

# SOUTH EAST ESSEX ORGANIC GARDENERS

NEWSLETTER NO: 110 – JULY 2013

<http://seeog.org.uk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Southendfoodgrowersandproducers>

[https://www.facebook.com/?ref=tn\\_tnmn#!/groups/43705483846/](https://www.facebook.com/?ref=tn_tnmn#!/groups/43705483846/)



Soil Association



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.

Is your local school a member of SEEOG? If not, we offer free membership on receipt of application form!

## Venue

Cheryl Centre, Growing Together Community Gardens, 47 Fairfax Drive, Southend-on-Sea SS0 9AG (corner of Fairfax Drive and Prittlewell Chase) – see Trust Links below.

Please let us know if you have difficulty with transport and we will try to help.

Unless stated otherwise, our speakers start at 8.00pm, but Growing Together will be open from 7.00pm to allow members to change their books, etc.

The next committee meeting is on Monday 8 July at Graham's.

Please 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.

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Echo readers may have seen Eileen's letter in the Echo recently, the full text of which is on another page. Quite separately, we received an email from a friend who lives in the Colchester area, who wrote:

'Last autumn there was a spill into the upper Colne, west of Halstead, when a farm truck with five pesticides in tipped over into the river. It took five weeks to get down to the estuary, killing fish and wildlife en route. The Environment Agency went spare trying to dilute it without success. That would have been sprayed on the farm's fields.

It is over 20 years since I was damaged by herbicides sprayed on the grass around our classrooms in June at Tiptree where I was teaching. The teacher from the next classroom rushed in and said 'They are spraying round your children' - the ones who had finished their reading were out in the Wendy House.

I rushed through the long grass round the path and herded the children away and back into the classroom. However, I had Indian sandals on and my left toes started tingling and then the right toes - though I washed them it got into my system and within three days it had reached my spine and I was bedridden, unable to move for two weeks.

However, I had a phone by my bed and started investigating with another campaigner. I started a two-year pesticide campaign from my bed. The county council went into secret mode, but at the same time a lady walking her dog in Hilly Fields in Colchester was damaged as she walked along the grassy path. We found that three-quarters of herbicides/pesticides which Colchester Council used were banned or severely restricted in other countries.

I went on long-term sick leave and had to leave teaching. We produced a report for Colchester council and I was called 'a scaremonger' in full council. We had a two-year campaign with national speakers at public meetings etc, and finally the council had a 100% vote including the mayor in full council to ban all carcinogenic or mutagenic 'pesticides', which at the time left them with one - Glyphosate - which they and the county council have been using ever since. Now we know that is also carcinogenic and mutagenic.

The doctors called what I was suffering 'arthritis' but know what had happened and have all the notes. I have great trouble walking and very painful feet, ankles and knees, with distorted hands and fingers. I can no longer walk to the bus stop or cycle, so I have to have a vehicle (a little old-fashioned Bambi campervan) to drive to the village bus stop. For the past three weeks I have had a very painful back and right leg so it isn't getting any better after all these years, worse luck!

How many other people don't know how or where they were damaged by farm or garden pesticides or herbicides???'

And so we must remember the damage to bees and other wildlife, fields, farms, waterways and people from the use of neonicotinoid pesticides and other pesticides and herbicides, including Glyphosate, which is now in our bread and in us. This is how important it is for us to support organic farming and food.

## **SEEOG Group Nights/events/news**

Our AGM starts at 7.30pm sharp on Monday 15 July and we look forward to seeing as many members as possible at Growing Together. The month of July is also the time when we must think about re-joining SEEOG (and even introducing a friend, relative or neighbour, perhaps?)

The Manchester Drive Allotment Society's Open Day is on Sunday 1 September, 11am - 4pm and the Westcliff Land Cultivation Society's Summer Show at Springfield Drive is on Sunday 8 September from 2pm – and we are invited to both!

There's news from Pete Marett, who moved up to Suffolk recently: 'Hope all is well at SEEOG. We've been to a couple of the Ipswich Organic Gardeners meetings but they were not well attended. Good speakers though. Not sure how often we will go as it's a 30 minute drive and we're trying to keep things local if we can to save the planet (not to speak of our petrol bill!). However, there are quite a number of local organic veg and meat suppliers in the area who do farm gate sales or attend local farmers' markets. And we've found a small herd of Jersey cows that supply unpasteurised milk - the only herd in the UK whose calves are not removed from their mothers and are entirely grass fed - the ultimate in compassionate, non-industrial farming! She sells every Monday at our local village market which is just half a mile's walk across the fields from our cottage. We feel that we've really joined the country set now! Don't forget, if you're up the A12 any time - do come and see us!'

SEEOG 'trippers' may remember Ellen at the Sapwood's pickup point, who died last month. Maureen kindly brought her to Growing Together when she wasn't rambling around the Essex countryside with her friends, or on her travels, which she often talked about on our coach trips.

## **Monday 15 July**

Please note that we will be holding our AGM at 7.30pm sharp (or as soon as we can set up!) before Ross's presentation at 8.00pm. This is usually brief but it is your forum for commenting on how SEEOG is performing and what you wish to see happening in the following year.

'Never a Dull Moment', a naturalist's view of British wildlife with Ross Gardner, a professional naturalist, currently working in environmental education. He has enjoyed a long standing interest in the natural world, spanning over thirty years, which has allowed him to develop a substantial knowledge base of British wildlife. During this time he has worked for many years, voluntarily and professionally, in the environmental/conservation field, also gaining an Honours degree in Rural Environmental Management. Since 2002 Ross has variously contributed newspaper, magazine and online articles and has written several books.

<http://www.rossgardner.co.uk/Home2>

## **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

## Monday 16 September

A welcome return by Andrew Tann, from Crapes Fruit Farm

Crapes Fruit Farm is located just five miles west of Colchester, Essex, and only one mile north of Marks Tey Railway Station, within easy reach of the A12. From Stansted (M11) – just 30 miles. Their address is Rectory Road, Aldham, Colchester, Essex CO6 3RR. Telephone: 01206 212375.

Their peaceful, family orchard of fifteen acres is rich with a range of birds (skylark, wren and woodpecker, for example), insects (including dragonflies), and plant life. They also see deer, stoats and many rabbits living in the orchards. Some of the insects and bats that inhabit the premises are predators of aphids and other fruit pests, helping to keep down the population of unwanted, fruit-harming wildlife!

Andrew, the eldest of the third generation of Tanns at the farm, is dedicated to the production of apples – which taste like apples should. Crapes Fruit Farm has a collection of many varieties of apple which was compiled by Andrew's father, John Tann. These include very traditional and lesser-known varieties such as Blenheim Orange and D'arcy Spice. <http://crapes.wordpress.com/>

## Apple Day: Saturday 12 October, 11am– 3pm

In partnership with SEEOG and SEEWEN, at St. Laurence Orchard, Eastwood

## Monday 18 November

Jacqui Apostolides presents an update to Broad Oak Herbs, an organic, biodynamic herb farm in the beautiful Essex countryside. They specialise in bespoke artisan Traditional English Herbal Medicines for professional Herbalists and Practitioners.

All production and quality control at Broad Oak Herbs is carried out, or very closely supervised, by a medical herbalist with much expertise and passion in the art of preparing herbal remedies.

Broad Oak Herbs are committed to quality and environmentally friendly growing and production methods. They constantly strive to increase the range of herbs that they grow in their flourishing herb field in Essex. <http://www.broadoakherbs.co.uk/>

## Monday 16 December

Either Audley End's Walled Kitchen Garden - the walled garden is run on strictly organic lines and, with its glasshouses, bothy and potting shed, is a fascinating example of the workings of a Victorian kitchen garden.....

Or a showing of 'A Farm for the Future' - Wildlife film maker, Rebecca Hosking, investigates how to transform her family's farm in Devon into a low energy farm for the future, and discovers that nature holds the key.

## Bee decline: Government announces 'urgent' review (Friday 28 June)

The government is to announce it will carry out an "urgent and comprehensive" review of the decline of bees. Minister Lord de Mauley will tell a bee summit (organised by Friends of the Earth) that the review will lead to a "national pollinator strategy". There is great concern across Europe about the collapse of bee populations and the European Commission wants to ban pesticides linked to bee deaths.

[BBC News](#) (28 June)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-23090339>

Emma Hockridge, Soil Association head of policy, is attending the Bee Summit. Follow @SoilAssociation for updates

Read more about the Soil Association's [Keep Britain Buzzing](#) campaign

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-23090339>

## Costing the Earth – Urban Agriculture, Radio 4, Tuesday 2 April

Alice Roberts revisits the - quite literally - ground breaking 'Incredible Edibles' concept of Todmorden and finds that their inspiration has spread across the UK.

Wasteland throughout our cities is being turned into productive agricultural land. Forget roof top gardens, green walls and window boxes, what we're talking about here is derelict, often hazardous brown field sites hidden within our urban landscapes that are now becoming a valuable link in our food chain.

But that's not all, in reclaiming this land whole neighbourhoods are being regenerated. No site is too small or too large. From back-alleys on terraced streets in Middlesbrough to acres of polytunnel-lined, disused railway banks in Bristol, these once unproductive - and often hazardous - plots are now feeding their communities via vegetable boxes and even restaurant supply chains.

With a little effort, could our cities really feed themselves? Could this be the answer to both our food security and the improvement of urban environments?<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01rl8n4>

## Crapes Fruit Farm

Warmer days and, at last, nights too, are spurring the growth of everything.

Apples can now be seen over much of the orchard, There are some areas with mainly leaves, and no particular variety has set heavily. The apples which will fall during the June drop are now looking smaller and velvety compared with the shiny, bolder fruits which will probably stay until maturity.

Those of you with Ellison's Orange will be aware of two facts with this variety: a) they are biennial with few fruits one year followed by many bunches of tiny apples the next; b) they rarely drop much at this time of year. Our Red Ellison behaves like this usually. This year it is evident that a significant drop is imminent. This in itself indicates an 'odd' season, for whatever reason!

Cherries are dropping as they have not tolerated the chilly weather late in May and earlier this month. Plums are showing a light set with the exception of Victoria. Not much in the way of gages to be seen.

Beetroot and carrots are now being pulled from our Dutch Light Structure (greenhouse), where Cobra French beans are just starting their season. Outside. the onions plod along having survived water-logging, dryness and uneven temperatures. A few turnips are for sale along with the carrots and beetroot.

Raspberries are now setting, this humid weather will be great for them but another 3-4 weeks before any are ready.

Fallow deer have been most unwelcome, browsing on the trees and walking around within the onions one night. They are particularly partial to the growing tips of apple, cherry, rose or anything else - they have no qualms about trying things out!

## Farmers' Markets 2013

These are the two markets where we have a stall and always appreciate help, produce and plants where available!

- **Leigh-on-Sea** at Leigh Community Centre, Elm Road: Friday 19 July, Friday 16 August, Friday 20 September, Friday 18 October, Friday 15 November and Saturday 21 December, 09:00 – 12:00
- **Rochford** in the WI Hall, Market Square on (Saturday) 6 July, 3 August, 7 September, 5 October, 2 November and 7 December, 09:30 – 12:30.

## Friends of Yalding Organic Gardens

To recap and refresh, Yalding Organic Gardens started with the generous gift of 10 acres of land, and a sum of money in trust, from Donald and Pixie Cooper, who owned an organic farm at Yalding; with the intention of setting up a display garden for the Henry Doubleday Research Association – now Garden Organic.

A few photos from their Open Day last month, the Gardens overgrown in parts – but still magnificent...  
<http://www.foyog.org/2013/06/open-day-photos/#comment-170>

Please help to publicise the Gardens' plight by forwarding this link to anyone you think may be interested and, of course, feel free to post any comments or observations; either on the website, or on their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/FoYOG>

## Food miles

I've always thought that I was doing the planet a good turn by turning my back on the (cheaper) frozen leg of lamb shipped in from New Zealand and going for the home-grown (more expensive) joint instead, but a recent book by Jay Rayner points out that carbon footprint of food is much more complicated than just considering the distance it's travelled. In fact, it's so complicated that he has devoted a book to it – *A Greedy Man in a Hungry World*.

Deciding to buy locally-sourced food isn't only to do with carbon footprint, there's also the importance of supporting local growers and keeping money in the local community, but the carbon footprint is a consideration so the arguments for and against are worth trying to get to grips with.

Jay Rayner's book details the research but if – like me – you prefer a potted version, you could look at his article and video at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/lifeandstyle/2013/may/26/worrying-about-food-miles-missing-point>.

Here's a link to Radio 4's **On Your Farm** (Sunday 7 April and still available)  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01rqgyq>

Join me on my blog: [www.looksliketheworldsmad.blogspot.co.uk](http://www.looksliketheworldsmad.blogspot.co.uk) Eileen

## Garden Organic news

Gardeners and allotment holders are being invited to take part in an exciting new bumblebee survey aimed at gauging bee numbers and behaviours in UK allotments and gardens. More info at [http://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/news/news\\_topic.php?id=925&dm\\_i=4UO,1K5IH,JCIKA,5CHNU,1](http://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/news/news_topic.php?id=925&dm_i=4UO,1K5IH,JCIKA,5CHNU,1)

Garden Organic members will already be reading the latest edition of *The Organic Way* and groups like us receive an extra copy. Pauline Pears, the Editor, retired earlier this year and there's a most interesting article about her long and varied career with the charity starting on page 23. There's always something going on in the Heritage Seed Library and on page 18 the Collection Co-ordinator Vicki Cooke describes a new collection of old peas, while one of their volunteers reports on her trial of the collection's cucumber varieties. As usual, we're really spoilt for choice, but do try to read Pauline's suggestions for a selection of her favourite crops on page 20 called 'Is my beetroot ripe?'

## GMWatch Review 332, 23 June 2013

UK environment secretary Owen Paterson has made an inflated and evidence-free speech on the wonders of GM crops. Paterson claimed that GM crops are beneficial to wildlife because they reduce pesticide use and the higher yields GM offers mean they will use less land to produce the food we need. But the scientific evidence indicates just the opposite: GM crops increase pesticide usage; they do not give higher yields and sometimes give lower yields.

Paterson also claimed that without the acceptance of GM crops, young people in Asia "will go to bed blind and some will die". Author and broadcaster Joanna Blythman commented, "It almost sounded as if he had joined a religious cult which regards genetic modification as some kind of miracle cure. Paterson had to resort to such nonsense precisely because his case is so weak."

You can read more about this, and the action you can take (time permitting) by visiting their website at <http://us6.campaign-archive1.com/?u=29cbc7e6c21e0a8fd2a82aeb8&id=e7fb942ab2&e=4edd833bfa>

## Growing Together

In this video, Graham Burnett talks to Matt King, the Project Manager at Trust Links/Growing Together Gardens about how the permaculture ethics of Earthcare, Peoplecare and Fairshares and David Holmgren's 12 principles of permaculture design are embedded and exemplified into the organisation, and how a Permaculture Design Course has benefited both its physical and strategic design.  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RCg7XvmFgyg&feature=youtube\\_gdata\\_player](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RCg7XvmFgyg&feature=youtube_gdata_player)

This interview was carried out as part of the process of Growing Together Gardens becoming a LAND (Learning and Network Development) permaculture demonstration site. For more information see <http://www.permaculture.org.uk/land>

And you can also watch this short film of the launch of their new Growing Together Shoeburyness project on 26th March 2013 at <http://trustlinks.webs.com/>

## Manure

1. Pam Mitchell, The Grange, Murrells Lane, Hockley (Tel. 01702 207491) - ring her first, giving a couple of days' notice and she will arrange for a load to be brought to the gate to ease bagging up.
2. Free manure, chemical free, in Barling, near Wakering. Tel. 01702 219835
3. Julie Davis, in Great Wakering - Tel: 07742107855
4. Hummerstone Farm, a family run farm near Billericay. Contact them on 07850789000 or on Facebook through their farm page <http://www.facebook.com/groups/Hummerstone.farm/>

## Misc. information

If anyone wants space to setup a blog, a new contact of ours - Tim Neobard [tim.neobard@me.com](mailto:tim.neobard@me.com) - runs a charity server and can provide free space. He doesn't really do technical support, though he says he's happy to help out on the rare occasions he can.

Check out Oaktree Market a new veggie/vegan market based at 75 Leigh Road, Leigh-on-Sea, next door to the Taj Mahal Restaurant, which opened on Saturday 29 June.

<https://www.facebook.com/index.php?l=Ac8qiPNxwiLFZs5C#!oaktreemarketleigh?fref=ts>

## New members

When you join SEEORG, not a lot will happen in the beginning. If you join on Group Night, you can collect a current newsletter from Carole, our Secretary. Alternatively, you can download a newsletter from SEEORG's website at <http://seeog.org.uk/resources-information/newsletters/> - our website will also give you lots of useful information. In future, you will receive a newsletter bi-monthly either by email or post. We do not issue receipts or membership cards at present in order to keep down costs.

## Recycle for Essex – Free compost bins

Lisa Cross, their Waste Prevention & Recycling Officer, has asked 'Is there anyone out there who would like to host a free compost bin giveaway between now & September? We have approx. 300 x 330l Blackwall compost bins to giveaway. We have already seen quite a few events around the county; however, we must pass the bins onto residents before September and need some more help please. We have had requests for twilight events (after work) and weekends and our team would be available to help and promote it. Everyone loves a freebie... if so, please contact Lisa on 01245 437793  
[Lisa.Cross2@essex.gov.uk](mailto:Lisa.Cross2@essex.gov.uk)

[www.recycleforessex.co.uk](http://www.recycleforessex.co.uk) and [www.essex.gov.uk/wastemanagement](http://www.essex.gov.uk/wastemanagement)

## Safeguard our Soils, Mr. Pickles! Do please sign!

'Why is it possible for developers to build on our 'Best and Most Versatile agricultural land (BMV)' - because it's land that will never feed another mouth again. The answer's in my petition, which I hope you'll sign -- it's called: **Safeguard our Soils, Mr. Pickles!**

To summarise for anyone else who hasn't been and signed the petition, it's worth doing. The aim of this is to stop the government allowing prime agricultural land to be bought by developers. It used to be the case that, when Britain supplied most of its own food, good quality land was kept for agricultural purposes, not housing/other buildings.

Please read more about it at this link, sign and pass on:

[http://www.avaaz.org/en/petition/Safeguard\\_our\\_Soils\\_Mr\\_Pickles/?launch](http://www.avaaz.org/en/petition/Safeguard_our_Soils_Mr_Pickles/?launch)

Or simply type Safeguard our Soils, Mr. Pickles! into your search engine'

## SE Essex Seed Potato Day

Growing Together was very happy with the way the February event was run most effectively on the day by LOSALGA and SEEORG. It provided an event for their people to come along to and also run a café and raffle etc with others like EWT and activity for children, none of which has detracted from the main event which has drawn bigger numbers again. Potato Day 2014 will be on Saturday 22 February.

## SEEORG library

Please contact Sue, if you wish to change your books. Any book may be borrowed by members at a cost of 20p per book for each 2-month period. There are also back copies of Garden Organic's The Organic Way, the PAN journals, the Soil Association's Living Earth and the Norfolk Organic Group's newsletters. We'll also try to remember to have the book list on Graham's table in future, to make the library easier to access.

## SEEOG minibus trip to Organiclea's growing site, Chingford

Sunday 29 September, 12- 4

A few of us visited with Growing Together last year and we would now like to share our experience with other SEEOG members. Organiclea began in 2001, with the idea that more food can and should be grown locally, in London – and that it's better to work with others than alone. Agreement was given for the project to take on an acre of once-derelict allotment land situated on the edge of Epping Forest in the River Lea's valley.

There is always a group gardening activity to participate in – and learn more about how they grow food at their site. Throughout the day, every month, they try to celebrate a specific preparation of a different seasonal vegetable – their very own 'sagra' calendar. 'Sagra' can be a celebration of a certain dish or product, of a vegetable or fruit, a wine, a type of preparation. In this way, abundance of a certain crop at their growing site is celebrated and shared! They break for lunch between 1.30-2pm, so bring a packed lunch. A site tour takes place at a designated time in the afternoon.

They are now recognised by the Soil Association as a certified organic grower at their Hawkwood Plant Nursery in Chingford. The cooperative also recently announced it is helping to save the Walthamstow Yellow Cress, an endangered plant discovered in the borough thirty years ago. Hannah Claxton, a member of the co-operative, said: *"There is increasing interest in local food which is really exciting: organic certification guarantees your local food has also been produced to the highest environmental standard."*

[http://www.thisislocallondon.co.uk/news/10432516.Chingford\\_growing\\_co\\_op\\_goes\\_organic/](http://www.thisislocallondon.co.uk/news/10432516.Chingford_growing_co_op_goes_organic/)

Please have a good look at their website <http://www.organiclea.org.uk/about/> and book early to ensure your seat.

### SEEOG website (some new posts) - <http://seeog.org.uk/>

Keith Tyrell's notes for the talk he kindly gave in May - **Precautionary Principle and Scientific Uncertainty** - are at this link on our website, or you can read the copy we'll make available in July at Growing Together.

<http://seeog.org.uk/2013/06/precautionary-principle-and-scientific-uncertainty/>

Do not just weed it, eat it! Kamil said he decided to do some weeding on the allotment and ended up with a fat hen and chickweed salad. Sometimes he wonders why he bothers growing stuff in neat rows when nature is already abundant and generous.

<http://wp.me/p1CkoL-HJ>

Never miss another article published on the SEEOG website! Just enter your email address in the 'Subscribe' form in the right-hand column and after completing the verification process, you will receive an email alert every time a new article or news item is published here. No additional information is required and you can unsubscribe at any time you wish. You can read more of this post at

<http://seeog.org.uk/2013/06/get-notified-of-new-posts/>

Pesticides banned by the EU for harming the bee population could also be killing birds and mammals and organisms in the soil, a new study has found. Certain neonicotinoids were banned by the European Commission earlier this year, despite resistance by the UK Government, because of fears the chemicals kill bees. More at [http://seeog.org.uk/2013/06/neonicotinoids-harm-birds-and-soil/?utm\\_source=rss&utm\\_medium=rss&utm\\_campaign=neonicotinoids-harm-birds-and-soil](http://seeog.org.uk/2013/06/neonicotinoids-harm-birds-and-soil/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=neonicotinoids-harm-birds-and-soil)

And we still need some more photos of your garden/allotment, please!

### SEEWEN news

Two Ferrets in France: Bill and Carol moved to France earlier this year and this is the blog of their big adventure. Go to [www.wellbehavedsystems.co.uk/pragelier](http://www.wellbehavedsystems.co.uk/pragelier) where you can make comments on the page. Carol will, she said, try to keep the updates coming.

## This is urgent! Eileen's letter to the Echo!

I noticed recently that the edges of grass verges beside my road in Thundersley are yellow which leads me to think that Castle Point Council is using weed-killer to keep the edges under control. A council workman in Southend recently told me that Southend do not use weed-killers on their grass verges but that Castle Point does. Southend prefer to use an edge cutter. To be kept looking neat the edges have to be cut about every three years.

The problem with weed-killer is that it not only kills 'weeds' but it seeps into the water table which eventually ends up in our drinking water. Researchers recently found traces of the chemical used in weed killer in human wee. Weed-killer also damages our wildlife and is having a devastating impact on the bee population.

Bee decline has now gone from a serious problem to a crisis. Figures published by the British Beekeepers Association (BBKA) last week show that a third of all honey bee colonies in England were lost over the winter of 2012/2013 – the worst figures since records began and double the losses of the previous year. A further 47 species of bee are vulnerable or endangered in the UK and many more of our treasured British solitary and bumble bees are being found in ever smaller areas of the country.

The importance of preserving our bee population has even been acknowledged by the Prime Minister who, during Prime Minister's Questions, said: 'If we do not look after our bee populations, very serious consequences will follow.'

We can all help by cutting down or eliminating our use of weed-killers and planting bee friendly plants, but we also need our Council and the government to take this issue seriously. PS: Eileen's letter appeared recently in the Evening Echo.

## Websites and information

1. Blight Warning! Blightwatch.co.uk has been working together with ADAS to develop this management tool which is available to all users free of charge. You can sign on for alerts at [www.blightwatch.co.uk](http://www.blightwatch.co.uk).
2. "Selling allotment produce, is it legal, is it right?" <http://www.organiclea.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/sellingallotmentproduce.pdf>
3. State of Nature  
<http://www.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/science/stateofnature/index.aspx>  
For the first time ever, the UK's wildlife organisations have joined forces to undertake a health check of nature in the UK and its Overseas Territories.
4. On the verge of destruction: wildflowers threatened by poor roadside management  
Lorna Howarth reports on how councils throughout Britain are accused of destroying vital wildlife habitat and compares this to putting Monsanto in charge of organic farming.  
[The Ecologist](http://www.plantlife.org.uk/roadvergecampaign) (3 June)  
<http://www.plantlife.org.uk/roadvergecampaign>
5. New Channel 4 programme seeking retired gardeners  
**ARE YOU RETIRED?** New Channel 4 Series wants to hear from retired workers with gardening expertise. Mary Portas is starting an exciting new project, so if you're retired and have worked as a Groundsperson, Landscape Designer, or even trained in Topiary then we want to hear from you!  
<http://www.parksandgardens.org/news-and-events/148-current-news/706-new-channel-4-programme-seeking-retired-gardeners>
6. The Rhubarb Compendium  
Rhubarb contains oxalate, which has been reported to cause poisoning when large quantities of raw or cooked leaves are ingested.  
<http://www.rhubarbinfo.com/poison>
7. Recycle.co.uk is back! <http://www.recycle.co.uk/> <http://www.recycle.co.uk/auth/create>
8. Project Wild Thing, re-connecting 1 million kids with nature..  
<http://www.projectwildthing.com/>

9. Food blogger from Southend - Jack Monroe is a 25-year-old mother from Essex and she's on a mission to help everyone cook good food at home – regardless of how much they have to spend. She has just landed a trainee journalist position with the Evening Echo. You can read the full article at <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/2/52670362-d93c-11e2-84fa-00144feab7de.html#axzz2WwsTHks3>

10. Love Food Hate Waste – keep up-to-date with the latest hints and tips on making the most of the food we buy at <http://england.lovefoodhatewaste.com/>

11. The Potting Shed – visit Anglia Water's potting shed for more tips to save water in and around your garden [anglianwater.co.uk/thepottingshed](http://anglianwater.co.uk/thepottingshed)

## Biology Week: 12-18 October

Pat has just passed on the information that the Society of Biology is organising a food security project in schools.

<https://societyofbiology.org/get-involved/biologyweek>

## SEEOG Committee

Ron Bates	Chair	01702 477681	anebates@hotmail.co.uk
Ray How	Vice-Chair	01702 544632	ray.how@btopenworld.com
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# SE ESSEX ORGANIC GARDENERS

BOOKING FORM: ORGANICLEA'S GROWING SITE, CHINGFORD – SUNDAY, 29<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2013

COST PER PERSON    £13.00 (members of SEEOG)  
                              £15.00 (non members)

The price includes minibus

For details of pick-up places and times, please see Newsletter or contact Carole

Name.....

Telephone.....

Email.....

Mobile.....

Address.....  
.....

Please book the following seats:

..... seats @ £13.00	£.....
..... seats @ £15.00	£.....
TOTAL	£.....

I enclose cheque / cash for £..... Cheques should be made payable to SEEOG and sent to Carole Shorney at 19 Folly Lane, Hockley. SS5 4SE. Telephone: 01702 201914. Mobile: 07967 851521

*In the event of passenger cancellation we can only refund if we can re-sell your cancelled seat(s), however, there will be an administration charge of £2.00 per seat. SEEOG reserve the right to cancel an excursion due to insufficient numbers or any unforeseen circumstances ie. venue cancelling due to bad weather/insufficient numbers. In these circumstances only monies paid will be refunded.*