

LOG

August 2016

Welcome to the LOG Newsletter for August 2016.

AGM

This will be held at our first meeting on Friday 9th September, 7.30pm, at Knighton Parish Centre, Brindsmead Road, followed by a slide presentation on summer activities.

The programme for 2016/17 is not yet complete. If you have any ideas for speakers then please let us know.

Leicestershire Organic Group was founded in 1948 as the Leicestershire and Rutland Branch of the Soil Association. We are fairly sure that it is the oldest group of its kind that has been operating continuously. Thus, it has been going for 68 years, and we are coming towards our 70th Anniversary in 2018.

However, not everything is going quite as well as we would hope. We do have a couple of problems, and with the new season approaching, this newsletter seemed like a good opportunity to say something.

Although we still have quite good membership numbers, the attendance at meetings is now quite small. We have moved to the smaller lounge at the Knighton Parish Centre which suits our needs well, and would cope comfortably with more numbers.

The Hall, although very suitable, is not cheap, and our second issue is one of funds. We have to pay the hall hire cost however many members come along and the £1 charge including refreshments does not cover the hire cost and consequently our funds are diminishing. A number of our evenings so far planned for the coming programme are being done by ourselves to save speaker costs, but should be really interesting. There is always scope for good discussions about organic issues during the evening and with the refreshments..

We hope we'll see many of you during our autumn programme. Please come along - and your friends or relatives would also be most welcome.

WINTER PROGRAMME

Friday September 9th

AGM and... a slide presentation
looking at events from the summer.

Friday October 14th

Annual Wholefood Supper

Friday November 11th

Nepalese life in the mountains
Carol Homa

Friday December 9th

Christmas event
featuring "Tudor Christmas".
Alison Coates

2017 Dates

Friday January 13th

Healing therapies, growing herbs and using them for particular
conditions
Margaret Chandler

Friday February 10th

Friday March 10th

Friday April 14th

Heart of England Organic Group
visit to Osbaston Hall Gardens. We
were invited to go along as well.
It was nice to have another look at
the gardens, cultivated by our own
member Flic Rhode as we haven't
visited ourselves for a few years.
The new greenhouse wasn't there
last time I visited.





This year the Garden Organic AGM was held at The Good Energy Centre at Swaffham. I have driven past previously, and this was a good opportunity for a visit. There were 5 LOG members in attendance including myself. It was my first visit to an AGM for two years, since I retired from the Council.

The day followed a now familiar pattern, with the AGM, speakers, and lunch. In the afternoon were visits (including up the wind turbine tower), and discussion groups, with a question and answer panel to conclude.

I did get to go up the tower (around 300 steps to the observation platform) with a great view at the top, but for the more grounded, it was interesting to take a tour of the site and see their vegetable plots and compost demonstrations.

The two speakers for the day were Chris Collins, former BBC Blue Peter Gardener and Head Gardener at Westminster Abbey, who has since joined Garden Organic as Head of Organic Horticulture, and local organic gardener and celebrity, Bob Flowerdew.

Campaigning and Communicating the modern way.

The world of communications has changed massively over recent decades. I've witnessed a lot of it happening in my working life of engineering and telecommunications. When we sent our first emails at work in the early 1980's and bought our first brick sized mobile phones, little did we know how fast things would progress. The Internet was developed as an academic exercise.

The organisations we support, and we ourselves, use web sites, and various types of social media to get our message across. There are a number of social pressure groups (like 38 degrees) which campaign particularly to get online petitions going, and if 100,000 signatures are obtained, the government are obliged to discuss the issue.

The websites of the Soil Association and Garden Organic are:

www.soilassociation.org and

www.gardenorganic.org.uk

These always have latest news sections and also details of the campaigns that the organisations are running. They also communicate extensively on Facebook and Twitter.

Our own web and facebook contacts are below, along with email contact details for the group. Why not give them all a try?

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 in December 2016. 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.