



SOUTH EAST ESSEX ORGANIC GARDENERS



Soil Association

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NEWSLETTER NO: 148 – NOVEMBER 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 2020 are as follows:

January	-	Sunday 15 December
March	-	Saturday 22 February
May	-	Thursday 23 April
July	-	Tuesday 23 June
September	-	Sunday 23 August
November	-	Saturday 24 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.

Please also note that the time of our March meeting may start earlier, at 19:00.

SEEEOG GROUP NIGHTS/EVENTS/VISITS 2019/2020

Monday 18 November: Group Night

SEEEOG member Kamil Pachalko presents: 'Growing Community - the soil and soul story of the Southend in Transition Community Allotment'. They're using one of the allotment plots at Southend East Allotment Society site to create a community plot where local residents can come occasionally or regularly to learn new growing skills; interact with each other and nature; save some money by taking some organic produce home and then maybe start growing at home or take on their own plot when they have the confidence.

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

Saturday 7th December 2019, 11:00 – 16:00: SEE OG stall at The Essex Field Club's Exhibition and Social Meeting

Put the date in your diary now! This event is apparently one of the highlights of the natural history year in Essex and we have been invited to take an exhibit, which will be along the lines of what we took along to Writtle this year. Come along and see us, help us, even? The venue will be in the Carstairs Room at the Green Centre, at Wat Tyler Country Park, Pitsea Hall Lane, Pitsea, SS16 4UH.

OTHER FORTHCOMING EVENTS 2019

Saturday 30 November, 11:00 – 14:00: Annual Christmas Fayre at Growing Together Westcliff
You are invited to join them for music, carols, mince pies and festive treats. You can even visit Santa in his grotto and enjoy children's activities, a craft stall, seasonal plants, raffle and so much more!!

Monday 20 January: Group Night

Darren Lerigo presents: **'A Very British Garden'** and will explore the subjects of pruning, carbon capture, weed control, planting, food growing and the effect of gardening on the British landscape.

<https://modernmint.co.uk/british-garden-new-garden-talk-2019/>

Saturday 8 February, 10:00 – 14:00: Potato Day

This event is organised and run entirely by volunteers from both SEE OG and Trust Links. We have currently ordered over 40 varieties of seed potato (some organic), to be sold individually at 20p per tuber (one free tuber for every five bought). There will also be some onion sets for sale.

Monday 16 March: Group Night

Orchards East is an environmental and cultural project covering six counties in the East of England - Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. Funded by the Heritage Fund and based in the School of History at the University of East Anglia, it is devoted to discovering and understanding the past, present and future for orchards in the region. Join Project Manager Howard Jones for a talk all about the project's discoveries and learn about the history and biodiversity of our East Anglian orchards. **Please note that the time of Howard's talk may start earlier, at 19:00.**

Monday 18 May: Group Night

Talk/demo on the vertical salad and herb growing system presented by Patrick Curran, Local Intensive Food Enterprise (LIFE) - www.lifegrow.co.uk

- Their FOODY enables vigorous growth in a small area and uses 90% less water than conventional growing systems
- Grows up to 38 highly nutritious plants in ideal conditions
- Indoors or outdoors - grow 12 months a year
- Occupies less than 2sq ft (0.2sq meters)
- Uses all of the water & nutrient held in the system to promote better growth

Monday 20 July: Group Night

'Poverty, Food Waste and the Redistribution of Surplus Food presented by FareShare'

Monday 21 September: Group Night

Colin Darling will present on behalf of the national charity Practical Action, <https://practicalaction.org/>

Monday 16 November: Group Night

'A year in the life of a flower farmer: How to sow, grow, cut and condition flowers for market' is presented by Amanda Powell. 'Flowers from the Farm' is a multi-award-winning, not-for-profit, co-operative of British cut flower growers.

<https://www.flowersfromthefarm.co.uk/members/flower-farmer>

NEWS

Allotment news: Folly Grove site, Hockley

The changes approved at the previous committee meeting have been implemented into the lease; further queries have been raised which have been dealt with by the Clerk. The lease has been referred back to Persimmons. Members of the Environment and Open Spaces Committee will meet again on Monday 4 November at 19:30 in the Parish Hall, 58 Southend Road, Hockley SS5 4QH. Full agenda details are at <http://www.hockley-essex.gov.uk/home/>

Chairman's notes

1. SEEOG's September talk - Darren Lerigo hosting a discussion about a No Dig approach to growing.

Darren has been to see Charles Dowding's commercial garden and seen the method in practice; Charles has been the most recently publicised proponent of this approach. Others include Fukuoka - "one straw revolution"; and Bonfils and Hazelip with "self-fertilising gardens", together with others around the permaculture arena, along with the conclusions drawn from the work with soils showing the living earth at the microscopic level illustrated in books like "Teeming with Microbes" - Lowenfels and Lewis.

The discussion looked at the impacts of disturbing the topsoil at the most extreme with double digging; the destruction of soil life in all its forms by the continued use of pesticides, herbicides and fungicides. Beyond this, we talked of mulching as soil covering to plant or sow into, whether this be "lasagna beds" - layers using cardboard to stop light and "weed" growth as a layer with compost topping, this being holed to plant into. Nick Bali spoke of his experiences and successes. Further to this, exploring the idea of living mulches to ensure the tilth is retained by not cleaning until that area is needed, using green manures most comprehensively developed by the commercial work found with the Vegan Organic Growers - Tolhurst and Hall's 'Growing Green: Organic Techniques for a Sustainable Future'. Fertility from decomposition just forms on the surface (leaf fall and detritus) and seems to work in the same way that nature does in forests and other ecologies. Place a layer of compost on top (6 inches!) says Charles Dowding, so the idea of a closed loop beloved by some as an ideal needs a lot of working on, or importing to your plot, but mitigated by selectively using what you have and growing it via green manures and comfrey as a dynamic accumulator.

We also allied this with the ideas from Henck Gerritsen's 'Essay on Gardening'. Here we find you can garden "like an elephant" whereby one is working against nature almost entirely, which necessitates chemical assistance to the destruction of fungi and bacteria networks by disturbance to exposing soil to light for "weed" seed growth, evaporation etc. To garden "like a cow" - that is to intercede selectively and choosing that which you do not want as opposed to clearing all irrespective of the impacts of an annual or perennial upon your ground. There was discussion and exchange of experiences, and doubt too, but the very full meeting went away thinking and for some gardening differently in future. Thanks to Darren and all attending for making this an informing meeting. Darren has written to say that trees will be planted from the talk on the following Monday at Trees or Life – he says thanks for the generous donation! <https://treesforlife.org.uk/groves/modern-mint/>

If anyone wants free delivery from Modern Mint until the end of December, they can just put seeog19 into the apply code section at checkout and click free delivery to save money. They sell the copper tools that are used by Charles Dowding on his No-Dig vegetable plot. Darren recommends any of his books but this should get you started on the No-Dig Method: <https://amzn.to/2V4ABY3>

2. A reminder of the work day at Westborough School on Saturday 16 November, 09:30 – 12:30

This is a SEEOG work morning helping to restore parts of their "maze garden". Tasks for the day:

- move and replant apple tree
- prune back a fig tree
- replant strawberries

- move some sleepers to change beds
- thin bamboos

If coming, the entrance in Gainsborough Road will be open for parking; drinks supplied; bring tools and gloves etc. Hopefully see you there?

<https://www.thewestboroughschool.co.uk/contact-us>

3. Heard (today) on 21 October, Radio 4 (Farming Today)

Herbicide resistance is so prevalent in conventional farming - other ways are needed and are being developed and used, as if there are not organic growers out there! There was also the acceptance that slightly lower yields are also needed to enable more environmental ways becoming the norm. That air pollution is so bad in the UK, especially London and Birmingham, that heart attacks and asthma sufferers are critically at risk; it's well beyond legal limits and killing the vulnerable. We in the South East are very exposed; indeed, Southend was said to have gone up a level of higher air pollution, well over the legal limits. This affects all life. So keep on pressuring for environmental change and higher standards. NO compromises, beware of opportunities to evade or deny.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m0009jgk>

4. Apple Day

On Saturday 5 October Trust Links celebrated their ninth annual Apple Day, with over 300 guests joining at St Laurence Orchard. They've been managing the orchard, on behalf of Southend Borough Council, since 2005 and they were thrilled to have been awarded a 25-year lease on the orchard and the adjacent land, too. The lease was presented at Apple Day by the Mayor and Mayoress of Southend.

The event was supported by the South East Essex Conservation Volunteers, who work hard to develop areas of the orchard during the year, and the SEEORG crew who were on hand to display, chop and juice the apples for families to enjoy. The Southend Dormouse Group came along to educate guests about the conservation work taking place in and around Southend to protect the Hazel Dormouse, an endangered species that is native to England and Wales. The Red Hot Stitchers, a weekly craft group, which meets at Sew Creative studios, prepared over 60 bags made from old curtains and bedding for the event, contributing £200 to the total raised. The whole event raised almost £1,000 to help with their ongoing work.

They're already planning centenary celebrations for the orchard for next year. They're also thrilled to have secured planning permission for an outdoor classroom, storage and composting toilets, too. If you would like to support Trust Links, as they develop this historic site, you can text APPLE to 70085 to donate £3 or contact them on 01702 213134 for more information.

Here is a folder of all of their Apple Day photos from this year!

https://www.facebook.com/pg/TrustLinksLtd/photos/?tab=album&album_id=2553522204725578&ref=page_internal

5. Wednesday 9 October: Leigh Town Council's monthly social club

We took an apple display showing various varieties, a display of invertebrate photos from MDAS allotments and talked about the living soil and the microscopic flora and fauna therein, showing root systems, the effects of any use of pesticides upon soil life being destructive and about the work of SEEORG. There were about 6/7 people attending, seemingly finding it "fascinating". Sharon, Vic, Carole and Ane supported this social meeting.

6. National Tree Week: 23 November - 1 December

It's mass tree planting day next month so look out for local initiatives from The Tree Council.

<https://www.treecouncil.org.uk/Take-Part/Near-You>

7. The recent "study" from Cranfield University stating that organic farming 100% would reduce emissions with reduced yields, which means more imports if people continue consuming as they are, would in reality export our emissions to the producers abroad! This does need

accounting for anyhow, BUT they have not considered the role of dietary change in their study. <https://www.cranfield.ac.uk/press/news-2019/organic-farming-could-increase-greenhouse-gas-emissions>

Crapes Fruit Farm: It's time for Medlars!

These used to be the last fruit to be picked here, early in November, reflecting the wait for some frost on them first. Not so, these days, with a 'white' frost early in October (6th), and another, this morning (28th). Medlars blossom just after the apples have finished blooming. This season that stood them in good stead as rain late in May will have helped the young fruitlets off to a good start. Prior to flowering, the unopened buds are well encased within protective layers, protecting well from the earlier frosts. Medlars are now available, unbletted, here at the farm and they can be sent anywhere within the UK. Please note that there are no apples left to be ordered and only a handful of low grade fruits left in our shed. October has also been a usefully wet month!

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

'Every drop counts'

Water is a precious resource and, if we can reduce the amount we waste, it will help to protect the environment and meet the needs of future generations. Gardening is a popular pastime and the garden itself is a great place to enjoy the outdoors. At Essex & Suffolk Water, they understand this and recognise that water is needed to keep gardens looking their best. There are lots of things that we can do to help use water wisely while gardening, from choosing the right plants to knowing when to water. Adding a water butt to your garden is one of the easiest ways to be more water efficient. It saves you tapping into your home supply and rain water is better for your plants. There are a range of water saving products, including discounted water butts and items for the garden on their website. Visit www.eswater.co.uk/savewater to order your water saving kit, including a trigger hose gun and water sticks to show when your plants need watering. With thanks to Patricia Turner, whom we met at Leigh Town Council's monthly social club.

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 15 November and Friday 21 December.

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

Friends of Ryton Organic Gardens

In their press statement (13 September), they state they're glad that Coventry University has taken on the site with its Asset of Community Value protection. A garden open to the public offers a respite from the busy world outside the gardens - a place where people can relax and reflect in peaceful surroundings. At Ryton, people can also learn about the value of organic gardening in this time of climate change and uncertainty. Gardens are vital in protecting the diversity of our wildlife as well as providing food for human beings. They are planning to meet with GO, and hopefully with a University representative, to work out what the sale means in practice and to find out how Friends of Ryton Organic Gardens can continue to support a garden which, as well as having great educational value, also houses the ashes of peoples' loved ones.

Garden Organic news: Ryton Organic Gardens

As we mentioned above, Garden Organic has recently completed the sale of its Ryton Gardens site to their key tenant and long-term partner, Coventry University. As part of this change, Garden Organic will be leasing an area of the current gardens to develop into a new, smaller, organic garden, demonstrating the principles of organic gardening in a way that can easily be replicated within a domestic or community setting. The new demonstration garden will be open to members and the public on open days throughout the year, with tours and seasonal advice available to visitors. Entry on open days will continue to be provided to members free of charge. Garden Organic will continue to hold courses at Ryton, whilst also aiming to increase

the number of courses available elsewhere across the country. You can find out more about their membership options here, including the Heritage Seed Library.
<https://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/join-us>

The current gardens are now closed to the public, allowing for the re-design of the new garden. They plan to open the new garden in spring 2020 and will share progress throughout the development. For further information on this change, please read their full statement at <https://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/news/sale-ryton-gardens-coventry-university>

GM news: GMO Myths and Truths (4th edition) includes new chapter on gene editing

The book 'GMO Myths and Truths: A Citizen's Guide to the Evidence on the Safety and Efficacy of Genetically Modified Crops and Foods' is now in its 4th edition. Available from Amazon and Chelsea Green Publishing, the 4th edition contains a whole new chapter on gene editing. The book is co-authored by Claire Robinson, who is also the managing editor of GMWatch, and two genetic engineers: Michael Antoniou PhD, of King's College London; and John Fagan PhD, who pioneered GMO testing methods and is the recent co-founder of Health Research Institute Laboratories.

<https://www.gmwatch.org/en/news/latest-news/19169>

Lauriston Farm news: Embrace a little hygge at their Sock Knitting Workshop, 30 November 2019

With the evenings drawing in and the temperatures dropping, it's time to turn our attention inwards and embrace a little hygge at their sock knitting workshop on Saturday 30 November between 4 and 6 pm. The workshop is very kindly being run by Maike Windhorst, a member, and ties in with November's month long celebration of wool. To book your place simply email socialfarming@lauristonfarm.co.uk or call 01621 788348.

Members' contributions

1. Heritage Malta offer of community garden to the public in Rabat

Heritage Malta has recently received requests from members of the public interested in using parcels of land in the Community Garden at Dawret id-Dejr, Rabat, Malta, on a tolerance basis. This garden is situated above the Abbatija tad-Dejr Catacombs and therefore the use of this land will need to follow a set of rules listed in an agreement that will be signed by both the interested party and the national agency. <https://www.maltachamber.org.mt/en/heritage-malta-offers-a-community-garden-to-the-public-in-rabat>

2. Wednesday 27 November, 18:30 – 21:00, Gateway Building, Elmer Approach, Southend on Sea SS1 1LW: Climate change is a social justice issue for social workers, nurses and the caring professions

You can register for this free event at:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-caring-professions-and-climate-change-messages-from-xr-tickets-79320895935?utm-medium=discovery&utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&aff=esfb&utm-source=fb&utm-term=listing&fbclid=IwAR0KBZJjVynnrLSjC0bOQQIhdChOfJP49HjfkYH6zI5s-V9KMiWBvISsgvw>

3. The Landworkers' Alliance is a union of farmers, growers, foresters and land-based workers with a mission to improve the livelihoods of their members and create a better food and land-use system for everyone.

<https://landworkersalliance.org.uk/>

4. The University of East Anglia to lead £5 million programme to study benefits of a plant-based diet.

<https://healthylifeessex.co.uk/2019/10/pioneering-plant-based-diet-research-programme/>

With grateful thanks to Simon, Stephen, Jane and Ron for their very welcome contributions this month.

Pesticide Action Network UK news

PAN workshop 'Local Campaigning for Healthy Towns and Cities: stopping the use of pesticides'... Part 1

It was Jane who so kindly volunteered to attend this event for us. She said it was a campaign tactics day, so was discussion heavy, which made note taking difficult. As an introduction: 'Every year, thousands of litres of pesticides are used on our pavements, road verges, school grounds, parks and other places where we live, work and play. This day is a chance to come together to discuss how to end the use of pesticides in our towns and cities, through local community campaigning and activism'.

As well at PAN staff, there were three speakers, talking about issues from their differing perspectives: Cllr Caroline Russell – Green Party Member of the London Assembly since May 2016, Leader of the Green Group; chairs the Assembly's Environment Committee and is a member of both the Economy and Transport Committees. This summer, she passed a motion calling on the Mayor to cease the use of the herbicide on Greater London Authority (GLA) land and the Transport for London (TfL) estate.

Caroline thought it would be easy to convince fellow councillors on her Highbury East council to ban pesticides, but was shocked when the vote was unanimously against. Caroline rethought her campaign tactics when she presented the motion at the London Assembly and found success by asking for a 'cease of the spraying' rather than a more extreme request of an outright ban. The motion was eventually passed. Caroline is very confident that the outright ban motion on all pesticides/herbicides/fungicides will be voted in soon at the London Assembly, and that will encourage a similar ban in her local council.

PAN campaign workshop...Part 2

The second speaker was Councillor Jon Burke: With a background as a civil and structural engineer, parliamentary reporter, policy specialist, and research manager at the London Assembly, Jon first became a local councillor in Hackney in May 2014. Joining Mayor Glanville's first cabinet in September 2016, Jon is the lead member for Energy, Waste, Transport and Public Realm and, in addition, is responsible for responding to the climate change emergency, environmental sustainability, and strategic and local transport. Jon gave direct advice on campaigning:-

***Hackney council have banned the use of pesticides for 'biodiversity' reasons, which are much easier to prove than the danger to public health. (Protecting bees and wildlife is a more prominent and popular cause to support). Sometimes getting the motion through is more important than your own personal reasons/considerations. Make it as easy as possible for councillors to pass the motion.**

'Daubeney Fields Forever' initiative in Hackney, inspired by the 10times greener program from Friends of the Earth: <https://www.facebook.com/daubeneyfieldsforever/>

PAN campaign workshop....Part 3

Discussion centred around a document created by Frensham (Surrey) Parish Council entitled 'Policy on the use of chemical pesticides on Council land' last reviewed in July 2018. 'It is the policy of Frensham Parish Council to eliminate the use of chemical weed-killers and pesticides in the management of all public spaces for which the Council is responsible.'

PAN campaign workshop....Part 4

The previous document is courtesy of the **third speaker, Fiona Scimone Paterson:** Artist, forest school leader, former parish councillor who recently led a successful campaign to ban the use of pesticides on parish council land in Frensham. Now she is working on trying to persuade the borough council to work towards a similar ban, delivering a petition (dressed as a weird looking bee...). Fiona became an 'accidental' campaigner/activist, by 'clicking on something' on Change.org when she was very tired, one night before going to sleep. The next day, after receiving many unusual emails, she realised she hadn't agreed to support a local ban on the use of pesticides, but had agreed to run the local campaign! At this point she hadn't heard of

Glyphosate, let alone what it was. Fiona gave out copies of the Frensham Parish Council: 'Policy on the use of chemical pesticides on council land' to use as a template for campaign motions.

PAN campaign workshop... Part 5

Fiona Scimone Paterson continued:-

Fiona's campaign advice was very different to that of the councillors, very much from heart and soul. When she first began campaigning, she felt vulnerable and out of her depth. Fiona had no knowledge of pesticides at all; it was all new to her. When she found out her local area was regularly sprayed with toxic chemicals, she was horrified. When did they spray? Where did they spray? Why didn't the local public know about it?

Fiona found out that on Forestry Commission land (including SSSI heathland) toxins were being used to kill saplings, to maintain heathland. When spraying was done, the Forestry Commission had to put notices out to say 'Do not eat berries' etc. Fiona was horrified that she and her children may have picked berries that had been contaminated by wind-blown council spraying of weeds nearby, but the council didn't have to put up a sign to inform the public of the spraying.

Fiona realised her main obstacle to banning pesticides would be the parish council's sports committee. Fiona told us, hoping not to offend anyone that the parish sports group was made up of 'white males over 70 years old' who were irritated that this young woman was bothering them with something tedious and disagreeable. How on earth could she persuade them not to use weed killers on their precious, pristine bowls and cricket pitches?

Fiona asked them if they took their dogs to the local parks, and if they went on picnics with their grandchildren in the local parks. They all said that they did. Fiona then asked if they knew that toxic weed killers were being used and that you can't tell when and where they've been used, as no signs are put out to warn you, and the sprayed plants show no sign of having been sprayed until days, even weeks, later. The committee were very concerned about this, and one member spoke up to tell the story of a golfing friend of his: one particular day, playing golf at the local club, at an important make-or-break part of the game, his friend picked up his golf ball and kissed it for good luck. A few weeks later, the man was in hospital with a very serious condition, (I can't remember what, but it was very nasty) which the man felt was as a direct result of kissing that ball. It was surmised that weed killer had been used recently before they'd been playing golf there. This wasn't investigated, but had made an impact on the opinions of those involved.

Fiona tackled the issue the only way she knows how, from a human/family aspect and from a love of nature, and her neighbourhood. Her advice for campaigning is:-

- ***Know your story, why you're doing this.***
- ***Talk to local people as much as possible, update them.***
- ***Make a petition and ask local people to sign it. Stand outside the local supermarket to engage people.***
- ***Use the Power of Praise with decision makers.***
- ***Find out/encourage their stories, the stories of the decision-makers, how might pesticides affect their nearest and dearest or hobbies?***
- ***'It's not what you lose, but what you gain that is important' – it's a more positive way to campaign.***

PAN campaign workshop....Part 6

Fiona urges everyone to read 'Wilding: The Return of Nature to a British Farm' by Isabella Tree <https://www.isabellatree.com/>

Fiona also gave readings of these two poems:

The Peace of Wild Things by Wendell Berry - <https://vimeo.com/74755473>

Sleeping In The Forest by Mary Oliver - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X-iiCbS4DXE>

PAN campaign workshop...Part 7

Josie Cohen, from PAN, led the discussion using the PowerPoint presentation (on our website). Jane said she didn't make many notes on this, as it was very much based on group discussion.

PAN campaign workshop...Part 8

Most of Nick Mole's comments and advice is in the 'Going Pesticide Free. A short guide to ending pesticides in your town or city' leaflet, which you can download from <https://www.pan-uk.org/campaigners-get-informed/> Here are the comments and advice from Nick Mole at the workshop:- When campaigning, work with trade unions – they will want to protect their members. Contact your Branch Secretary at The GMB (General, Municipal, Boilermakers) – a trade union with lots of council workers signed up, who may be using the sprays; they need to know the impact of what they're doing.
<https://www.gmb.org.uk/gmb-regions>

Quote the towns and cities in the UK and Europe, including EVERY TOWN AND CITY IN FRANCE AND BELGIUM that has already gone pesticide-free. With particular emphasis on those that have done this for many years, such as Ghent, and the alternatives used. Give councils the many alternatives to pesticides, encourage a different attitude, include how it will save councils money. Encourage councils to use the 'precautionary principle' to stop the use of pesticides. Full video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AoE1ZVlu7Fw>
Councils have been asking PAN for advice on how to become pesticide-free, so mention that PAN is more than happy to assist. Remember, this is not a party political issue; ask all the candidates to support the campaign, not just those you might vote for. Find your allies – pre-election promises, keep at it.

Speak to council officers for green spaces. Scrutiny structure at councils, contact chair to have discussion re pesticides (Jane's comment I've found this on Wikipedia: 'Scrutiny committees are assisted by council employees (officers), often called "scrutiny officers". These officers are generally tasked with providing policy and research support to councillors). Is it Public Health or Biodiversity? Find the best, most relevant department to contact at the council; find what motivates them.

Nick is part of the National Pollinator Strategy (NPS) which was launched in November 2014. It is a statement of collaborative action and cooperation between Government and other organisations to protect the future of pollinators. This is a good resource to quote to councils.

In my own research, I came across an interesting site, Pesticide-Free Towns, particularly the section on Methods and Techniques (for becoming pesticide-free).
<https://www.pan-uk.org/pesticide-free/>

And that's pretty much it! I hope it's been useful. I'm aware that lots of information in one go is difficult to digest, and can easily put people off. PAN's 'Going Pesticide Free. A short guide to ending pesticides in your town or city' leaflet is probably the best tool to equip people to campaign.
<https://www.pan-uk.org/campaigners-get-informed/>

Pesticide Action Network North America: Corteva fed fungicide to dogs — but that's not all

Back in March, an undercover investigation by the Humane Society of the United States revealed that Corteva Agriscience had been force-feeding agricultural chemicals to three dozen beagles in a year-long study on a fungicide's toxicity. The beagles were slated for euthanasia at the completion of the study, after suffering for months. The dogs were kept in stainless steel cages and were force-fed the fungicide, Adavelt, up to four times daily. Corteva's response to the release of the Humane Society's investigation, and the disturbing images and videos that came with it, was swift. The corporation noted it would stop the study and "make every effort to re-home the animals." It's unsurprising that Corteva was so quick to try to distance itself from these abhorrent animal-testing practices — after all, they'd just spent a great amount of time, effort and, no doubt, money on rebranding . . . because Corteva is the agricultural division of DowDuPont.
<http://www.panna.org/blog/corteva-fed-fungicide-dogs>

Soil Association news: FABulous Farmers is a European project designed to support farmers in the transition to more agro-ecological practices on their farms

5 - 6 November: National Trust led farm tour in the East of England. This is a great opportunity to see what the following farmers are doing on their farms:

1. The Barker Brothers – AHDB Strategic Farm and LEAD demonstration farm aiming for ‘high yields and top wildlife conservation’
2. David White – Co-founder of RTK Farming Ltd. No-till farmer, focusing on the three pillars of conservation agriculture: minimum soil disturbance, residue cover on the soil and rotations
3. Simon Cowell – Essex arable farmer using homemade compost, rotations and variety trials to reduce artificial fertiliser requirement
4. George Young – Agro-ecological farmer trialling diversified cropping to add value in rotations

To find out more, please contact Callum.Weir@nationaltrust.org.uk
<https://www.nweurope.eu/projects/project-search/fabulous-farmers/>

‘The Last Song of the Nightingale’ teaser now live!

We’ve been sent a teaser of ‘The Last Song of the Nightingale’, which is now live on their website: <https://sunbitternmedia.com/the-teaser>

DOP Luke Massey will be off to the Gambia at the beginning of November for their final shoot, and shortly after that they are planning to have Animator Will Rose come and stay with them in Spain to finalise animations for the documentary. The intention is to have a first edit of the documentary completed by February. Looking ahead, they’re planning for the documentary to go on tour end of spring/beginning of summer 2020, and so if anyone is interested in being a part of this then please do get in touch to register your interest.

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