pc=SS0+9AG&mapp=map.srf&searchp=ids.srf](http://streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?x=587281&y=186914&z=0&sv=SS0+9AG&st=2&pc=SS0+9AG&mapp=map.srf&searchp=ids.srf)**

### **THE FIRST SE ESSEX POTATO DAY!**

**In association with Leigh-on-Sea Allotment & Leisure Garden Association and SEEOG**

**The date: Saturday 19 February**

**The time: 10am - 2.00pm**

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

**The price: To be confirmed**

**The rest: To be confirmed**

This will be a joint effort, both financially and otherwise, and organised and run entirely by volunteers from the Leigh-on-Sea Allotment & Leisure Garden Association and SEEOG, in conjunction with Julian Turner, organiser of the East Anglia Potato Day. He has already warned us that the first lesson we will learn is the weight of the stock and that we need to accept that setting up takes time and oomph! Even the clear-up will be heavy work! We have always had a magnificent response when we ask for volunteers for the ceilidh - would you like to help us, please, with our first Potato Day? Our Potato List is attached!

### **SEEOG Library**

Our Library will be kept at Growing Together. As I cannot manage the door, raffle and library, I will need an Assistant Librarian to deal with the Library on Group Nights. It need not be just one person but could be a rota or a member at random on Group Nights. However, no assistant, no library!

Graham

### **SEEOG Group Nights/Events/News**

SEEOG have now joined Marshalls Garden Club. This will entitle all members who register with a discount of 35% on Marshalls Seeds plus up to 50% on some varieties plus special prices on onions, shallots, garlic and potatoes. You place your order online using an access code and pay for your order, which will be sent to Graham. There is only one delivery per year. The cut-off date is 20th November and delivery will be on 1st December. Your order can then be collected from Graham or he will bring it with him on January Group

Night. If you wish to take advantage of this offer, please contact Graham and he will give you the access code which will enable you to reach the Members' Area.

For further information, contact Graham or go to <https://www.marshalls-garden-club.com>  
Marshalls' catalogue is at <http://www.marshalls-seeds.co.uk/>

This year's Apple Day Ceilidh late ticket take-up was a real headache this year, not very well supported by members as usual, but in the end very generously celebrated by our staunch Ceilidh fans plus many new friends who loved the evening. We want to say a very public **Thank You** to Maureen and her team for providing their usual excellent supper as well as to everyone who helped during the evening either before during or after the event, and especially to Brian, our resident photographer! Ron will be bringing some SEEOG Apple Juice to sell on Group Night!

The next two farmers' markets at Leigh are on Saturday 20 November and Saturday 18 December.

### **Monday 15 November**

There's a slight change of plan here, due to John Williams having to relinquish his Landshare garden. Instead, we have a presentation on The Storehouse Garden Project, which was established by volunteers from the Storehouse Homeless & Community Project based in central Southend-on-Sea.

They have been given an allotment for their service users to plant and grow food that will be given to people in need. The Storehouse Garden Project comprises Gardening as Therapy & Gardening to support the Storehouse Food Programme.

### **Monday 17 January**

SEEOG member, Maike Windhorst, on Growing for Self-Sufficiency

### **Monday 21 March**

Keith Tyrell, Director of Pesticide Action Network UK, to discuss *Birds and Pesticides - Is the threat of a silent spring really behind us?*

### **Monday 16 May**

Broad Oak Herbs - the only medicinal herb farm in Essex producing organic herbal medicines, education on herbs, workshops and how they work with Nature Intelligence. The Partnership of Broad Oak Herbs is not yet pursuing Soil Association or Demeter certification due to the costs involved. Dawn's land has been organic since she moved there seventeen-odd years ago and she has never used a pesticide since then. They don't use chemicals and garden organically. They are just delving into Biodynamics and working with Nature Intelligence. When they sell their tinctures to other qualified herbalists they shall just state with integrity that they are non-certified organic and grown without the use of pesticides.

### **Monday 18 July**

Speaker to be confirmed

### **Monday 19 September**

Speaker to be confirmed

### **Monday 21 November**

Brian Arbuckle's presents "Love Food Hate Waste"

### **Food for Life Partnership**

Approximately 96 Essex schools have now registered. See their website

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

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

Ian Nutt

07917 671 416

inutt@soilassociation.org

## **Garden Organic News**

Regretfully, we haven't flagged up Garden Organic's appeal for old mobile phones and foreign currency, as they receive £3 for every phone they receive. We are therefore hastily 'making good' by asking everyone to give their donations to Betty at next Group Night.

### **Gardeners' Question Time Recording: Monday 6 December**

Corinne has told us about an event that the Purleigh & District Gardeners' Society is organising on Monday 6 December, as per details below:

The Tractor Shed, London Hayes, Cold Norton Road, Latchingdon, CM3 6HP

Drinks 5:30 pm; recording starts 6:30pm. **Please arrive before 6.20 pm.** Recording ends 8:30pm.

Tickets: £2.50

For tickets please contact Jan Robertson,

Purleigh & District Gardeners' Society

Email: jan8085@aol.com

Tel: 01245225657

## **Gardening Guild**

Peter queried whether we are familiar with Dr John Yeomans (who lives in Leighton Buzzard) and the Gardening Guild. Dr. Yeomans used to write a bi-monthly publication called the Lazy Gardener and ran an heirloom seed swap service before he stopped all activity for a few years due to ill health. He is now recovered and has re-launched the Gardeners Guild - now on-line at [www.gardingguild.org](http://www.gardingguild.org)

You can sign up for a month's free membership - thereafter it is a fiver a month. Not everyone will want to pay this amount (£60 per year!) but some might. The site is extensive and fun to use - but you need a quirky sense of humour to appreciate it. He promotes any kind of "natural gardening" - which includes organic, permaculture, etc. and the site serves as a world-wide forum for swapping hints, tips, information, downloadable books, seeds for swapping etc.

Take a look at the site, see if it's of interest, and tell us about it!

## **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](http://www.spinprofiles.org/index.php/GM_Watch:_Portal)

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

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

### **Green Reads: Autumn 2010**

We will have Simon's complete list at Group Night, for which we thank him.

Forget the weeding! Take time indoors to enjoy some of these new gardening and cookery books - all available at Southend Libraries.

"The Good Food Producers Guide 2010" by Rose Prince

"We Love Food: Family Recipes from the Garden" by Kirsty Manning-Wilcox and Peta Heine

"The Rough Guide to Ethical Living" by Duncan Clark

Another from the Rough Guides series is "Climate Change: the Symptoms, the Science, the Solutions" by Robert Henson.

"The RHS Allotment Handbook" is another title in the wide range of books published around growing your own.

"Growing food in Small Spaces" by Barbara Segall

"The National Trust Farmhouse Cookbook" by Laura Mason

"The Pauper's Cookbook" by Jocasta Innes

"Gardener's Nightcap" by Muriel Stuart

"Mma Ramotswe's Cookbook" featuring Botswana's foremost fictional lady detective is a real treat.

The Co-operative membership is bringing to Southend Library a screening of the film

"Vanishing of the Bees", on Thursday 11th November 2010 (7.15pm- 9.30pm) as part of its Plan Bee campaign to inform members and the wider public of the plight of the bees. There is currently a waiting list.

### **Growing Organic: Seminar Introducing the Concepts of Organic Gardening!**

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](mailto:caroleshorney@hotmail.com)

Robert Wiseman, 0794 107 8135, [robert.wiseman@talk21.com](mailto:robert.wiseman@talk21.com)

### **Huntington's Disease Association Southend Branch**

The Southend branch collects used postage stamps for their charity. Please send or take yours to Pat Nelson, 137 Rochford Garden Way, Rochford SS4 1QL or email [terrynelson123@btinternet.com](mailto:terrynelson123@btinternet.com)

<http://www.hda-southend.org.uk/> Anything that you have and don't want, please ask them, as they would be so grateful: 01702 544606 (Pat) or David on 01702 304698

### **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 have another provider of free manure, chemical free, in Barling, near Wakering.  
Tel. 01702 219835

3. Our third new provider is Julie Davis who has a large, well rotted manure pile in Great Wakering, ready to be taken away and put to good use, with good vehicle access. You can help yourself to a bagful, a car load or a lorry load if you want it, but please contact her first to arrange a time as her yard is kept locked for security reasons.

Julie says she can't say it's organic, but she has run her land along organic guidelines, so there have been no sprays, medicines, etc. used and all their livestock were fed on organic feed, with no growth promoters or hexane, so it is completely safe for organic vegetables, etc. Her number to make arrangements on is 07742107855.

### **SEEOG Talks/Events (with own stall)**

Wednesday 16 February at 2.30pm: Talk to Shoebury Village WI, St. Peter's Church Hall, Hinguar Street, Shoeburyness.

## Soil Association News

Their new report, *Feeding the animals that feed us*, opens the urgently needed debate on how we can move away from feeding our farm animals grains and imported proteins and promote more sustainable alternatives such as increased grazing and use of home-grown feed.

<http://www.soilassociation.org/Whyorganic/Climatefriendlyfoodandfarming/Sustainableanimalfeed/tabid/1183/Default.aspx>

## Useful Websites

1. Voices for the Library is a place for everyone who loves libraries to share their stories and experiences of the value of public libraries.

[http://www.voicesforthelibrary.org.uk/wordpress/?page\\_id=67](http://www.voicesforthelibrary.org.uk/wordpress/?page_id=67)

2. **The People's Supermarket is a bold new venture which allows a community to come together and take charge of the food they buy and eat. Nothing like this has ever been tried in the UK before.**

<http://www.peoplessupermarket.org/>

3. Why food is at the heart of social care - an interesting Community Care magazine articles at <http://www.communitycare.co.uk/static-pages/articles/food-and-social-care/>

4. Jill says this is (and I've watched it!) a fantastic video of Jamie Oliver talking about obesity and disease. Please circulate to all your contacts.

[http://www.foodmatters.tv/\\_webapp\\_378864/Jamie\\_Oliver\\_Speaks\\_out\\_on\\_Obesity\\_and\\_Disease](http://www.foodmatters.tv/_webapp_378864/Jamie_Oliver_Speaks_out_on_Obesity_and_Disease)

5. For more details about the Essex Weather Centre, please visit [essexweather.com](http://essexweather.com)

6. The Food Commission, Britain's leading, independent watchdog on food issues,

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

## SEEOG Committee

Ron Bates	Chair	01702 477681	anebates@hotmail.co.uk
Brian Slemmonds	Treasurer	01702 200572	
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Graham Oster-Ritter	Membership Secretary	01702 558871	grahamoster@aol.com
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Please post/phone/email your contributions for the January newsletter to Carole by the end of December at the very latest. Please also notify Graham Oster-Ritter on [grahamoster@aol.com](mailto:grahamoster@aol.com) if you wish to receive your newsletter by post/email, or to change your email address.

\*The next committee meeting will be on Tuesday 23 November at Graham's.

