

SOUTH EAST ESSEX ORGANIC GARDENERS

NEWSLETTER NO: 122 – JULY 2015

<http://seeog.org.uk>/<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Southendfoodgrowersandproducers>

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

The Cheryl Centre, Growing Together Westcliff, 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.

Housekeeping notes: unless stated otherwise, our speakers start at 8.00pm sharp, but Growing Together is open from 7.00pm to allow members to change their books, etc. The next committee meeting is on Thursday 16 July, 7.30pm at Ron's.

Please notify Graham Oster-Ritter if you wish to receive your newsletter by post/email, or to change your email address:

grahamoster@btinternet.com

For future reference, our newsletter copy 'deadlines' are as follows:

September newsletter Sunday 30 August

November newsletter Saturday 31 October

SEEEOG AGM: Monday 20 July, 7.30pm, followed by Helen Lowther at 8.00pm

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 our subscription renewals (and even introducing a friend, relative or neighbour, perhaps?)

Graham has reminded us that we need to replenish our stock of raffle prizes. Gardening related ones would be greatly appreciated, of course! Two plants already promised include raspberry and comfrey, ex Writtle stall!

Simon and Mary have some of this year's Westcliff honey for sale- all small jars are £2.50 each. Simon hopes to come to the next meeting; if not, he'll be selling it at the WLCS Allotment Open day on Sunday 23rd August.

As for plants, we shall be taking sedums and the herbs salad burnet and sage, to name but a few!

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 20 July, 8.00pm

'The Saving and Restoration of Copped Hall Gardens - a miracle in Epping' presented by Helen Lowther. We first met Helen from the days of the former East London Organic Gardeners, which sadly closed in February 2011, when she joined the Copped Hall Trust as a volunteer later in the year.

Copped Hall is a fine Georgian mansion that is currently under restoration. It is superbly sited on a ridge overlooking its landscaped parkland. The mansion is visible from the M25 which passes through a corner of the park. The mansion and gardens are situated on a site of ancient human habitation. Important buildings were demolished when the present mansion was built.

From 1986-1995 a campaign was successfully fought by a committee comprised of representatives of local conservation societies against repeated large scale aggressive development proposals for the mansion and parkland. Three of these individuals set up the Copped Hall Trust – which finally saved the mansion and gardens by purchasing them in 1995. The Corporation of London had already saved the surrounding parkland by purchasing it in 1992. The main aim of the Trust is to permanently protect the site, to carefully restore Copped Hall and its gardens for educational and community benefit.

We have been there before, by coach back in July 2007, and have also been to one of their Apple Days.

You can read more by visiting their website at <http://www.coppedhalltrust.org.uk/>
And you can already see a few 'before and after' photos on our own website.

Sunday 23 August: Summer Show at Springfield Drive Allotments, Westcliff-on-Sea from 2.00pm

Sunday 6 September: Open Day at Manchester Drive Allotment Society
11am – 3pm, Manchester Drive (opposite Cricketfield Grove), Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 3EZ

Monday 21 September

SEEOG member Darren Lerigo presents 'What do I do with this space?' - starting a garden from scratch...

Saturday 10 October, 11am - 3pm: Apple Day, St. Laurence Orchard

Monday 16 November

Philip Fawcett, member of Garden Organic and the East Essex Smallholders, will be talking about growing fruit – more to follow in due course.

Allotment news

Land at Bullwood Hall, New Hockley Hall Farm, Meadowcroft and latterly Folly Lane have all fallen by the wayside, much to the disappointment of those on Hockley Parish Council's waiting list. There is still no firm proposal to develop allotments at Plumberow Avenue, which many feel on that list now have to be considered. If no other land is available to lease or buy, then the council will have to see if it is practicable to put the allotments on this site. Should this be necessary, then the council would submit a planning application to the District Council for public comment and discussion. This would be the fairest way to balance the needs of the neighbours against the needs of the residents seeking land to cultivate.

It appears the real issue is real estate, infill in our area and real money over pocket money. Sad that, despite what should be available to residents, in reality is not. It does seem that the requirement of a long lease does discourage landowners. However, as we know this does not work well with allotments, with the outlay and growth etc.

So, if you know anyone in Hockley who wants an allotment, please ask them to write to the Parish Clerk (see below), giving full contact details:

The Old Fire Station, Southend Road, Hockley, SS5 4QH

enquiries@hockley-essex.gov.uk

01702 207707

Canvey Island Wildlife Day

This was a 'first' for SEEOG and we are grateful to Canvey Island Town Council for inviting us – and for the opportunity to meet the naturalist Mike Dilger for the first time, albeit very briefly. We sold many plants – including tomatoes and peppers - especially in the afternoon, very kindly provided both by Jane and Mike at very short notice: Mike's 'Serenata' strawberries were very popular along with Jane's tomatoes and sweet peppers.

Crapes Fruit Farm: Andrew Tann's mid-June update

Comments about the prevailing weather seem to dominate posts. Just now is no exception with the frustrating fluctuation between hot, sunny afternoons and chilly, cloudy spells between dusk and midday. Our fruit, outside, is being delayed as are the French beans and tomatoes in the Dutch Light House. Our

early vegetables are now available at the farm and through our Friday delivery scheme around Colchester. These include beetroot, spring cabbage, spring greens, lettuce, spinach and some carrots. Telephone 01206 212375 or email andrew.tann1@virgin.net to be included on our round. Everything needs some sustained warmth and more regular rainfall!

I have been collecting webbed leaves for weeks containing wriggling tortrix caterpillars. This week (w/e 26 June), they are now forming the white cocoons which are positioned between leaves woven together and also between the fruitlets deep down between the fruit stalks. If you are able to remove these cocoons now, then an August moth emergence and wriggling caterpillars, between the apparently lovely apples in September, can be reduced. The vulnerable varieties, often short-stalked and close together, include Discovery, Bramley, Egremont Russet, D'Arcy Spice, Ribston and Arthur Turner.

Have you many plums? Hardly any here; apples look good but we need rain - missed all but a few specks of hail in May. Andrew

You can read Andrew's full report at <https://crapes.wordpress.com/author/crapes/>

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

Design 4 ACTION – a different kind of permaculture course

Spiralseed (Graham Burnett) will be running two D4A programs in autumn 2015: in London, in partnership with the Spring Into Action team, and in Southend-on-Sea with the One Love Foundation/Epic Quest alternative school. You can read more at: <http://spiralseed.co.uk/design-4-action/#sthash.UA2mMVC5.dpuf> – full details are also on our website.

Essex Schools Food & Farming Day

3000 children and 500 adults! That's what we were told to expect, but we simply couldn't imagine it was possible. How could that many people filter through five marquees in four hours and get anything out of the event? We shrugged our shoulders and decided to give it a try.

Four hours later....wow! No idea how many people actually attended, but we were exhausted! After a slow start, we were constantly on our feet talking to children, teachers and some parents.

We'd agreed to do the stall at short notice, when two other participants pulled out. We were asked to bring a stall to the Crop Zone marquee, with some seasonal produce. Well, there's not much ready at that time of spring, but between us all, and with very kind help from Sarah Green's Organics and the use of Growing Together's truck for two days, we managed to cobble together a very eye-catching stand, something of a green oasis. This is what we wanted to promote: lush, verdant, full of health and vitality. Luckily we had quite a lot of crops in pots and tubs, so we were able to take an apple tree, soft fruit bushes, vegetables, herbs and marigolds as an example of companion planting. We also managed to gather rhubarb, carrots, potatoes, broad beans and a beautiful squash as examples of spring harvests.

We also took a compost display showing three basic stages of compost making. We had a tub of ingredients - banana skin, vegetable peelings, toilet roll tubes, shredded paper, cat fur from cat's brush, wooden lolly sticks, teabags, coffee grounds, eggshells....and on, just to show that anything that has lived and hadn't been cooked can go into making compost. But not meat scraps, which would encourage vermin.

We had a manual sieve and a large rotary sieve to make the compost fine for seed sowing and potting on, both of which the children really enjoyed using. Most of them were fascinated by the process of making compost, so this part of our display and information was a great success....but....WORMS! Worms were the most successful part of our display; so many of the children wanted to hold them and learn about how they help to make compost and improve the soil. But there was one little girl who told us off because she said it was cruel to hold them because our body temperature is so much higher than that of the worms and it would hurt them when they were held. We're not sure about this, but we'll definitely take more worms next year, whether they get held or not.

Lots learnt that will help us to make a better stall /display next year.

Well worth attending – there are some lovely photos on our website, showing preparation etc. just before the event started.

Farmers' Markets 2015

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

Leigh-on-Sea: Leigh Community Centre, Elm Road: from 9:00 – 12:00 on Friday 17 July, Saturday 22 August, Friday 18 September, Friday 16 October, Friday 20 November and Saturday 19 December

Rochford: WI Hall, Market Square on (Saturday) 4 July, 1 August and 5 September from 09:30 – 12:00. Roots & Shoots from Sutton Bridge Farm now sell vegetables and herbs. The five-acre grounds at Sutton Bridge Farm provide an ideal training environment for a work experience project in gardening and maintenance for people with learning disabilities. Approximately 40 programme members gain horticultural training and work experience on the project. All work towards an accredited qualification. Conservation methods are adopted in the training to maintain the natural development of the land at Sutton Bridge Farm. <http://hamelintrust.org.uk/social-enterprise/roots-shoots/>

Garden Organic news

With climate change and threats to plants from new pests and diseases Garden Organic are determined to increase its focus on organic growing experiments. Members' experiments and research have always been a core part of their work. What they now want to do is enhance their practical research efforts through a scholarship, to be known as the **Lawrence Hills Scholar**, in honour of their founder. This scholar will be dedicated to their practical research work based on our needs and experiences. This will generate a new range of practical projects and training in future years.

There are a number of areas they are keen to focus on, which include:

Using weeds as plant food - The comfrey plant (Lawrence Hills identified Bocking 14 as the best available cultivar – following exactly the type of research they now want to do) is ideal for making a highly effective plant feed. However, there are many weeds, for example, fat hen, dock, dandelion that are commonly discarded, thus throwing away vital nutrients. They would therefore like to be able to test preparations made from these weeds.

New methods of natural slug control - Slugs are one of the most challenging aspects of the organic growing practice. However, there seems to be no environmentally acceptable solution that is both reliable and cost effective. They would like to investigate some alternative methods of natural slug control (e.g. coffee grounds and sheep's wool) to evaluate their efficiency.

Testing new varieties - There are some really interesting new crops such as chickpeas (perfect for 2016 UN Year of the Pulse) or fenugreek that are available, but there is little information as to which varieties grow best in the range of UK conditions. There is therefore a need to carry out more rigorous trials to work out which would be the best new introductions for growers.

You can read more at:

<http://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/scholar-appeal>

GMWatch News

Why did BBC's Panorama fall for pro-GM propaganda?

Organic farmer Guy Watson exposes some of the myths promoted by the TV programme.

EXCERPT: Owen Paterson labelled the anti-GM lobby "wicked" for resisting vitamin A enhanced GM "golden rice". The reality is that it has proved difficult to make the technology work and the developers at the International Rice Research Institute say they are years from being ready to grow a successful commercial crop. How and why could a politician with research assistants make such a provocative and poorly informed statement?

<http://gmwatch.org/news/latest-news/16247-why-did-bbc-s-panorama-fall-for-pro-gm-propaganda>

Pope Francis's open-eyed vision of the problems caused by GMOs and pesticides in the articles below is in stark contrast with the ludicrous hype generated by GMO proponents in 2013 around the Pope giving "his personal blessing" to GMO golden rice.

In fact, it was far from clear if he knew exactly what he was blessing and this act cannot be claimed to be an endorsement of this GMO or GMOs in general.

It's evident from the second article below that Pope Francis will not fall for the lie that we need GMOs to feed the world. He states that the problem of hunger could be solved through political will and tackling food speculation and food waste.

1. Pope Francis slams GMOs and pesticides for environmental and social damage
2. Pope Francis: We can end world hunger if we want to

<http://gmwatch.org/news/latest-news/16239-pope-francis-slams-gmos-and-pesticides-for-environmental-and-social-damage>

Lauriston Farm, Goldhanger

Ten SEEOG members, including Sharon's daughter and friend, enjoyed a return visit to Lauriston Farm, Goldhanger last month. We walked as far as the sea wall to see his cattle, watched the skylarks and listened to the reed warbler, but unfortunately we couldn't see it. Along the sea wall we saw the sheep, and mingled amongst them, and watched the tide coming in. We also saw two Essex barges in full sail.

As we strolled along, Spencer described the preparation involved in making the horn manure 500, which he does in the autumn. Cow horns are filled thoroughly with fresh cow manure; then buried in the ground for six months, until spring. The horns are unearthed and the contents of the horn can then be emptied, which will be dark and smell earthy, not like manure. This 'horn manure' is then dissolved in a large bucket or vat of water, then stirred to a vortex; then stirred the other direction to break the vortex. This is repeated a number of times to dynamise the preparation. It is then ready to be sprayed onto freshly dug, hoed or weeded soil, just before sowing seeds or transplanting. It improves the soil and benefits plants and living organisms in the soil.

This might be too much for people to absorb for the first time but not the way that Spencer described it! As Jane remarked, biodynamic gardening and agriculture are strange processes, but they seem to work very well.

A wander round Spencer's Celestial Garden followed, when we returned to the farm for a welcome cup of tea. Spencer's farm shop includes his biodynamic North Ronaldsay lamb, sheepskin rugs, woollen throws, woolly hats and organic yarn. There's a picture on our website with the link to the farm.

Manure/Compost

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 her gate to ease bagging up.
2. We have another provider of free manure, chemical free, in Barling, near Wakering. Tel. 01702 219835
3. Julie Davis 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 is 0774 210 7855.
4. Mandy Chaplin's free rotten manure is a mixture of horse, donkey, goat and pig. Her animals are fed an organic diet. You can help yourself to as much or as little as you want. Please ring Debbie on 07449 314 914 (Ashingdon).
5. Brook House Farm is a recycling centre just off the Five Bells roundabout on the A13 at Basildon. It recycles wood mostly from local tree fellers into logs, biofuels, bark chippings, mulch and compost and has a huge pile of excellent compost selling at £1 a bag or it can arrange truckloads for those needing larger amounts - very happy to offer our members a 10% discount. Many of their customers bring a sieve to make sure they get the very best and finest into their bag. Please contact Bea Byford: brookhousefarmfobbing@gmail.com
6. Well rotted horse manure (Rochford). Danielle also has fresh horse manure to use in compost bins. Please contact Danielle Neadley; danielleneadley@gmail.com
7. Church Road, Hockley, Essex, SS5 6AE, 01702 207166, 07748 490985 – this is where Vic picks up manure for his plot.
8. Chicken manure (off Fairfax Drive), bagged and ready for collection. If anyone is interested, please call Anita on 07910 215 227.

Members' contributions

1) Just one last note to say thank you so much for your wonderful contributions to the Chelsea Fringe project 'Contemporary Green' - your words have been seen by a huge number of people and will hopefully be enjoyed for a long time to come, even though the Chelsea Fringe has now come to an end. It was a truly beautiful few weeks spent here receiving your words in our inbox, being surprised and delighted by what you wrote, and the quality shone through so much that Gardens Illustrated named the project a highlight of the festival. How fabulous! The book is attached if you wish to upload it to your websites, blogs, email lists etc - please feel free to share with as many people as you can. Thank you again, and if we can ever do a favour for you, please do ask.

Darren, Chloe and Stefano at Modern Mint

You can download the book at <http://seeog.org.uk/2015/06/darren-lerigos-chelsea-fringe-project-contemporary-green/>

2) Below is a link to my review of a new book called 'Digging Deep' by earth-friendly gardener, John Walker:

"Now more than ever, we gardeners need to ask questions. To quiz, to probe and to challenge gardening's status quo is a gentle yet powerful way of changing things for the better – which is, after all, what gardening at its simplest, its most essential and earth-friendly, is all about."

John is an authentic and fascinating voice on organic gardening - 'Digging Deep' is great, and you can learn more about the book here....

<http://modernmint.co.uk/digging-deep-in-the-garden/>

3) The Go-Slow Allotment

Check out our website for Simon's photos!

There are many preconceptions about allotments. One is that of a quiet place, somewhere to relax, contemplate, recharge your batteries, de-stress or simply chill-out. But this vision of "paradise" it seems, has to be earned. Perfection comes at a price. If you want Arcadia, this will only be achieved through a regime of perpetual grind in all weathers. There will be digging, endless "pests" to deal with, lots of back-breaking physical work and 24/7 weeding. In summer there is also the obligatory pre-dawn or watering by moonlight work out.

On first visiting an allotment site you may also be mistaken for thinking that they are some of sort of green correctional facility, where you arrive after the "day job" or at weekends, and don't stop work until the sun goes down, or your back gives in!

It doesn't have to be so. Adopting a slow-is-good approach can be one alternative - after all, you are not just creating a green place for you, your family and friends, but an important habitat and oasis for local wildlife that lives and visits your plot when you are not there. An allotment also affords you a unique opportunity to re-connect to nature, observe the seasons, learn or re-learn skills, identify wildflowers and weeds, guess or identify unfamiliar birdsong, encounter bees (and not just honey bees), see slow worms, happen across frogs or foxes and welcome spiders to the darker corners of your shed. It is also a chance to meet and get to know fellow allotmenters from a range of local communities and cultures. Allotments double-up as free ideas banks where you can share and exchange hints and tips with other plot holders.

There are other softer benefits to having an allotment - ones that are not immediately apparent. Your plot is a great place to spend time doing nothing in particular. Learning to do "nowt" and not feel guilty about it can help you to wind down after a stressful time. In a world of round the clock deadlines, perpetual street lighting and daily pressures on our mental health, allotments can help us feel better. I recall once meeting an American woman who had moved to the UK two years previously. She found it difficult to understand people and felt lonely and isolated. This all changed when she took on an allotment and "finally, really got to know British people".

As an allotmenter for over 20 years I have gradually adopted a no rush, (and at times) a no work, chemical-free approach to plot management. Enjoyable shed-bodging ie low impact construction, using recycled materials on site or immediately to hand e.g. willows, giant reeds, skip pallets, old doors and the use of "found objects" is all part of the mix. Being creative is both fun and possible, as is having a wildlife friendly allotment with a beautifully imperfect shed.

So in my opinion, Slow is Good. Repeat. Slow is good.

Top go-slow allotment tips:

Have lots of compost bins, comfrey, use green manures and mulches

Rotate crops and keep any digging to a minimum. No strimmers.

Encourage wildlife. Nature is the best designer.

Try new things and make mistakes.

Grow flowers too - they are as equally important as beans.

Don't work too hard or too fast - it's not a race. Enjoy your plot.

Take time to get to know your neighbours and fellow plot holders.

An allotment is a work of art in progress, so take some reading (maybe start with Bob Flowerdew's "The No Work Garden").

National Allotments Week 2015 - 10 to 16 August

The poster and publicity guidelines for National Allotments Week are available now. Please contact natsoc@nsalg.org.uk with details of your event for insertion on the NAS website. Please let them know the name of your Society, address/location of party on the plot, date of event, time of event, entry fee, activities on the day, plus any local VIPs/celebrities attending, contact person plus phone number and email address.

The NSALG had many people contact them about their "A Plot for all Ages" theme this year and have featured some of them on the National Allotments Week page on the website, but they are still eager to hear more about:-

The oldest plothead

The youngest plothead (16 and upwards)

Youngest grower on parents' plot

The longest continuous family rental of a plot

The oldest site

The authority that has built the most new plots over the last 5 years

<http://www.nsalg.org.uk/news-events-campaigns/national-allotments-week/>

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.

Pesticide Action Network North America

Responsible for one in three bites of our food? Thanks, honey bees.

Protecting these incredible pollinators is clearly in everyone's best interest — but the corporations that produce bee-harming pesticides are still investing millions to keep the spotlight off their products.

But thanks to bee-lovers across the country, the pesticide corporations are losing ground.

Stronger rules on bee-harming pesticides are moving forward in states across the country, and even national agencies are taking steps in the right direction.

The pollinator crisis is far from over; In fact, the latest reports show that beekeepers lost more than 40% of their hives last season — the second-worst year on record! This is bad news for bees, beekeepers, farmers and our food system as a whole.

But the tide is beginning to turn. Communities across the country are becoming official pesticide-free "honey bee havens," states are passing pollinator protection laws, and even EPA has stopped approving new bee-harming pesticides. These are encouraging steps — but much more is needed.

You can visit their website at <http://www.panna.org/>

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. Ever wanted to grow your own but don't have the time, the space, or even know where to start? Well, we have a new book available – 'Do Grow/Start with 10 simple vegetables' by Alice Holden.

SEEOG talks

Thursday, 24 September 2015: Galleywood Horticultural Society. They meet at Keene Hall (Watchouse Road, Galleywood, Chelmsford CM2 8PT) at 8.00pm once a month and usually have between 50-60 members per meeting.

Monday 1 February 2016: Lavers & District Horticultural Society

Soil Association

Antibiotics in farming – a pharmaceutical crutch that threatens our health

Peter Melchett - 22 June 2015

There are several things that many of us fear will be in a long list our grandchildren draw up of 'how could you possibly have let that happen'? Cooking the planet with fossil fuels and presiding over a massive extinction of our fellow creatures will, I am sure, be there. So will be our squandering an incredible class of life-saving medicines, antibiotics, unless we act fast to save them.

The first finding of MRSA in retail pork is a clarion call for more urgent action. New research commissioned by The Alliance to Save Our Antibiotics was carried out by scientists at Cambridge University led by Dr Mark Holmes, and found that two samples of pig meat out of 52 bought from English supermarkets were positive for MRSA.

You can read more at:

<http://soilassociation.org/blogs/latestblog/article/1105/antibiotics-in-farming-a-pharmaceutical-crutch-that-threatens-our-health>

South Essex Natural History Society

All talks are held at the Beecroft Centre, Victoria Avenue, Southend-on-Sea.

Saturday 19 September: Bumble Bees of Essex – Shriill Carder Bee, an update, 2-4pm

Thursday 19 November: AGM and DVD, 7-9pm

Saturday 12 December: The Thames Through Time, 2-4pm

For further details, please contact their Chairman, Pat Wortley – 01702 588115. pjwortley@btinternet.com

Tips and Hints

1. Slug cocktail: 2 cups warm water; 2 tablespoons flour; 1 teaspoon sugar; half teaspoon yeast. Pour into a shallow plastic container. Leave on a raised surface. Enjoy!

Trust Links

1) Free Scything Course! Learn how to scythe and help maintain the historic St Laurence Orchard, where Trust Links and SEEOG hold the Apple Day in the autumn.

Date: Monday 6th July

Time: 10 am – 3 pm (come for as long as you can manage)

Location: St Laurence Orchard, Eastwoodbury Lane, Southend-on-Sea SS2 6UY

Refreshments: Free tea and coffee; please bring your own lunch

Equipment: Scythes and other equipment provided; please bring gardening gloves and boots (preferably steel toe-capped) if you have them

Tutors: Claire White will be your tutor ably assisted by Ron, Annette and Vicky

For more information, please call 01702 213134.

This is part of their monthly Working Parties at St Laurence Orchard to help maintain the orchard for the benefit of people, wildlife and the environment and is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

2) Working parties take place at the historic St Laurence Orchard on the first Monday of every month. They undertake tasks such as clearing paths and areas around trees. There is a potato patch to tend and pruning to do. Wildlife on site is logged and identified. Tools are supplied as are hot drinks. No experience necessary. The historic St Laurence Orchard on Eastwoodbury Lane is managed by Trust Links on behalf of Southend Council.

3) Finally, you can see their latest Heritage Project video 'The Orchard' at this link:

<http://trustlinks.webs.com/videos>

Recognise anyone?

Websites & Information

1. For decades, conservationists have been worried about hedgehogs disappearing from our gardens and parks. Campaigners are trying to persuade people to cut a CD-sized hole in their garden fence to give the animals enough room to roam. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-32987824>
2. The Wool Clip, an award-winning co-operative - <http://www.woolclip.com/>
3. Canvey Bay Watch, fresh seaweed: contact Cllr Barry Campagna, who can be contacted either by ringing 07775 868982 or emailing cllr.bcampagna@castlepoint.gov.uk
<https://www.facebook.com/CanveyBayWatch>
http://www.canveyisland.org/page/canveys_bay_watch_group
4. Monty Don on Chelsea: the allotment tragedy and the need for iconoclastic young gardeners. "Gardens can reach into life in a way that's beyond horticulture. It's about how we choose to live our lives and how younger people engage with them," says the Gardeners' World presenter.
<http://www.radiotimes.com/news/2015-05-17/monty-don-on-chelsea-the-allotment-tragedy-and-the-need-for-iconoclastic-young-gardeners>
5. A Little English/French Fruit Dictionary: If you have ever wished that you knew what that French term *porte-greffe* meant, or, for those on the other side of the Channel, the English word for rootstock, there is now an English/French fruit 'little dictionary' to help you with many other words associated with growing fruit trees. It is a small booklet, available free for the price of a stamped addressed envelope. Charmingly designed, and a handy size, it was made as part of the 'Orchards Without Borders' project to use on the cross Channel visits between a group in Sussex and one in Normandy. Orchards without Borders is a project run by the Brighton & Hove Food Partnership. They have extra copies of the 'little dictionary' to give away – send a stamped self-addressed envelope (A5 size) to Anne-Marie Bur, Brighton & Hove Food Partnership, Brighthelm Centre, North Road, Brighton, BN1 1YD.
<http://www.fruitforum.net/growing-apples-organically-in-normandy.htm>
- 6) And this subject sometimes comes up in conversation:
Selling allotment produce, is it legal, is it right?'
<http://www.organiclea.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/sellingallotmentproduce.pdf>
- 7) The first in a series of nine short films called **Living with the Land**. This first film is about forest gardening.
<http://www.permaculture.co.uk/videos/living-land-part-1-forest-gardening>

STOP PRESS

Please support Craigentiny and Telferton Allotments in east Edinburgh to be protected from a proposed housing development by Avant Homes. East Edinburgh already has several new housing sites approved; it doesn't lack housing but it is desperately short of accessible public green space. The more people who get behind this issue, the more likely it is that decision makers will pay attention. Every name added to the petition takes it one step closer to succeeding.

<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/save-craigentiny-telferton-allotments>

OPEN GARDEN

This is SEEOG member Corrine Layton's garden:

Brook Hall Cottages, Steeple Road, Latchingdon CM3 6LB: an organic garden of 1/3 acre on three levels, decked area with boardwalk leading to natural pond and bog garden; formal lawn, topiary and vegetable garden; narrow paths and steep steps not suitable for those with walking difficulties; footpath walk to the River Blackwater.

Open: April to September. Groups: (min 10) by prior arrangement.

Price: £8 per person including cream tea; £5 per person including light refreshments

Enquiries: Mr & Mrs Layton - 01621 741680

SEEOG Committee

Ron Bates	Chair	01702 477681	anebates@hotmail.co.uk
Ray How	Vice-Chair	01702 544632	ray.how@btopenworld.com
Ane Bates	Treasurer	01702 477681	anebates@hotmail.co.uk
Graham Oster-Ritter	Membership	01702 558871	grahamoster@btinternet.com
Carole Shorney	Secretary	01702 201914	caroleshorney@hotmail.com
Vic Shorney	Committee	01702 201914	caroleshorney@hotmail.com
Jane Ponton	Committee	01268 565776	JaneAPonton@hotmail.com