

LOG

May 2018

Welcome to the LOG Newsletter for May 2018. This newsletter contains the programme of events for the summer.

The committee is already beginning to think about events for the Winter programme 2018/19. The Hall is booked and the dates can be found elsewhere in the Newsletter. If you have any ideas for speakers then please let us know, as there are a number of gaps to fill in the programme at the moment.

LOG - 70 years old in 2018

This year we celebrate the 70th Anniversary of Leicestershire Organic Group. The group was founded in 1948, by Ken Rose and others, and was originally the Leicestershire and Rutland Branch of The Soil Association, which was itself founded in 1946. The name was changed in the 1980s when we also affiliated to the Henry Doubleday Research Association (now known as Garden Organic). We will publish more information about our past in future newsletters this year.

We will be celebrating this event at our Supper in October, and hope that many members will be able to be present. The Group is struggling with attendance at meetings at the moment, and we hope this will bring members back and help to keep the Group going.

What a difference a year makes

I keep notes every year of when I sow and plant out my vegetables. This is more for an aide-memoir rather than a historical review. However, this year has been quite an eye-opener, due to the weather. In 2017 I finished planting out my potatoes on April 4th (2018 May 4th), peas 18th April (9th May), sowed all my beans on 1st May (10th May). It's said that "things catch up"! Bob H.

SUMMER PROGRAMME

Friday June 1st

Evening walk at Beacon Hill Country Park, near Loughborough

Meet inside the top car park at 6.30 for an easy walk.
The car park costs £3 for 1 - 2 hours.

Address details: Beacon Road, LE12 8SP
<https://www.leicscountryparks.org.uk/beacon-visitor/>

Saturday June 30th

Visit to Ryton Gardens

A visit to the home of Garden Organic. We haven't visited as a group for a few years, and this year may be a good time, as the gardens are under review. Admission is free at the weekend, as the visitor centre will not be open. Meet in the car park at 2pm. Garden entry is through the cafe.

Address details: Wolston lane, Wolston, Coventry, CV8 3LG
<https://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/plan-your-visit-ryton-organic-gardens>

Sunday August 12th

Visit to Hough Windmill, Swannington

Meet there at 2.30pm, the windmill site is open from 2pm - 5pm.
Admission is free, but donations are welcome.

Address details: Off St. George's Hill, Swannington, LE67 8QU.
https://www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/hough_windmill
www.swannington-heritage.co.uk

Garden Organic AGM and Members' Day

This takes place on Friday May 18th 2018 at Ryton Gardens, The AGM will be followed by a schedule of activities and is also a celebration of the Organisation's 60th Anniversary

2018/19 Meeting dates (at Knighton Parish Centre)

2018: Sep 14th (AGM), Oct 12th (Celebration Supper), Nov 9th (Creating a toxin free home)

2019: Jan 11th, Feb 8th, Mar 8th

Recent Group events



At the February meeting, Carol Homa gave a talk about Forest Schools, and involved us in a practical exercise as an example of developing skills in the safe use of tools and the sense of achievement in making something.

So we were required to cut with loppers, whittle with potato peelers (option to make different patterns!), remove pith with tent pegs and thread string through our "beads" to make a necklace.

Carol is a volunteer at the Forest School that takes place in Knighton Park in Leicester.

In the UK children are usually allocated a set number of sessions of teaching by a specialist practitioner within and about the natural environment with the aim of bringing them into direct contact with and depending on their ages different activities with eg. mud, different trees- leaves/bark/climbing and balancing, bug id, looking at funghi, listening to the sounds to develop them as rounded individuals.

In March we had a discussion about recycling and upcycling and in particular, limiting the use of plastic. We used as guidance, a list of ways of minimising plastic use (for instance not using throwaway plastic cups, and alternatives to clingfilm), and an FOE article about use of plastics in the garden. This had also been discussed to some extent at the January meeting where we had used the Garden Organic publication the Principles of Organic Gardening, which has a section on this topic. It is quite a challenge, but many things can be done to minimise usage.

Looking after the soil

Here are a couple of quotes:

“Soil erosion and pollution of watercourses is putting the farming industry at risk. Failure to act now will jeopardise food production and the provision of clean water. Poor farming and land management practices are causing soil to be destroyed at about 10 times the rate it is being created”.

“In Lincolnshire, great damage was done by the winds which swept across the County and whole fields were blown away. This removal of the surface soil is attributed to the fact that there wasn't sufficient humus to hold the soil particles together. The country has seriously impoverished some of the best soils in England”.

The first quotation is from an article in The Guardian in April, 2018 and the second is from a book by W.E. Shewell-Cooper called “Soil, Humus and Health”, and published in 1944. There has been plenty of warning.

“Fresh, healthy food?”

Such terms as “fresh”, “healthy”, “natural” etc. are readily used in the food industry. Pret a Manger were taken to the Advertising Standards Authority by the Real Bread Campaign for saying they shunned “the obscure chemicals, additives and preservatives commonly used in the market today”. However, they still used the artificial additives E472e and E471 in some of their breads. Their defence: the statement was an aspiration! This was rejected and they were told not to imply its food was “natural” unless its products and ingredients were in line with consumer expectation of the term.

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

**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, or email as above.