



SOUTH EAST ESSEX ORGANIC GARDENERS



Soil Association

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NEWSLETTER NO: 145 – MAY 2019

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

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/43705483846/>

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, notes etc.

Please use the entrance in Prittlewell Chase, Westcliff-on-Sea SS0 9AG (corner of Fairfax Drive and Prittlewell Chase). Our speakers start at 20:00 sharp, but Growing Together is open from 19:00 to prepare the room, etc. **On a practical note, we can always do with some good, gardening related raffle prizes, please!** Please notify Carole if you wish to receive your newsletter by post/email, or change your email address: caroleshorney@hotmail.com

For future reference, our newsletter copy 'deadlines' for 2019 are as follows:

July	-	Sunday 23 June
September	-	Sunday 18 August
November	-	Sunday 20 October

Please make a note of all these dates, to avoid disappointment later on, especially our planned visits, when we are asked to provide numbers.

SEEEOG GROUP NIGHTS/EVENTS/VISITS 2019

March Group Night

Simon wishes to thank all those folk who came along to hear his Gozo Growing talk at Growing Together. He hopes you also enjoyed the pickled capers, broad bean and garlic spread, peppered sheep's cheese and Pomegranate liquor! He's going to be trying out a food tower system in his front courtyard garden over the summer – just look out for his next #GozoGrowing post on our website!

This is the Cyprus website that he mentioned in his talk. The Hugelkultur raised beds info appears in Sepp Holzer's book "Desert or Paradise" (Permanent Publications, 2011).

<http://www.cyprusgardener.co.uk>

<http://www.cyprusgardener.co.uk/>

Sunday 19 May: Stall at Essex Young Farmers Show, Boyton Hall, Boyton Cross, Roxwell, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 4LT, 09:30

We will be 'joining' the National Allotment Society (Essex group) at this event. We still need some volunteers!!

Monday 20 May: Group Night

The title is 'Poverty, Food Waste and the Redistribution of Surplus Food by FareShare'. Natasha Dillow is delighted to be able to talk to us on FareShare's work – FareShare is not a gleaning organisation or part of the gleaning network, but redistributes surplus crops once they have been harvested by gleaners. It's hoped the diagram on our website will help explain what they do. Have a look at www.fareshare.org.uk

Wednesday 5 June: SEEOG stall at Essex Schools Food and Farming Day, Writtle University College (event not open to the public)

The Essex Schools Food and Farming Day is a yearly event organised by the Essex Agricultural Society giving 3,000 Essex school children aged 8 to 11 the opportunity to visit Writtle University College and find out how their food is produced, the role played by farmers in Essex and the many related jobs within the industry. This is financially supported by Essex County Council who kindly supplies the bulk of the funding needed to facilitate the event.
<http://www.essexag.co.uk/education-page-1/>

Sunday 9 June: LEAF Open Farm Sunday

Perhaps we can choose a farm from <https://farmsunday.org/> in due course?

Saturday 22 June (please note revised date), 11:00: SEEOG visit (car-share) to Kings Seeds, Sweet Pea tour

The address is Monks Farm, Coggeshall Road, Kelvedon, Colchester, CO5 9PG. Kings charge £2 per head, CASH payable on the day. Discounted seed packets will be available if you wish to purchase. There is no charge for parking (plenty of spaces!). Do please contact Carole ASAP via caroleshorney@hotmail.com
Tours take approximately two hours and, although not a lot of walking is required, the majority of the time you will be on your feet. Refreshments are not available. Toilet facilities are available in both the office block and the warehouse.
<https://www.kingsseeds.com/>

Sunday 7 July: SEEOG visit (car-share) to Hilldrop, Stanford-le-Hope, Essex, SS17 8QB, 14:00 - 19:00

Light refreshments. Tea and coffee, Pimms, cakes and vegetarian savoury snacks.
Admission: Adult: £5.00; children are free. Since building their turf roof house in 1995, they have trialled waste materials in their 4-acre garden to mimic brownfield habitat, one of the most undervalued places for wildlife. These are now their most beautiful and diverse habitats for plants and insects; several green roofs and lots of ideas to create biodiverse habitats, especially for solitary bees; views across the Thames Estuary to Kent. The garden features a self-build timber house with green roof, 6 other green roofs, 3 ponds, brownfield habitat - which gives ideas for difficult areas - green roof shipping container garden room and wildlife friendly hedges, including laid hedges - 2 wild flower meadows and ephemeral wetland.
https://www.ngs.org.uk/find-a-garden/garden/34797/?fbclid=IwAR13y-AZN_d_K6ruM79ugd_zpotQwpK313ZT6xlcOOdSopwOwiuVBBiHUw

Saturday 13 July, 10:00: Return visit to 'Riffhams' (car-share) kindly arranged by SEEOG member, Philip Fawcett

The address is Graces Lane, Little Baddow, Chelmsford, CM3 4AX. A few years ago Phil was fortunate enough to start working in the walled garden at Riffhams. The house and garden were built in 1815 and designed by Sir Humphry Repton. The walled garden had been left fallow for many years before he started; it had been kept weed-free, the soil was left bare, so soil conditions were very poor. He started to improve it by digging in humus and green manure

plants. Part of the garden he has planted with wild flowers and made a bee garden with three bee hives. He's also planted a fruit garden and the rest is formal vegetables. Please let us know who's coming asap!

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1000239>

Monday 15 July: Group Night

'Traditional fruit growing in a changing environment' with Andrew Tann - this will be a long evening, he expects!

<https://crapes.wordpress.com/>

Saturday 20 July, 14:00 – 19:00: Visit (car-share) to garden in Tolleshunt Knights, Maldon, CM9 8EZ

<https://www.essexinfo.net/tolleshuntknightsparishcouncil/history-of-tolleshunt-knights/>

Monday 16 September: Group Night

Darren Lerigo presents 'A Very British Garden'. Do you take a no dig approach to your allotment? If you want to know more, take a look at the no dig information in Garden Organic's Growing Advice pages at <https://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/organic-allotment-growing>

Saturday or Sunday 21-22 September: SEE OG visit (car-share) to Clayhill Vineyard, Lower Burnham Road, Latchingdon (tbc)

We met the folks from the vineyard last year at Bradfields Farm Dairy on Open Farm Sunday.

<https://www.facebook.com/ClayhillVineyard/>

Saturday 5 October: Apple Day in St Laurence Orchard, 11:00 – 14:00

Monday 18 November: Group Night

SEE OG member Kamil Pachalko presents an update on Southend in Transition Community Allotment – see <https://sitcommunityallotment.wordpress.com/>

OTHER FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saturday 4 May: May Fayre at Growing Together Westcliff, 11:00 – 14:00

Saturday 18 May: Worldcup on Sea charity football match at Roots Hall Stadium, all day

Wednesday 3 July: Summer Fayre at Growing Together Shoeburyness, 15:15 – 18:00

Saturday 21 September: Walking Together Sponsored Walk

Saturday 5 October: Apple Day at St Laurence Orchard, 11:00 – 14:00

Saturday 30 November: Christmas Fayre at Growing Together Westcliff, 11:00 – 14:00

NEWS

Allotment news: Folly Grove site, Hockley

Revised plans have now been received and the lease reviewed and returned to the council's solicitor. The Working Group has made two site visits and the Clerk and Cllr Gleadall have subsequently met with the contractor responsible for installing a water supply and car parking, which will be a permeable hard standing area. A suitable site for a water supply has been identified and boundary corners are to be marked out. Car parking spaces will be leased and will be included in the allotment rental. The development is due to finish at the end of May and the Clerk will arrange a further site visit to ensure the work is completed before the developers leave the site. The Clerk attended an Allotment Forum on 5 April.

If you are keen to pursue the opportunity of an allotment in Hockley, please contact Hockley Parish Council to register your name with full contact details to: Clerk to the Parish Council, Hockley Parish Council, The Old Fire Station, 58 Southend Road, Hockley, Essex SS5 4QH.
01702 207707

clerk@hockley-essex.gov.uk

Crapes Fruit Farm: Blossom time!

Well, so much for anticipating anything! Very, very little rain has fallen here since my last post – but still little as it may be, that is still more positive than our other nagging concerns at the moment. The 12' well on the premises still has only 3' of water at the bottom. Usually this is full from the end of November and often into April. Over sixty years ago I enjoyed playing in the overflow channel!

Both Cherry and Plum are blooming. We have plenty of flying insects about including Bumble Bees, though the easterly wind is cold from Europe just now. The nights are a little less cold than of late when ground frosts were frequent. The apple trees are feeling the dry and the development of leaves and emerging blossom buds is sluggish. An odd flower is open, though just now apples are clearly behind here.

I haven't mentioned much about our vegetable area in recent posts. Needless to say, we are busy sowing ready for June onwards. Our sprouting broccoli and spring greens have been popular both with the Colcestrians on the Friday delivery route, and also the vegan restaurant – Cradle CIC in North Street, Sudbury (the top end!).

Shortly we will be invaded by a team of biodiversity surveyors, through Orchards East, as part of a lottery funded project surveying orchards of all sizes in East Anglia. This will be over a period of eighteen months.

tannandrew@gmail.com - <https://crapes.wordpress.com/>

Farmers' Markets 2019

Leigh-on-Sea Town Council's Farmers' Market at Leigh Community Centre, 71-73 Elm Road, Leigh-on-Sea, 3rd Friday of the month from 09:00 to 13:00, apart from December (08:30): Friday 17 May, Friday 21 June, Friday 19 July, Friday 16 August, Friday 20 September, Friday 18 October, Friday 15 November and Friday 21 December.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1818935024986153/>

It is with regret that Rochford Parish Council will no longer be able to support the monthly Farmers Market in the WI Hall.

Friends of Ryton Organic Gardens

We have no news to report at the moment except that the Coventry University sale seems to be going ahead as far as we know. Five Acre Community Farm has started to do a podcast at Ryton Gardens.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/FriendsofRytonOrganicGardens/about/>

http://www.fiveacrefarm.org.uk/?page_id=1137

Garden Organic news:

1. The Organic Way - ECO gardening with PlantGrow

After being offered the space from Garden Organic, Daniel Suggitt thought it would be good to create an offer for all members - offering 30% off products if group orders are purchased - This is exclusive to Garden Organic members. He feels it is an excellent eco option for all gardeners as it is outstanding for soil and plant health, made from plants and vegan, safe for bees and pets, plus families too. It comes in a liquid form and a solid form - which is a soil conditioner and fertiliser in one. A copy of his brochure is available on request.

<https://www.plantgrow.co.uk/>

2. 2019 AGM and Members' Day: St Fagans National Museum of Welsh History, Cardiff, CF5 6XB, Thursday 20 June, 9:45am to 5:00pm

<https://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/events/2019AGM>

3. MYHarvest returns! This popular research project is back! Giving you a chance to record just how much you grow in your veg patch. Hosted by Sheffield University, the aim of the project is to record the quantities of home grown fruit and vegetables across the UK. There is little to no data on exactly how much UK amateur growers produce. And yet we know how important it is

to grow your own - for a healthy diet, sense of well-being and ultimately, food security. Whether you grow in an allotment, back garden or on a balcony, you can join in. Simply sign up and record your harvest - right down to the individual potato.
<https://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/news/myharvest-returns-0>

GM Freeze news:

There's bad news – Defra has granted permission to the John Innes Centre to plant both the GM brassica and the GM wheat trials that we tried to stop. Details of the two consents can be found online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/genetically-modified-organisms-john-innes-centre-19r5201> (Brassica) and <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/genetically-modified-organisms-john-innes-centre-19r5202> (Wheat).

We just hope that their two remaining trial objections (to Rothamsted Research's Camelina and the Sainsbury Laboratory's potatoes) will have more impact!

International Compost Awareness Week: Sunday 5 May – Saturday 11 May 2019

International Compost Awareness Week (ICAW) is the largest and most comprehensive education initiative of the compost industry. Throughout the week of ICAW, community and business events are held across the world to encourage and celebrate composting. Events include tours of compost sites and allotment facilities, school talks and workshops, compost workshops on allotments, talks and lectures as well as publicity on local TV, radio and in the press.

<https://www.nsalg.org.uk/news-events-campaigns/international-compost-awareness-week-2/>

Lauriston Farm news

They have Open Days on the following (Saturday) dates: 25 May, 29 June, 27 July, 31 August, 28 September, 26 October and 30 November. It is essential that you book in advance, as spaces are limited, by using the link below.

<https://www.lauristonfarm.co.uk/open-days.html>

And here's another date to save: Vision Day Saturday 8 June 2019

The Vision Day is a whole day of activities, in which they will consider where the farm is now, how it has evolved so far, and the future direction of Lauriston Farm Limited. For more information, including a detailed schedule, you can download their Vision Day poster at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Af-AgExST66wpvitjOblaPn8GMMftbfZ/view>

Please let them know if you are planning to attend by either emailing enquiries@lauristonfarm.co.uk or calling 01621 788348.

Members' contributions

1 "A filmmaker's investigation into the death of his father takes him deep into the world of golf, chemical lobbying, and citizen activism, where he learns that the rampant use of pesticides around the world may be far more damaging than he thought. What chance do we have at creating a safer world for ourselves and our children? The answer may lay with the incredible people he encounters along his journey."

https://www.facebook.com/groundwarfilm/?fref=gc&dti=1479569212349144&hc_location=ufi

2. Perth council (Australia) cuts red tape to allow residents to plant fruit and veg in public parks
Residents in Perth's inner east will soon be able to plant fruits and vegetables in local parks and reserves without a lengthy approval process. The City of Bayswater Council (last week) voted unanimously dramatically to reduce the red tape around public gardens. Spearheaded by Deputy Mayor Chris Cornish, he said he believed it was the first initiative of its kind in Australia.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-02-08/bayswater-council-opens-up-parks-to-resident-food-planting/9404394>

3. Allotment artists find beauty in the cabbage patch

I love my allotment for many reasons. I've had it for over 10 years and I love it for the fresh air, beautiful produce and the intimate connection it gives me with the seasons. My mother, Cath Read, has a great love of allotments, too, but she is no gardener. She is a professional artist, and her interest is more in the aesthetic than the edible.

The Telegraph, By Lia Leendertz, 23 January 2017

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/gardening/grow-to-eat/allotment-artists-find-beauty-cabbage-patch/?fbclid=IwAR0RE9Ff6Nw2kdsYJPg9j-KLJLWT1vadNghqUGgCIY2bVFBWPuniOuYPtR4>

4. Indian State Banishes All Pesticides, Watches Both Wildlife and Tourism Flourish

In January 2016, the state of Sikkim, in the shadow of the world's third-tallest peak Mt. Kanchenjunga, succeeded in becoming the first fully organic state in India, and probably the world. A few short years later, there are still plenty of kinks to be worked out, but the benefits are being seen first-hand. Bee populations are said to be rebounding, with plants dependent on bee pollination like cardamom providing much higher yields. Cardamom, for example, has risen by more than 30% since 2014, a report from The Washington Post said.

Tourism to the region has also increased nearly 70% since the state went organic, according to the BBC (see video below), and soil health has rebounded tremendously, as is usually the case when organic methods are applied. Marketed as an eco-friendly dream destination, the region boasts 500 species of butterflies, 4,500 types of flowering plants, and rare wildlife like the red panda, Himalayan bear, snow leopards and yaks. The state also received a Future Policy Award 2018 at a UN ceremony in Rome, beating out 51 other nominees from 25 countries worldwide for best promoting agro-ecology.

<https://althealthworks.com/?s=Sikkim>

5. Plant of the Month: March 2019 - Maltese Stocks

We thought visitors might be interested in some of the many wild flowers that can be seen throughout the year on #Gozo. So each month, we are going to provide a brief description and some photos of a plant that you can look out for when visiting the island.

Maltese Stocks (*Matthiola incana* subsp. *melitensis*)

Gizi ta' Malta (in Maltese)

This attractive low to medium sized perennial plant over time forms a dwarf or small shrub. This species is endemic to the Maltese islands (i.e. not found in the rest of Europe). The silvery green leaves are fleshy and crowded with the plant becoming woody at the base over time. The flowers are lilac or violet, typically blooming in spring between March and May each year. The small seeds are borne in erect straight pods. The plant is found in dry, rocky or coastal areas. It is considered scarce and as such is protected by Maltese law.

<https://www.facebook.com/Dwejra.tower/posts/1211775105669228>

6. What great pleasure it is to introduce you to Alexandra Spagnol, a young, female, full-time farmer- a true rarity indeed.

Alexandra, 26 years of age, works more than 112,000 metres squared of land with her uncle and cultivates various fruits and vegetables, including potatoes for export and tomatoes for processing. You can buy her produce at the Ta' Qali farmers' market. Alexandra is an inspiration to all.

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=2136707479709522&id=1920317431348529

7. This is what would happen to the natural world if all the insects disappeared

There are an awful lot of insects. It's hard to say exactly how many because 80% haven't yet been described by taxonomists, but there are probably about 5.5m species. Put that number together with other kinds of animals with exoskeletons and jointed legs, known collectively as arthropods – this includes mites, spiders and woodlice – and there are probably about 7m species in all. Despite their ubiquity in the animal kingdom, a recent report warned of a “bugpocalypse”, as surveys indicated that insects everywhere are declining at an alarming rate. This could mean the extinction of 40% of the world's insect species over the next few decades.

What is particularly worrying is that we don't know exactly why populations are declining. Agricultural intensification and pesticides are likely a big part of the problem, but it's certainly more complicated than that, and habitat loss and climate change could also play a part.
<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=5834441821253674>

8. UN Report Says Small-Scale Organic Farming Only Way To Feed The World

Even as the United States government continues to push for the use of more chemically-intensive and corporate-dominated farming methods such as GMOs and monoculture-based crops, the United Nations is once again sounding the alarm about the urgent need to return to (and develop) a more sustainable, natural and organic system. That was the key point of a new publication from the UN Commission on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) titled "Trade and Environment Review 2013: Wake Up Before It's Too Late," which included contributions from more than 60 experts around the world.
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/75666802264/>

9. Spring marks the beginning of (Gozo's) Fresh Asparagus season! We will be coming to Malta every Thursday and those in Gozo can come by the house. Ideally, call or send us a message beforehand so as not to be disappointed.
<https://www.facebook.com/Gozo-Asparagus-1636247146687717/>

10. Each year, livestock produces billions of tonnes of excrement. It's starting to poison the natural world. So what is to be dung, by David Cox, How much poo is generated by the world's farms? Recent research has estimated that by 2030, the planet will be generating at least 5bn tonnes of poo each year, with the vast majority being deposited by livestock. With 80% of farms in the Netherlands already producing more cow dung than they can legally use as fertiliser, and China resorting to drastic measures to try to reduce the amount of manure being discharged into rivers, scientists say this is a major environment and health challenge.
<https://www.theguardian.com/news/series/the-briefing>

11. Best secateurs? We (Modern Mint) suggested the Japanese industry standard and the Telegraph agreed. First time the Telegraph and I have ever seen eye to eye!
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/recommended/home/best-secateurs/>

The brilliant topiary artist Charlotte Molesworth and Darren Lerigo are running a topiary workshop on Tuesday 16 July. You can find out more at
<https://modernmint.co.uk/shop/pruning-garden-tools/topiary-workshop/>

12. Meet Subpod, the modular subsurface composting system suitable for backyard and commercial use. Subpod is designed to help tackle the global problem of organic waste and will be crowdfunding from March 13, 2018.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CVQZA7GOoPI&feature=youtu.be>

13. "Only by connecting people back to the basics of food production & the farmers who produce it can we support a transition to more sustainable #farming."
The German state of Bavaria announces it will double its organic land production by 2025. We ask what would happen to food supplies if large parts of the EU did the same.
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m0003zwb>

14. White Owl Books author Matthew Appleby appeared on Good Morning Britain (10 April). Matthew discussed all things gardening related. You can watch again here (set your cursor to 1:51:54).
<https://www.itv.com/hub/good-morning-britain/2a3211a2502>

15) The Super Organic Gardener is out now.
<https://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk/The-Super-Organic-G.../p/15572>

16. Share Shed, Network of Wellbeing

The project will create a travelling library of items that will be stored in the Sharemobile, which is a converted van. It will be stocked with items such as tools, house appliances and gardening

equipment for people to borrow for a small charge. This will empower them to improve their lives, while saving resources and strengthening local communities.

<https://www.thepeoplesprojects.org.uk/projects/view/share-shed?platform=hootsuite>

17. State lawmakers in Florida have told cities they must respect citizens' property rights, and seemingly more basic right to grow their own food. They just passed a bill "prohibiting local governments from regulating vegetable gardens on residential properties." "Such regulations are void and unenforceable," the new law says. The legislation was inspired by a couple who had been tending a beautiful front-yard vegetable garden for 17 years when the town of Miami Shores told them it was illegal and made them tear it up.

<https://returntonow.net/2019/04/08/florida-lifts-ban-on-frontyard-vegetable-gardens/>

18. Simon Wallace, with his illustrated talk, gave us the geology of Gozo: essentially alkaline; little humus or worms; a Mediterranean temperate climate with high humidity, breezy; 23 inches of rain per annum; hobby farmers and markets of cheap Sicilian imports. Access to land has complexities of inheritance and tenancy along with water traditionally from cisterns with each house. He described the story of his field next to their house, the methods used: lasagne beds - card, manure, green material, holes punched to plant into. He mentioned the use of Tree Mallow that provides shade, screen and windbreak but also seed to eat, leaves for tea and it's drought resistant. The walls have a radiator effect and provide habitat for lizards, spiders, skinks and mantis, along with the likes of dragonflies, cicadas, chameleons and butterflies for pest control and pollination.

There is a Friends of the Earth Cyprus group in the area, and the Cyprus Gardener, who give local insights (Gozo fed Cyprus during WW2). There are crops of almonds (bitter), prickly pear (pads of it used as windbreaks), okra, peanuts, pomegranate, loquat, mulberry, vines and local varieties of vegetables; quite a varied diverse range of produce and methods.

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

<http://www.cyprusgardener.co.uk/>

But more: Simon brought Gozo capers (long and delicious), pesto, cheese and a liqueur - a real flavour of Gozo to finish with!

19. New contact for manure supplies

Parking is available next to the house. We understand it's organic but are unsure at present of its overall condition, i.e. fresh or composted, etc? Carolina has only told us that currently she has to pay for someone to take it away periodically, so is happy for people to come and pick it up. Details are: Carolina, April Rose Cottage, 67 Victor Gardens, Hawkwell, SS5 4DY; Mob: 07855 535049.

20. Fruit Forum

As we have done for a number of years, we publish the blossom records for the National Fruit Collection at Brogdale, undertaken and kindly supplied by Lorinda Jewsbury. These are records for a selection of varieties (standards and any new accessions) from all the tree fruit collections at Brogdale, Kent.

<https://fruitforum.wordpress.com/2019/04/19/2702/>

21. Growing Culture

Awarded through the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the project will engage over 200 people to explore the heritage of our movement and create a picture of the history of food growing in London, while building a vision for the future. Every London Borough was once surrounded by vegetable gardens to feed the urban population. In WWII, 'Dig for Victory' urged people to grow food for the war effort, with open spaces reclaimed as allotments, from domestic gardens to public parks – even the Tower of London lawn. In modern times, we have our own victories to win, on obesity, climate change, mental health and social cohesion – for which community food growing offers many delicious and sociable solutions. Our members might be interested in reading more at https://www.capitalgrowth.org/growing_culture/

22. Apple Cores: when and why did we begin discarding the apple core?

I'm wondering if you can help me identify some sources/potential places to start in answering a question that's been bouncing around my mind lately. Given that what we think of as the

inedible apple “core” is actually edible, I’m wondering how/why/where/when people started eating around and discarding the apple core. I’ve been investigating the history of the fruit as well as the kitchen tools used to process it. I’d be very interested to learn any insight you might have about where else I should be looking.

<https://fruitforum.wordpress.com/2019/03/28/apple-cores-when-and-why-did-we-begin-discarding-the-apple-core/>

23. East Anglian Garden Group 2019 Programme

The EAGG is a group of keen gardeners, plants people and professionals living in East Anglia. While visiting our website don't miss the opportunity of viewing our Events and News pages for information on our exciting programme of talks, visits, and other activities carefully selected to meet a wide range of interests by our dedicated committee.

<http://eastangliangardengroup.onesuffolk.net/http://eastangliangardengroup.onesuffolk.net/>

24. How to Buy Rhubarb Like You're Some Kind of Rhubarb Expert

Rhubarb season isn't far off and we're huge fans of those green-ish, red stalks you see from late spring to early summer. But given the relatively short season, it's important to know what to look for. Here's a guide to buying rhubarb like you're some kind of rhubarb expert.

<https://www.bonappetit.com/story/how-to-buy-rhubarb>

25. ShareWaste (New Zealand) connects people to recycle their organic waste, make more soil and grow produce. We bring together hosts (who receive organic waste) with donors (who donate their organic waste) to process kitchen scraps into new soil.

<https://www.sharewaste.org.nz/>

26. Lyme disease is endemic in many parts of the United Kingdom, particularly in woodland or heath-land areas but disease carrying ticks can also be found in cities and gardens. Lyme Disease UK produce an excellent (free) awareness pack which includes both posters to display and leaflets and "essential info" cards designed to be given away for individual use. I urge anyone organising and facilitating outdoor permaculture events to send off for these packs to generate increased awareness of Lyme disease for people attending their projects and events.

<https://www.ktshepherdpermaculture.com/blog>

27. PANNA and PANUK were at the Montevideo gathering with PAN colleagues from around the world to pressure international bodies for global action about hazardous pesticides. PAN Asia Pacific had a monitoring programme in seven Asian countries showing 70% of farmers suffering acute pesticide poisoning! PAN Germany showed their country regularly exports pesticides not allowed for use in Europe. The Argentine based PAN Latin America stating that agroecology is viable and scalable. PAN UK in Growing Green International has grave concerns that UK's existing institutions involved in governing pesticides are woefully unprepared to take on the role from the EU, and further that there is real undermining in trade deals especially the USA's history of attempting to lower other countries' standards - USA has 3x the number of active substances authorised than the UK. There is the opportunity to raise standards with quantitative targets for reducing pesticides and look to alternatives like agroecology and integrated pest management.

28. Farming Today has had a number of climate related pieces - upland reforestation, woodland grazing, sustainable closed loop farms using self-produced waste as energy sources. There are positives as well as the debate engendered by Extinction Rebellion and the young Swedish school strike founder: engaging with politicians; Mark Carney at the Bank of England stating business and finance must take heed; Legal and General dis-investing from fossil fuels. So interesting to see what comes of it but it moves in the right way. David Attenborough is catching up giving the facts of climate change in this the Anthropocene era.

29. Not strictly 'SEEOG', perhaps, but it's an environment in which we find ourselves working for our aims. A way of understanding what's going on, maybe? Wealth distribution and land ownership show greater class divisions in the world. Elon Musk has allowed Tesla to enable Fiat to offset their vehicle pollution. TEDxSilicon Valley was awakened by Carole Cadwalladr, the Observer writer, stating that tech has broken democracy with interferences with national

elections, Brexit, let alone the financial illegalities of Leave campaigns. Really illustrates John Berger's contention that Ethicide prevails within the corporate world and plutocracy. That needs to change.

30. Saturday 22 June: Cressing Temple Barns, a green festival, to which Ron has been invited to give a talk on organic gardens, to be confirmed.

<https://thefriendsofcressingtemplegardens.wordpress.com/>

With grateful thanks to Jane, Simon, Darren, Ron and Terry

Pesticide Action Network UK: PAN UK and other environmental groups resign from government and industry pesticide bodies

On 19 April PAN UK announced their formal resignation from the Pesticides Forum and Voluntary Initiative. These bodies were formed by government and industry to reduce environmental harms from pesticides. However, in the two decades since they were created, the area of land in the UK treated with pesticides has risen by more than half and populations of wildlife (including birds, butterflies and bees) are suffering alarming declines.

Meanwhile the Pesticides Forum and Voluntary Initiative continue to defend the status quo, which is why, after much careful consideration, PAN UK has decided to resign their membership of both bodies. They have resigned alongside RSPB and Wildlife and Countryside Link – England's largest environment coalition representing 50 organisations which together garner the support of eight million people. As the last remaining civil society members, PAN are issuing a joint call for the Pesticides Forum and Voluntary Initiative to be replaced with mandatory measures aimed at discouraging pesticide use and supporting UK farmers to transition to non-chemical alternatives.

You can read this item in full at <http://www.pan-uk.org/resignation/>

Pesticide Action Network North America: 35 Years: Powerful partnerships for food & farm justice

In 1982, the lustre of the "Green Revolution" was beginning to fade. The promised increases in yields from "miracle" hybrid grains that required high inputs of water, chemical fertilisers and pesticides had failed to appear. The global pesticide trade, however, was thriving — yielding dramatic profits for chemical corporations as farmers were lured onto a dangerous pesticide treadmill. That was the world when PAN International was founded as a global network, at a meeting of activists from around the world in Penang, Malaysia. You can read the full story at <http://www.panna.org/blog/35-years-powerful-partnerships-food-farm-justice>

SEEOG library

Any book may be borrowed by members at a cost of 20p per book for each 2-month period. We would very much like to hear from anyone who could take out a few of the books from the cupboard and set them out on Group Night. Our Library needs to be used more!

Soil Association news: Food for Life Get Togethers

Food for Life has secured £5.1 million from the National Lottery Community Fund to deliver a new nationwide programme. 'Food for Life Get Togethers' will use good food to connect people of all ages through growing, cooking and eating together.

<https://www.soilassociation.org/news/2019/april/24/5-million-awarded-to-the-soil-association-s-food-for-life-programme-to-transform-our-food-culture/>

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