

LOG

August 2017

Welcome to the LOG Newsletter for August 2017.

AGM

This will be held at our first meeting on Friday 8th September, 7.30pm, at Knighton Parish Centre, Brindsmead Road, followed by a slide presentation on summer activities.

The programme for 2017/18 is not yet complete. If you have any ideas for speakers then please let us know.

First of all, a thank you to those who added a donation when renewing membership for 2016/17. This, along with a number of our meetings being done by ourselves, has meant that our finances have survived through the year, and Robin will present a report at the AGM.

We would, however, love to see more of you at our meetings which provide an opportunity for a good discussion, or to ask advice, about organic matters.

As a further experiment, the committee has decided that we will reduce the number of winter events to six, rather than the usual eight, and so we will not be meeting in December, and will finish the winter programme in March rather than April, and then follow with our summer visits.

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

Weedy Wednesday

This is a series that Garden Organic have been running through their social media and on their website.

The topic of interest to me was Bindweed (*Calystegia sepium*) which is gradually taking over my vegetable plot. It produces relatively few seeds, but they can remain viable for 40 years in the soil. It is the distinctive white rhizome system (underground stems) that allows the plant to extend in all directions. The rhizomes overwinter in the soil after the plant has died down. Sadly it is very hard to eradicate as shoots can develop from fragments of root, rhizome or plant stem. Frequent digging will help, but that's quite difficult when other things are growing.

WINTER PROGRAMME

Friday September 8th

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

Friday October 13th

Annual Wholefood Supper

Friday November 10th

Gardening for Wildlife (especially hedgehogs)
Colleen Powell

2018 Dates

Friday January 12th

Principles of Organic Gardening
Bob Haskins

Friday February 9th

Forest Schools
Carol Homa

Friday March 9th

To be arranged

The Garden Organic AGM was held this year at Doddington Hall near Lincoln.

The day followed the usual pattern of AGM, speakers and visits or discussion groups. The two speakers were our President, Prof Tim Lang who spoke on the implications of food security following Brexit, and Chris Collins whose talk was about the London Schools Food Project.

The Hall gardens are all organic, and we were able to take a guided tour around the kitchen gardens which were very fascinating.



Summer Visits



There were three visits over the summer, which were enjoyed by a number of members.

Firstly, we went to the Manor House at Donington-le-Heath, which has been branded as the “1620’s House” because the interior has been set in this period and there are also gardens with plants of the period.



Our second visit was to Long Close in Woodhouse Eaves. This is a huge garden, renowned for its rhododendrons, though they were largely over when we visited. However, there were still many other delights to be seen, all set out on a grand scale.



Finally, we visited Long Whatton to see the garden of Bob and Yvonne Haskins. This always entails a trip to Manor Farm to see the animals and visit the organic shop, followed by a cup of tea and cake back at Piper Drive, with cakes provided by the farm shop.

Bob Haskins.

Garden Organic - Our Work in 2016

2016 was a busy year for Garden Organic (GO), and their annual report reflects this with a review of their areas of work. They also achieved a modest surplus, so being able to build up reserves and enter 2017 on a sound footing.

GO were at the forefront of campaign issues including the move to ban Glyphosate, and to continue the ban on the three most pernicious Neonicotinoids that affect bees and beneficial insects. GO has also led the way in explaining the complicated issue of seed patents, with a clear explanation of the subject on the website. It has also supported GM Freeze in campaigns on Genetically Modified Organisms and continued its Greening the Garden Industry campaign.

Other areas of work include: supporting sustainable communities (including Master Composters and Master Gardeners); furthering organic research; passing on knowledge (including courses, training and the food growing in schools: London project); social and therapeutic horticulture; protecting our seed heritage and the above mentioned campaigning for an organic future. More information at www.gardenorganic.org.uk

However, CEO James Campbell warns of an uncertain future with Brexit and global uncertainties to contend with, but 2018 will be the charity's Diamond Jubilee.

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 2017. 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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