

LOG

August 2018

Welcome to the LOG Newsletter for August 2018.

AGM

This will be held at our first meeting on Friday 14th September, 7.30pm, at Knighton Parish Centre, Brindsmead Road, followed by a slide presentation on summer activities.

The programme for 2018/19 is not yet complete. If you have any ideas for speakers then please let us know.

Elsewhere in the newsletter, there is a small article about the 60th Anniversary of the Henry Doubleday Research Association (HDRA), now known as Garden Organic (GO). 10 years older than this is our own Group (LOG) which was founded in 1948 as the Leicestershire and Rutland Branch of the Soil Association, which was itself founded in 1946.

It has to be said that LOG is struggling a bit at the moment, as membership has dropped, and meetings aren't that well attended, but we are making our usual October Wholefood Supper into a 70th Birthday celebration. We'd love to see you at this event, or any of the others on our calendar, and if you have friends that you think might be interested, then please invite them too.

The rise of Veganism

There have been a number of articles in the press recently about the rise (and trendiness?) of Veganism. Some would say that this is a necessary step in the saving of the world. However, as usual, the food industry is happy to jump on the bandwagon. There are growing ranges of Vegan ready made products in the freezers and chillers of the supermarkets.

Surely, the origins of veganism were based on eating healthy plant based foods, and not heavily processed supermarket products. The Soil Association recommends a localised, organic mixed farming approach as the best way to preserve the world. An interesting discussion.

WINTER PROGRAMME

Friday September 14th

AGM and... a slide presentation
looking at events from the summer, plus
a discussion about growing over this unusual summer.

Friday October 12th

70th Anniversary Wholefood Supper

Friday November 9th

Creating a toxin free home.
Valerie Fowler

2019 Dates

Friday January 11th

Friday February 8th

Friday March 8th

The Garden Organic AGM was held this year back at Ryton Gardens.

The day followed the usual pattern of AGM, speakers and visits or discussion groups. There was a section of the morning devoted to discussion of the future of Ryton Gardens, though only exploratory talks were being held at the time, with no decisions having been taken.

It was also the occasion of the Organisation's 60th Anniversary celebration, which took place in the marquee at the end of the afternoon. There were also very interesting displays devoted to each decade of the Organisation's life.



Summer Visits



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

Firstly, we went for a Friday evening walk at the Loughborough Beacon. This is one of the high spots of Leicestershire and affords good views over the Soar Valley in particular. However,

there are also some areas of old woodland and the second photograph shows one of these. We also saw the pack of llamas that are resident and some long horned cattle.

(Photos: Carol Homa)



The second visit was to the Hough Windmill in Swannington (bottom picture).

It has been extensively refurbished inside and a new top has been added since renovation started in 1994. It is possible to go right up to see the gear wheels that convert the sail power to the main shaft in the mill.

There are also displays about the local mining railway lines, and the area is also the site of coal mining going back several centuries.

Bob Haskins.



Garden Organic - Our Work in 2017

2017 was another busy year for Garden Organic (GO), and their annual report reflects this with a review of their areas of work.

One section of the report is entitled “Campaigning for an organic future”. Over 3000 GO members acted in support of the banning of Glyphosate, the weed killer used in fields and public spaces throughout the UK. Ultimately, the European Union granted a new licence for 5 years, rather than the 15 years requested. The fight also still goes on to ban neonicotinoid pesticides. Post leaving the EU, Michael Gove (Secretary of State for the Environment) has indicated his intention to favour a ban on neonicotinoids. GO have also announced a new partnership with the Pesticides Action Network (PAN) and will support PAN UK with their Pesticide Free Towns campaign.

The report also has sections detailing changes to the Heritage Seed Library and the furtherance of organic research. GO works on supporting sustainable communities with their Master Composters, Master Gardeners, Food Buddies and the Growing Buddies scheme.

An important aspect of GO’s work is in “passing on our Knowledge”. This work takes place through schools, at events and courses or virtually via the website and by email.

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 2018. 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.