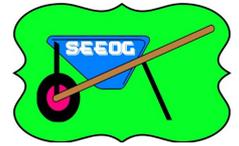


# SOUTH EAST ESSEX ORGANIC GARDENERS

NEWSLETTER NO: 114 – MARCH 2014



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

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

Twitter @seeorganic

<https://twitter.com/seeorganic>



Soil Association

SEEEOG 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 SEEEOG? 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)

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 Thursday 13 March, 7.30pm at Violet's (change of venue). Please notify Graham Oster-Ritter at [grahamoster@btinternet.com](mailto:grahamoster@btinternet.com) if you wish to receive your newsletter by post/email, or to change your email address.

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## SEEEOG Group Nights/events/news

### Eric Whittle 8/2/1938 - 14/2/2014

Eric was impressive in the way he lived his life so independently, with the help of some faithful guide dogs over the years. Born in Morpeth, Eric came south to work for Customs and Excise in Shoeburyness, until he retired. He kept meticulous notes of appointments, meetings, etc.

Eric joined SEEEOG in July 1996 and could be relied upon to ask some very pertinent questions at our meetings. He came to at least one of our Apple Day ceilidhs and joined us on many a trip out. One we remember was the minibus to Stonham for the East Anglia Potato Day to purchase some of his favourite varieties of seed potatoes. There was another little trip out to Great Bentley mostly remembered because one of Eric's feet suddenly slipped down one of the narrow little wooden bridges over which he was being escorted. He was also interested in types of tomatoes and their taste, as well.

But it was apples that Eric loved and Andrew Tann said Eric always enjoyed trekking over to Crapes Fruit Farm with SEEEOG for his Kidd's Orange Red and jars of honey. Andrew recalled that he visited Eric on one occasion at his house and met his dog, too.

Eric loved to walk in Priory Park and took a keen interest in bird song. On one occasion he gave a very interesting presentation of bird recordings, which he recorded himself. His funeral took place on Friday 28 February, attended by Vic and Carole.

### Proposal for SEEEOG's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary

In our 20th year, it was pondered as to what we could do to mark this significant anniversary; maybe, as Ron suggested, by going back to our roots and meeting up with the Braintree Organic Gardening Club. Some of our members remember Lawrence and Cherry Hills at Bocking. Perhaps it's also a chance to explore Braintree Museum and the John Ray Gallery and more?

[http://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/about\\_us/history.php](http://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/about_us/history.php) <http://www.braintreemuseum.co.uk/john-ray/>

It's still in embryo but moving in this direction and open to all. Maybe we can arrange a bus load? People's thoughts/support, or not?

The Braintree Organic Gardening Club is keen to meet up with us. They suggest we visit in the summer, preferably late summer, in one of their members' gardens. They would provide food etc and, as it's such a long drive from Southend, they think it would be best during the day. All these ideas are for them to discuss (at BOGC) and decide on but they would like to fit in best with our thoughts.

There is also the Notley Discovery Park (built by housing developers), which is run on low energy principles, with wildflower areas, water conservation etc. They might get an EEC ranger to give us a guided tour; but other suggestions may come up after their AGM.  
<http://seeog.org.uk/resources-information/from-the-archives/>

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Pat wants to know whether we have seen the Spanish slug, *Arion vulgaris*, following an alert in Which Gardening March 2014. Spotted first in the UK in 2012, it is large (8-15cm long), about the length of her middle finger and reddish in colour. It produces twice as many eggs as native slugs and eats practically anything. The John Innes Centre's Slugwatch would like to receive reports of any sightings of Spanish slugs, plus any other RARE slugs you have seen. Please put them on <http://www.slugwatch.co.uk/>

And, if you want some help with your garden at any time, we are sure that SEEOG member Christopher Ray (Green Gardens) will be able to help you. Chris is an RHS Qualified Gardener and can be contacted by any of the following: [chrisrayemail@btinternet.com](mailto:chrisrayemail@btinternet.com) 07428 376 155 01268 742290

SEEOG member Eileen Peck is currently looking to see if there is sufficient interest in Castle Point to set up a community food growing allotment. Lots of people who would like to grow their own food, but don't have the confidence or time to go it alone, are joining together in different parts of the country to set up community allotments. It would be great if we could make it happen in Castle Point! If you are interested, she'd be glad to hear from you - Eileen Peck on 078 1369 3107.

Another SEEOG member, Gill Mathews, has a composter and a water butt that she no longer needs and wonders whether they can be of use to anyone in the group. If so, anyone who can collect either or both can have them for free. Please, however, telephone her beforehand on 01702 547487. The composter is black plastic with lid and a side opening, size 330 litres. Height 37", diameter 31"; the side opening is about 10" x 10". The water butt is also black plastic with lid, tap, stand and some pipe work, size 34" high, diameter 21". The water butt does fit inside the composter; both are about 6 - 7 years old.

A Farmers' Market came to Hadleigh Town Centre last month. Based at Hadleigh Old Fire Station, starting at 9.30am, the dates so far are Wednesday 19 March, Wednesday 23 April, Wednesday 28 May and Wednesday 25 June. That's regeneration with a small R!

Another member, Maïke, attended a talk organised by the Essex Hardy Plant Society a few weeks ago, which was all about taking cuttings. The speaker was a former Writtle lecturer, who warned the audience that more and more of the seed and cuttings composts contain high amounts of weed killer residues. Maïke thinks he meant the named varieties, i.e. especially the non-peat varieties and did a bit of Googling on the matter. In her opinion, the most trustworthy website seemed to be

<http://compostingcouncil.org/admin/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/USCC-Position-Statement-on-Persistent-Herbicides-FINAL.pdf>

Maïke could not find any test report on named varieties of composts. She thinks the seed companies should have some interest in those laboratory tests otherwise their seeds will get the blame for stunted or distorted seedling growth. She has heard that REAL gardeners make their own seed compost. Do you have a good recipe?

The Essex Schools Food & Farming Day is on Thursday 5th June, 2014, also available to download on the Essex Agricultural Society's website at <http://www.essexag.co.uk/EssexSchoolDay.html>

Jill Poet just wondered if we have come across the Secret Seed Society. It hasn't got a 100% organic focus, but really encourages children to get involved with growing vegetables, cooking etc.  
<http://secretseedsociety.com>

The Kench Hill Centre in Tenterden, Kent, has kindly sent us details of their Country Gardens & Bluebells Weekend from Friday 25th to Sunday 27th April. If you are interested, please contact Sandi Bain, Kench Hill Centre, Appledore Road, Tenterden, Kent TN30 7DG.  
Tel 01580 762073  
[www.kenchhill.co.uk](http://www.kenchhill.co.uk)<<http://www.kenchhill.co.uk/>

### **Seed Potato Day: Saturday 22 February**

We had a successful event working with Trust Links/Growing Together, using their truck, storage, help and venue; providing a calendar event with them doing the social side - teas and eats, raffle and potato printing. As always, Transition Town provided an overarching perspective for our shared aims, so thanks to all who helped the event happen.

Our continued partnering with the Norfolk Organic Group and the Ipswich Organic Gardeners' Stonham Barns event enabled us to help them and sort the delivery. There was some substitution for non-available varieties but we were on the spot for deliveries arriving, which all meant that we had a good selection of varieties for our sale.

We reduced amounts for some this year as we had no record of sales in 2013, when we were left with a lot to be sold on. We did not want this happening this year. We have been successful in this regard, having sold out of a third, and there are some for Rochford and Leigh Farmers' Markets. The condition of them was good; more difficult for the onion sets with our mild winter prompting a bit of early shooting, and not selling so many, but we know that seasons vary.

There seemed to be a steady flow of people all day (with no entry fee, no tally on the number of buyers) but, with over £500.00 of sales on the day, it seems financially good. We still have to pay our costs - seed potatoes, onion sets, petrol etc - full accounts soon.

Growing Together had a good day with plant sales, teas, cakes, baked potatoes and raffle run by their users, supporters and staff.

All round congratulations, success without the support of LOSALGA, our previous partner.

Thanks to all who enabled this success and to those who bought, showing how an event like this is needed to enable the diversity of potato qualities and personal preferences, with organic opportunities on a tuber by tuber basis. Next year?!

### **Monday 17 March**

'The Future for Allotments' presented by Dr. Richard Wiltshire, Senior Lecturer in Geography, School of Social Science and Public Policy, King's College London. Richard Wiltshire obtained a BSc from King's College London before completing an MA at York University (Toronto) and a PhD at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. He taught at the University of Washington and Tohoku University (Japan) before joining the Geography Department at SOAS, which merged with the King's Department in 2001. A Japan specialist, working on urban and environmental issues, he is also internationally known for research and advocacy on community gardening. His research interests include labour mobility and housing within large organisations; allotments and community gardening; geographies of ageing and masculinity; Japan.

### **Monday 19 May**

'Foraging with Jim Bishop', a well-known and popular member of the South Essex Natural History Society: Jim's experiences of local foraging, which he's been doing for approaching thirty years.

### **Monday 21 July**

'Growing Wildflowers in Urban Gardens, Allotments and Orchards, and what River of Flowers is trying to do in creating trails or "rivers" of native wildflowers as forage and habitat for pollinators' - presented by Kathryn Lwin, Founder Director of the River of Flowers <http://www.riverofflowers.org/city/southend-sea/about-our-river>

### **Monday 15 September**

'Natural Beekeeping' presented by Spencer Christie, Lauriston Farm, Goldhanger. Situated right on the Blackwater Estuary, just outside Goldhanger, Lauriston Farm's 225 acres are managed using biodynamic organic techniques and philosophy inspired by Rudolph Steiner's agriculture lectures from 1924. The farm is home to Rare Breed cattle and sheep, bee hives, laying hens, vegetables and

woodland. Eighty-five percent of the farm is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest. Within this, there are also two listed ancient monuments.  
<http://www.lauristonfarm.co.uk/index.html>

## Monday 17 November

Danielle Perkins, Chairman, East Essex Smallholders Group. Formally constituted in July 2011, they are a group of micro farmers who operate different size "smallholdings"; some of them have a few backyard chickens, maybe some grow a few fruit or vegetables, while others may have a pig, small herds/flocks of sheep or even a cow (named Tilly!)

## Monday 15 December

An oasis in Benfleet and the last of its kind: Mo Perkins and Hilltop "Pick Your Own" Fruit Farm. In the audio recording below, you will hear Maureen Perkins talking about her time as owner of the last (?) remaining "Pick Your Own" fruit farm in South Essex and her earlier experiences of providing training for horses and riders in the Benfleet and Thundersley area. Her land is not easy to farm because of the steep slopes, but a visit to her hidden valley is a refreshing and rewarding experience. Here, Mo talks about her youth, when she had horses, and running the fruit farm. 14 minutes, 57 seconds.

Courtesy of Benfleet Community Archive

[http://www.benfleethistory.org.uk/page\\_id\\_\\_614\\_path\\_\\_0p32p.aspx](http://www.benfleethistory.org.uk/page_id__614_path__0p32p.aspx)

## **\*\*Allotments update in Hockley and Hawkwell\*\***

The Hockley Parish Clerk has written to the farmer in question and is awaiting a reply. He can see that a site in Hawkwell might benefit the Horticultural Society, but it is not an attractive option for Hockley Parish and the feasibility study will be looking at identifying land within the parish. Edible Essex has awarded Coggeshall Parish £900 and the Hockley application will be considered by the next panel. Looking at the focus on community benefits and communal resource in the Edible Essex case studies, there is a good chance that Hockley may see some money from this provided the Clerk emphasises that the benefits are for the community and within the community. Their Environmental Committee met on Monday 3 March and, at the time of going to press, we noted that its agenda included the item 'Allotment feasibility study (report to follow)'

## Community Supported Agriculture Network UK

And it was very timely to receive this note, entitled: Do you share their vision of a community supported agriculture project in every town and village in the UK? They've just launched a crowdfunding campaign to raise money to develop CSA in the UK. Please visit their Buzzbnk page and help them reach their target and achieve this vision [www.buzzbnk.org/CSANetwork](http://www.buzzbnk.org/CSANetwork)

## Crapes Fruit Farm

More to read at <http://crapes.wordpress.com/author/crapes/>

This is Ben's Diploma site <http://dreadbensdiploma.weebly.com/index.html> - just hover over Projects at the top of the screen to view each of his projects.

Andrew's February update is at <http://crapes.wordpress.com/2014/02/10/february-upate/>

And a further update on 27 February: 'More rain this morning after some really useful weather. Fruit tree buds are breaking open already and quince is romping out.'

## Farm Terrace Allotments, Watford

You may already be aware of the plight of Farm Terrace Allotments in Watford but Bob Wakeling, Vice-Chairman of the Farm Terrace Community Association has asked for our support to protect all allotment sites from future development, as follows:

'Did you know that, due to the relaxation in planning laws, an increasing number of allotment sites in the UK are being sold off by local authorities or parish and town councils for redevelopment?

Since 2007, 128 out of 132 applications to close or relocate allotment sites have been granted by the UK Government. Our own allotment site that has been in existence since 1896 is now under threat for a second time after we have previously launched a successful legal challenge in August 2013 against the UK government. We are now taking the Government to court for a second time and, if successful, will help protect other allotment sites as a successful legal challenge by us will become case law. If you would like to know more about our story, or wish to help in any way, please take a look at our website which has a link to our fund-raising page: <http://savefarmterrace.wix.com/savefarmterrace>

Andrew Moore & Bob Wakeling, Chairman and Vice-Chairman, Farm Terrace Community Association'

## Farmers' Markets 2014

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 14 March, Friday 25 April, Friday 16 May, Friday 20 June, Friday 18 July, Friday 15 August, Friday 19 September, Friday 17 October, Friday 14 November and Saturday 20 December from 9:00 – 12:00
- **Rochford** in the WI Hall, Market Square on (Saturday) 5 April, 3 May, 7 June, 5 July, 2 August, 6 September, 4 October, 1 November and 6 December from 09:30 – 12:00

## Friends of Yalding Organic Gardens

For the benefit of our new members, 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. You can read more of Yalding's background history at <http://www.foyog.org/>

As expected, John has not heard anything from the Congelow Trust, or anyone else connected with the Gardens; but they have learnt of a new website for "Yalding Gardens Weddings & Events", apparently launching in the Spring. The website is here <http://www.yaldinggardenweddings.co.uk/> and describes the Gardens as "Kent's premier wedding venue" and also as being available for hire for charity and corporate events and private parties. There appears to be no mention of public access, or organic growing – other than a reference to the site's original name.

Please do try 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>  
<http://www.foyog.org/>

## Garden Organic news

Garden Organic Factsheet GG9 on growing potatoes is in our library at Growing Together and can be viewed also at this link on their website: <http://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/factsheets/gg9.php>

PC24 Potato pests and diseases -

<http://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/factsheets/pc24.php>

DC17 Potato blight -

<http://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/factsheets/dc17.php>

Hannah Rogers, their Membership & Marketing Manager, recently had a chat with their Research team to get a few tips for us on the problem of flooding in our gardens. As a group member, you do have access to their email advice line. Once you're registered, you'll find a link to Ask the Experts in the Members' Area – here's the link <http://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/members/index.php> as things can be difficult to find on their website!

1. Avoid trampling on your garden more than you have to as this will cause compaction.
2. If you're concerned that flood water may have contaminated your garden, why not grow a green manure this year? This will help to dry out the soil as well as improving it for future growing seasons. Simply scatter the seeds and gently rake in. You could try one of the clovers or a non legume like buckwheat, mustard or phacelia.
3. Heavy rain may have caused the leaching of nutrients. If you're worried this is the case, incorporate garden compost or bought in green waste compost into the soil to replace any lost nutrients and improve the structure. However, flood water may actually have brought in silt that will add to your soil fertility.
4. Finally, don't panic! Gardens are very resilient. A little bit of sun and you should find things get back to normal quicker than you might expect.

Hannah then told us that she re-read the flood advice because she wanted to make sure their comments on the last point aren't misinterpreted as being too flippant and not taking seriously people's flooding.

A few other ideas: cover your soil with thick sheets of overlapping cardboard and cover each square yard with a good barrowful of manure, repeating the manure every two or three years.

## GM Watch news, 17 Feb

According to GM Watch, the John Innes Centre (JIC) has spent over GBP3 million of public money to deceive the public by carrying out a misleading piece of research on GM blight-resistant potatoes that deliberately excluded the already available non-GM blight-resistant varieties. The paper is here: <http://rstb.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/369/1639/20130087.abstract>

## Graig Farm, Powys - Benefits of Organic Farming in a Nutshell

I drive throughout the country and see sheep in fields that are water-logged and become more like paddy fields rather than winter grazing ground. Modern farming methods heavily rely on concentrated feeds to get them past the winter months. This year it has truly back-fired as winter feeding becomes impossible due to the land being so water-logged. I've seen sheep caked in mud and flocking in corners of the field waiting for their food as all the pastures have become saturated in water and mud. In organic farming we rely on the summer months to grow long grass for the winter periods; this helps avoid soil erosion, which leads to water pollution. We have been extremely encouraged this winter as the sheep have been able stay grazing on grass due to the fact that we have low numbers of stock to the acre. This eliminates the need for any concentrated feed to endure our winter months but instead relies on what nature provides, that is organic farming in a nutshell.

Jonathan Rees, Born Organic

### PS: See **How to really stop flooding**

When soil is depleted of organic matter, water just runs off it. A rethink of farming practice is much more vital than dredging or barriers

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/feb/05/how-to-stop-flooding-soil-water-farming-dredging?commentpage=1>

## Manure

1. Pam Mitchell, The Grange, Murrells Lane, Hockley (Tel. 01702 207491)
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/>
5. Hockley Equestrian Centre, Church Road, Hockley, SS5 6AE - Tel: 01702 207166 or 07748 490 985.  
<http://www.hockleyequestriancentre.co.uk/index.html>

## New members

When you join SEEEOG, 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 SEEEOG'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.

## RHS Hyde Hall – Gardeners Panel: Wednesday 30 April, 7.00pm

Once more they are inviting various groups to join them at their Gardeners Panel event and are hoping that we may like to join them, bringing along a display to interest visitors. Hyde Hall has a supply of tables that are available to them. Please contact Nicky Laing if you are interested -

[nicky@southwoodhamferrersstc.gov.uk](mailto:nicky@southwoodhamferrersstc.gov.uk)  
Community Promotions Officer  
South Woodham Ferrers Town Council  
01245 429445

## SEEEOG 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 have two new books in stock: 'The Polytunnel Handbook' and 'How to grow food in your polytunnel'.

## SEEOG talks

Friday 14 March: Hatfield Peverel Horticultural Society, Hatfield Peverel Village Hall, Maldon Road starting at 8pm

Friday 14 April: Runwell Horticultural Society, Runwell Village Hall, Church End Lane, Wickford, starting at 8pm

## SEEOG trips

When we booked this date we envisaged a good take-up, being nice and early, not too hot and well out of the normal holiday season, but support has been very poor – so, unless there is a momentous turn around in popularity we will have no option but sadly to cancel, and no later than Saturday 8 March. This will also sadly be our last coach trip because the work involved takes up too much of our time.

### **Saturday 10 May: Crapes Fruit Farm, Rectory Road, Aldham, Colchester C06 3RR**

We will car-share for this trip (or public transport), with estimated time of arrival being 11am. Please contact Carole if you wish to join us. More information here on Andrew Tann's website:

<http://crapec.wordpress.com/author/crapec/>

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

John Tate has added a 'Related Content' section at the bottom of each post (on the post's page) under the sharing buttons. It may be of use, and keep visitors reading, though it possibly won't even get seen by many, but please have a look and continue to use and share.

<http://seeog.org.uk/2013/11/the-future-for-allotments/>

## **S E Essex Women's Environmental Network**

Our Women's Environmental Network community allotment at Manchester Drive in Leigh has come a long way since it was taken over by us six years ago. An overgrown plot has been turned into a very productive allotment with fruit and flowers, herbs and veggies as well as several compost bins and water butts, a well-used shed (good for making a cuppa!) and a relaxing area with a pond and willow arbour. The pond is something of a problem because its liner has been ripped by the wildlife with who we share the allotment (and they were there before us!) So, having asked for advice and read a bit we have decided to try to install a tougher, stronger liner and perhaps pave the sides of the pond so that an overhang will prevent animals splitting the liner when they go for a drink. But, this all costs money and we are hoping someone might have a largish, strong, liner that they no longer need. Please get in touch with Eileen on 078 1369 3107 if you can help.

Eileen

## **Soil Association Supporter Enews**

Now's the time to take a final stand to support the Soil Association's Not In My Banger campaign, which has been fighting the proposal to open a huge US-style intensive pig farm in Foston, Derbyshire. The pig farm at Foston would contain 25,000 pigs at any one time. Research shows that the levels of disease and the use of antibiotics both increase at this scale, posing a risk to human health. If we don't act now, hundreds of thousands more farm animals could be forced to live their lives in massive factories – changing British farming forever. Derbyshire County Council are due to make a decision imminently – can you please take action and tell the Council this isn't what you want by signing the Soil Association's open letter to Derbyshire CC at this link:

<http://action.soilassociation.org/page/s/notinmybanger>

This is definitely a very good time to talk about food security because of the floods. Especially over here in the east where much of the best land is low lying. How much agricultural productivity has been lost or made vulnerable? The important thing about highest grades of soil is their ability to be resilient in times of fluctuating weather conditions.

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/feb/08/severe-floods-threaten-food-security-climate-change>

So spare a thought for the Soil Association's licensees, their pioneering farmers and growers who have been battling through the recent floods, and find out how the Soil Association has been supporting their organic farmers.

<http://www.tolhurstorganic.co.uk/2014/02/weather-wobbles/>

Getting ready for Easter, calling all children – design a hen house and win!

<http://www.soilassociation.org/designahenhouse>

## Websites and information

### 1. Apply for an allotment

Rent an allotment through your council to grow your own fruit and vegetables - you can be allocated a plot or added to a waiting list.

<https://www.gov.uk/search?q=allotments&tab=government-results>

### 2. The future of allotments

The Department for Communities and Local Government responds to suggestions that the review of local government's statutory duties could threaten the future of allotments.

<https://www.gov.uk/search?q=allotments&tab=government-results>

### 3. Potential funding for community green spaces

This document sets out the potential funding available to community and voluntary organisations to start either a food growing or community ...

<https://www.gov.uk/search?q=allotments&tab=government-results>

### 4. Updated link for 'Selling allotment produce, is it legal, is it right?'

<http://www.organiclea.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/sellingallotmentproduce.pdf>

### 5. 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)

### 6. The Big Dig is a nationwide project which aims to get more people involved in community food-growing. More at <http://www.bigdig.org.uk/>

### 7. Grow Wild is an exciting four-year campaign to bring people together to sow UK native wild flowers. They believe that they can transform where we live – bringing colour and surprise to our streets. By Growing Wild, we can turn our gardens and windowsills into wildlife-friendly wild flower patches. Grow Wild is funded by the Big Lottery Fund and led by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew – and everyone is invited to join in.

<https://www.growwilduk.com/about-grow-wild>

### 8. A member of the Hockley & District Horticultural Society came across this through one of the writing groups on LinkedIn - the owner posted a comment in one of the discussions - and thought it might interest us even though he is based in Australia!

<http://www.tmorganics.com/about-us/overview/about-us.html>

## SEEOG Committee

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Violet Poulten	Minutes	01268 768391	violetpoulten@talktalk.net
Carole Shorney	Secretary	01702 201914	caroleshorney@hotmail.com
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