

LOG

December 2012

Welcome to the LOG Newsletter for December 2012.

Annual Seed Order

Every Year we place a group seed order with Chase Organics. Members of Garden Organic will have received a catalogue, but we will have some available at the December Group Night.

Choose your order over Christmas and bring it to the January Meeting. Your seeds will be ordered and available at the February Meeting.

**We aim to give you a saving of at least 25% on catalogue price
(but may depend on total order size)**

Our programme for 2012/13 got under way in September with the AGM followed by a talk and practical session on braiding with Alison Coates. It was nice to do something practical, and there were some interesting results.

We held our Wholefood Supper in October. Although with smaller numbers than usual, it was an exceedingly pleasant evening with excellent wholesome food and good company.

In November, Chris Hill from the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust gave a very fascinating talk on the Cossington Meadows. We hope that we may be able to follow this up with a guided visit in the Summer.

The programme for the calendar year is completed on December 9th with a talk by Rutland Willows on the growing, harvesting, preparation and weaving of willow.

WINTER PROGRAMME

2013

Friday January 11th

Birds of Prey
David Carter

Friday February 8th

An Agricultural Project in Northern Ghana
Julia Leimkugel

Friday March 8th

Home produced evening by ourselves
Foraging for food

Friday April 12th

Container Growing
Arthur Needham and Leon Marvell (LOG)

SUMMER PROGRAMME 2013

We are currently putting together the 2013 Summer Programme for meetings between May and August.

It will be the usual mix of events, hopefully a visit to Cossington Meadows, a return visit to Rectory farm at Great Easton, the walk from Houghton-on-the-Hill that was cancelled due to bad weather this summer and a visit to a member's garden.

If anyone has ideas, we would be pleased to hear them.

Growing Food in Schools Taskforce

In a previous newsletter I wrote about The Food for Life Partnership, a network of schools and communities across England committed to transforming food culture. Garden Organic, has since been chosen to lead the government-backed Food Growing in Schools Taskforce, involving 25 key organisations. This taskforce published a report in March, this year, proving for the first time the benefits of giving children a chance to grow their own food.

Myles Bremner, CEO of Garden Organic reports on an important event that happened on November 26th.

“We held our Taskforce event at Carshalton Boys Sports College yesterday with HRH Prince Charles and Jamie Oliver , celebrating the work of Garden Organic's involvement in the Food Growing in Schools Taskforce and the Food for Life Partnership.

The day went very well. In the morning, I chaired a Roundtable discussion with four schools presenting to the Department of Education, and other experts on the benefits of food education (including growing and cooking) - this was well received. Our Vice President Raymond Blanc was special guest at our Roundtable discussion - he really valued the day, and it really strengthened our relationship with him.

We then hosted Prince Charles and Jamie Oliver with a tour of the excellent Food for Life Partnership school, and then hosted a reception, where we had 60 influential people involved in school food, from MPs to business leaders, to other charities to funders (including several current and potential Garden Organic funders).

We made lots of current friends happy, brokered new relationships, and also raised our reputation enormously (I think). We have a lot to follow up on. Some immediate examples are:

- Jamie Oliver took the opportunity to speak with Tim Lang, the Garden Organic President.
- The BIG Lottery came back to us to say that they are interested in our proposal of CAPITAL SCHOOL (with the Greater London Authority, making every school in London a Food growing school).,
- Morrisons have said they were very impressed with our work.
- We met the Shadow Children's Minister (Sharon Hodgson) for the first time, who wants to come and see our work

Just some of the examples, but in a way the event is already a success”

FARM CAFES

We (Bob and Yvonne) have visited a couple of farm cafes recently which were very pleasant and wondered if other group members have favourites. Further details of both available through Google.

We have been to:

Oakley Grange Farm, near Hathern (on the road between Hathern and Shepshed). Open Thursday to Sunday.

Stonehurst Family Farm, Mountsorrel, at the Quorn end of the village and open 7 days a week. (We liked the transport museum).

We also hear that Manor Farm, Long Whatton is to open a tea room.

Group Web Site

We have now produced a simple web site at:

www.leicsorganicgroup.org.uk

This will contain latest information about the programme and our newsletters. Please take a look and if you have any suggestions then contact us below or email info@leicsorganicgroup.org.uk

The next Newsletter will be produced in April 2013. Articles can be sent to info@leicsorganicgroup.org.uk

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

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