

LOG

April 2015

Welcome to the LOG Newsletter for April 2015. This newsletter contains the programme of events for the summer.

The committee is already beginning to think about events for the Winter programme 2015/16. The Hall is booked and the dates can be found elsewhere in the Newsletter. Some evenings have been booked, but if you have any ideas for speakers then please let us know.

The Soil

A headline in The Guardian from an article by George Monbiot caught my eye recently. "We're treating soil like dirt. It's a fatal mistake, as our lives depend on it".

Looking after the soil and worries about soil erosion were some of the reasons for the formation of The Soil Association. The Guardian article says that the UN estimates that to keep up with global food demand, 15 million acres of new farmland will be needed every year, but twice that much is being lost through soil erosion every year. Yet soil is an almost magical substance, a living system that transforms the materials it encounters, making them available to plants.

2015 has been declared as the International Year of Soils, yet there seems to be little happening at Government levels to combat the soil erosion problem. If the soil is lost, then everything goes with it. Globalisation has ensured that this potential disaster is reproduced everywhere.

There are ways available of combating the problem, such as zero tillage (conservation agriculture) so that bare soil need not be seen again, and methods that come under the general banner of permaculture. The issue of soil erosion is one that requires more promotion and particularly more funding, but little if any of the money that our Government spends on agricultural research is channelled in this direction at this moment in time.

Both Garden Organic and The Soil Association have this week launched "Save Our Soil" Campaigns, more details at <http://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/save-our-soil> or www.soilassociation.org/soilmatters

SUMMER PROGRAMME

Saturday June 6th

Visit to Garden Organic Ryton Gardens

Meet outside the main building at 2pm. The Gardens are open until 4pm. At the weekend, entrance to the Gardens is via the Fusca Cafe. It is some years since we made a Group visit to Ryton, and there have been many changes since then. Admission for non members is £5.50

Address details: Garden Organic, Ryton Gardens, Wolston Lane, Coventry, Warwickshire, CV8 3LG

Friday July 17th

A walk in the Markfield area.

The walk will be led by Alison Coates, starting at 7pm. Meet near the entrance to the Field Head Hotel, at the start of Markfield Lane in the direction of Newtown Linford, just off the A50 Field Head roundabout.

Saturday August 15th

Stoneywell House, Ulverscroft.

This is a newly opened National Trust property, previously owned by the Gimson family (www.nationaltrust.org.uk/stoneywell/) We will try and book a visit on the date above when we find out who wishes to go. Please use the email address or phone numbers on the back page of the Newsletter to reserve a place before the end of April and we will contact you with details.

Garden Organic AGM and Members' Day

This takes place on Thursday May 14th 2015 at Sheepdrove Organic Farm, Lambourn, Berkshire, RG17 7UU. The AGM will be followed by a schedule of activities.

Activities will include tours of the farm, presentations on Horticultural Therapy and the Heritage Seed Library and a consultation on the future direction of Garden Organic.

2015/16 Meeting dates (at Knighton Parish Centre)

Friday 11th September

AGM and short talk

Friday 9th October

Wholefood Supper

Friday 13th November, Friday 11th December

2016

9th January, 13th February, 13th March, 10th April

Summer Plans

Do you have any plans for your garden, or gardening ideas for this summer? If so, let us know about them, and how you got on.

Is anybody growing any new vegetables or something unusual. If so, we'd really like to know. It is great to try something different, particularly if it comes by way of a recommendation.

Programme Review

For the January meeting, we showed the DVD "Voices of Transition". This is a DVD which is an exploration of socio-ecological change and presents a new vision of how our food system could be. Through examples of agroforestry in France, improving self sufficiency in Cuba by organic production methods, and the Transition Towns movement in the UK, it gives a positive view of how changes can mitigate against potential food disasters of the future.

The discussion we had after the DVD was interesting and it was a useful reminder of our aims as an organic group.

Organic Outlets in Leicestershire

At a recent committee meeting, we thought it would be a good idea to start a section of the newsletter about local organic outlets. We are in the fortunate position of having some close to Long Whatton.

Manor Organic Farm, Shop, Bakery and Tea Room, Main Street, Long Whatton, just past the church if you come through the village from the A6. Generally open from Wednesday to Sunday.

Details: Tel: 01509 646413 / Email: online@manororganicfarm.co.uk
www.manororganicfarm.co.uk

Oakley Grange Farm Cafe and Delicatessen, Shepshed Road, Hathern, Leicestershire, LE12 5LL

Open every day 8am - 5pm, Telephone: 01509 842988

www.oakleygrange.co.uk

Lubcloud Tea Room and Shop

Oaks Road, Oaks in Charnwood, Loughborough LE12 9YA

Phone: 01509 505055

Monday-Friday 9am-5pm, Saturday-Sunday 9.30am-4.00pm

All outlets can also be found and followed on Facebook and have been visited by us (Bob and Yvonne Haskins). Please send or email your own recommendations for the Newsletter.

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

Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/leicsorganicgroup

The next Newsletter will be produced to give notice of the AGM in September. 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)**

For further details contact group secretary, Bob Haskins, 01509 842449, or publicity officer, Leon Marvell, 0116 269 4978.