

LOG

August 2011

Welcome to the LOG Newsletter, August 2011. This issue is to give notification of the AGM on September 9th .

We have the Hall booked for the meetings from September 2011 until April 2012, and details of the programme are inside. We hope to see you at Knight-on Parish Centre, Brinsmead Road, Leicester, starting from 7.30pm.

Situations Vacant

You may note a difference in the Newsletter. This is because we need a new Editor. If you would like to help us out and edit the Newsletter, then please contact a member of the committee. Thanks.

LOG Book Review - July 2011

Monty and Sarah Don The Jewel Garden Hodder and Stoughton 2005 paperback

I didn't want a gardening book but a biography. Well this isn't all gardening by any means and I enjoyed it so much I am about to buy it! The subtitle 'A Story of Despair and Redemption' is just right. In Monty's light, entertaining style, he tells how they set up a booming jewellery business in London in the 1980s and then it went bust and they had to go bankrupt. So they started again and found that gardening really is the love of his life, next to Sarah and their children. They refer to their financial struggles, the new derelict house in the country, his patches of depression, his television work and how they made it all work. So now you see where the inspiration for their Jewel Garden came from. In the second part of the book he describes 10 years of work in their decorative and edible garden and yes, it does develop into a book on gardening but I couldn't put it down and I want to use his suggestions for beautiful plants in my large garden. And it has some inspiring, mostly colour photographs too. What more could I ask?

Alison Coates, July 2011

WINTER PROGRAMME

September 9th

AGM and talk on Bhutan by Bob Haskins

October 14th

Wholefood Supper

November 11th

“Attracting birds to your garden”.

A talk by Mick Freakley

December 9th

Tudor Herbs

A talk by Lettys Parkin

2012

January 13th

Windmills and watermills

A talk by Susan Tebby from Ullesthorpe Windmill

February 10th

“Feed the Spoil and the Soil will feed you”.

A sheme for small scale gardening in Africa by Wendy Martin

March 9th

Our home produced event by group members.

A possible theme id perennial edible gardening

April 13th

A talk by a representative of the Leicester Wildlife Hospital.

There is a small meeting fees for guests. We may ask for a contribution from members where we have speaker.

SUMMER PROGRAMME (Review)

Saturday May 14th

HDRA/Garden Organic AGM and Conference at Ryton Gardens. This was a very interesting day for both members and supporters and a chance to take a look round the gardens when they were looking at their best..

Saturday May 21st

Visit to Barnsdale, near Oakham.

It is a few years since we last visited this interesting collection of small gardens which were created by the late Geoffrey Hamilton for the BBC Gardeners' World programme. There have been a number of additions recently and the gardens looked fantastic on this afternoon when the weather was lovely.

Saturday June 18th

Return visit to Brentingby Meadows with Julia Hawley.

This will be the alternative walk, along the river bank, which is an SSSI. Julia was very informative and knowledgeable. She talked about the flood alleviation scheme for Melton which affects the site and showed us the flowers and wildlife along the banks of this small river. It rained heavily once but most of the afternoon was dry and pleasant.

Friday July 8th

A walk from the main entrance to Cossington meadows nature reserve. After a day of sunshine and heavy showers 12 members met at Cossington Meadows for our annual summer walk. We enjoyed a pleasant walk of around 3 miles round this nature reserve created after gravel extraction and now owned by Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust.

The reserve did not disappoint and we had frequent stops to observe the many species of birds together with wild flowers and abundant hedgerows. Our return was alongside the River Soar to conclude a lovely walk.

I think everyone enjoyed the walk especially our youngest member who provided an invaluable service opening and closing the gates en route.

Saturday August 6th

Visit to Bob and Yvonne Haskins in Long Whatton, and Manor Organic Farm (including shop).

Although it rained in the morning as we put the gazebo up, the afternoon was fine. We took a walk around the back of our house through the ridge and furrow field "Paradise" and then on to the Manor Farm armyard and shop. This was followed by tea and cake back at Piper Drive and a look round our garden.

Deep-rooted solution to planet's problems

Breeding crops with deeper and bushier roots could make a big contribution to the battle against global warming, as such roots would absorb more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, according to research by one of Britain's leading biologists.

Douglas Kell, of Manchester University, argues in the journal *Annals of Biology* that a root-oriented breeding strategy would not only benefit the atmosphere by locking more carbon biomass underground, but also improve soil structure and make crops more drought-resistant.

Kell, who runs the UK Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, has devised a carbon calculator to show the benefits of crops that burrow more deeply into the soil. Breeding crops that cover the present agricultural area of the world but have roots that go two metres - rather than one metre - deep could capture twice as much carbon from the environment.

"What matters is not so much what is happening now, as what might be achieved with suitable breeding of plants with deep and reasonably long-lived roots," he says.

"Many such plants exist, but have not been bred for agriculture.

"In addition to the simple carbon sequestration that this breeding could imply, such plants seem to mobilise and retain nutrients and water very effectively over extended periods, thus providing resistance to drought, flooding and other challenges we shall face from climate change," Kell concludes.

Submitted by Tony Clarke, from FT Weekend Magazine, August 13/14 2011

Four Colour Tart - A Seasonal Tudor Treat

Pastry

Selection of 4 fruits eg raspberries, currants, gooseberries, plums

This is probably best made when the fruit is fresh but the Tudors didn't have the advantage of deep-freezes although they did preserve fruit.

Make a pastry case and then add pastry walls to divide it into 4 quarters.

Bake it blind.

The firmer fruits may need light cooking. Add one fruit to each quarter and serve with cream.

Alison Coates, July 2011

**Leicestershire Organic Group is a joint local group of
The Soil Association and Henry Doubleday Research Association
(Garden Organic)**

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