



Feed Leeds Meeting -Monday 16th October 2023, 4:00pm at Cross Green Growing Together, LS9 0BL

ATTENDEES

Adam Ogilvie (FL Chair, Meanwood Valley Urban Farm (MVUF)), **Sonja Woodcock** (FL Treasurer, Leeds Food Coordinator at FoodWise Leeds), **Sarah-Jane Mason** (FL secretary – minutes, RHS), **Rosie Atkins** (FL secretary –minutes, FL Farm group); **Mary Brennan** (Cross Green Growing Together)

APOLOGIES

Penny Pinn (FL, Horsforth Community Café & Garden), **Becky Mears** (FL, IE Aireborough / Season Well CIC); **Emma Andrews** (FoodWise); **Anna Marsden-Ragnarsson** (Kirkstall Valley Farm), **Dan Robinson** (Incredible Edible Leeds), **Rosie Hall** (FL, LAF Secretary), **Alan and Gini** (Fruitworks co-op), **Dan Robinson** (FL, IE Leeds)

GARDEN TOUR



Mary Brennan from Cross Green Growing Together very kindly gave us a tour and history of the group and garden. From their early beginnings on the railway bridge through to the current hub development and edible growing facilities. The group have been working with Hyde Park Source since 2015 to apply for funding to develop the garden from a neglected wasteland to a thriving community hub and garden. The latest grant from [Veolia Environmental Trust](#) (through the Landfill Communities Fund) enabled the group to build a hub indoor space with kitchen and toilets so that the group can meet whatever the weather.

The garden itself has a range of raised beds growing a range of food crops and ornamentals and a polytunnel for protected growing. The amazing butternut squashes and cabbages particularly caught our attention. The group use the produce for cookery sessions and volunteers also take home crops.

The activities delivered on site for local residents include gardening, cooking, school holiday activities, coffee mornings and social gatherings, the sessions regularly attract up to 30 attendees.

Thanks to Cross Green Growing Together for hosting our meeting and for providing tea and cake ☺

MINUTES

Minutes from August 2023 approved (for a copy of the minutes see website <https://feedleeds.org/>).

1. Feed Leeds Current projects: Sub groups reports

- **Sow a Row Xtra , LVL and Hedge Veg :**

The sub-group met in mid-October to discuss the following items:

1. Sad news Emma Andrews will sadly be leaving Foodwise this month, so is no longer available to help coordinate our LVL activities and plans going forward. Thanks so much for all the support and creative ideas Emma has helped the group to achieve to date, and we hope to see you again soon.
2. Autumn Event The group will be having a stall at the Kinder Leeds event at Left Bank in November to promote LVLs (Climate Action are providing funding) we had hoped to do an Autumn event and this seems the perfect opportunity and a great chance to support Kinder Leeds. We plan to offer visitors the chance to sow pea tops or micro herbs and see a table top LVL display which they could consider in their community. Season Well will also be at the event offering seasonal soup tasting and bouquet garni making with Becky.
3. Current LVLs As a group we have been contacting and/or visiting the LVLs across the city. To date the main feedback is that groups struggle to keep the LVL stocked, any plants shared are taken very quickly. We are also aware that some LVLs rely on a single 'plant guardian' to maintain and stock them with very few donations from others. Among the success' is the mobile LVL at Seacroft library. The staff are very keen to make full use of the LVL and would like to engage more people with growing and learn skills themselves but are not sure where to start. We discussed that Libraries could be a great cohort to engage with in the future. We could support regular events (seed swaps, plant swaps, growing skills) to help them to attract new audiences and share skills for sustainable edible growing across the city.
4. 2024 Plans To kick start our 2024 activities Sonja has been exploring some of the current barriers to growing in Leeds, namely lack of garden and/or skills to grow and/or availability of cheap seeds/young plants. She is applying to the Community Climate Fund for money to support the development of 'Get Growing Leeds'. This initiative would help to support and pay local growers to produce young plants to share with LVLs/community groups, allow seasonal events to share skills and encourage new growers and LVLs and also further develop community composting initiatives across the city.

- **Farm Group:**

The group will be attending a number of farming events over the next few months:

Policy Influencing Network Group meeting 17/10/23, to discuss 'Public-common partnerships, Council Farms and Agroecological food sovereignty'.

The Northern Real Farming Conference 6/11/23 for anyone who is working in the north of England to transform food and farming systems to be more agroecological, nature friendly and regenerative. This will include NGOs, farmer organisations, landscape recovery projects, researchers, educators, other food system workers such as millers, bakers, retailers, distributors, and funders." Get tickets [here](#)

Group visit to [Kiddal Quarry Farm](#) and [Living Potential Care Farm](#) being planned for Spring 2024.

2. FL Members updates

- **Foodwise**

Sonja confirmed that Foodwise have completed and submitted the [Silver Sustainable Food Places Award](#) for Leeds, they should hear if Leeds have been awarded by the end of this year.

As discussed above we talked about a funding application for 'Get Growing Leeds' and the impact this could have on a number of organisations across the city. Also how we can further support Incredible Edibles' Right to Grow campaign.

- **Meanwood Valley Urban Farm**

Adam thanked everyone who contributed to the MVUF crowd funding campaign earlier this year, they successfully raised almost £20K towards their target of £25K. The farm are now applying for funding to make up the shortfall to continue the work.

Market Garden Adam wished Luke well with his new venture and confirmed that Angharad, the 2nd year trainee on site at the Market Garden will cover his role temporarily.

The veg box scheme is still going strong. To further improve the customer experience they are moving across to a new customer website platform. An added bonus of the new platform is that it will help to reduce the administration requirements of the scheme, enabling the Market Garden team to spend more time out in the garden, whilst allowing customers to continue to place orders at their convenience.

Adam confirmed that as the Market Garden is now well established he would like to encourage more visitors to engage with the space and learn from the teams expertise. This could take the form of relevant interpretation and signage to showcase the innovative/carbon positive growing methods employed at the site.

- **Fruitworks**

Fruit Works Co-operative turned 3 years old this month and we celebrated with friends at an amazing old orchard just outside Leeds. This autumn we have been funded to lots of juicing with Bradford schools and nurseries, as well as 9 Apple Days in Shipley, Bradford, Garforth, Great Preston, Skipton, Keighley and Roundhay. We're also selling fruit to various greengrocers.

We are starting to prepare a new tree nursery site at the Living Potential care farm walled garden.

- **Living Potential Care Farming CIC** Living Potential Community Garden team (Andy, Mike, Kirsty, Tanya)

Very short announcement this time - we're **looking for volunteers** to help us get the Walled Garden ready. Our next sessions are 27 and 28 October, both 10-4 - there will be soup, cups of tea, and plenty to do. Here's some of the many tasks you can get involved with: planting garlic / broad beans, moving compost, sanding / painting inside our shepherds hut, digging (plenty of digging), making a dead hedge.

Fancy coming along? Please let us know by completing this [sign up form](#).

In other news, we have some new arrivals at the Walled Garden - see [here](#). We also topped the Walled Garden this week - very exciting to see the summer growth gone, ready to mulch for the Winter. Video evidence [here](#). Things are happening!

ACTION ALL Fancy volunteering at the farm? Please let us know by completing this [sign up form](#).

3. Climate Change Updates

Events coming up at the Climate Action Hub

Climate Action Leeds Arts & Climate Assembly
Tuesday 31st Oct | 12-4pm

As part of Arts and Climate Week, Imagine Leeds is hosting a day of fun and informative Climate Action workshops delivered by Climate Action Leeds partners

Design your sustainable clothing, find out about a more inclusive economy, get crafty and more!

Work & Economy Craftivism Doughnut Economics Education
Nature Travel Food

Sign up by scanning our QR code here:

DEEP WATER
A FREE IMMERSIVE EXHIBITION CURATED BY YORKSHIRE LIFE AQUATIC

Open to the public from Friday 27th October to Friday 3rd November
Opening Times: 11am until 5pm (Closed Sunday)

FREE ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

Saturday 28 Oct: Meet the Mermaid (morning / afternoon)
PET shop Project - Sea Creature Special with Immortal Bloom (afternoon)

Monday 30 Oct: Sustainable Arts in Leeds (SAIL) Members Catch-up (morning)
PET shop Project - Sea Creature Special with Immortal Bloom (afternoon)
Climate Conversations: What kind of world would you like to live in? (afternoon)

Tuesday 31 Oct: Climate Action Leeds Assembly (all day)

Wednesday 1 Nov: PET shop Project - Sea Creature Special with Immortal Bloom (morning/afternoon)
Climate Conversations: What kind of world would you like to live in? (afternoon)

Thursday 2 Nov: Reuse, Refresh, Reimagine: Exploring a creative & cultural circular economy for West Yorkshire with SAIL (morning)
Apocalypse Remix (Art Workshop with Edie Thompson) (afternoon)
Leeds Creative Timebank - Members Social (even)

Friday 3 Nov: Deep Water Experience (morning)
Apocalypse Remix (Art Workshop with Edie Thompson) (afternoon)

Imagine Leeds is the City Centre Hub of Climate Action Leeds on 7th Floor at City Exchange, 11 Albion Street (between H&M Home & Wasabi)

TO BOOK OR FOR MORE INFORMATION SCAN QR CODES BELOW OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE HUMANAQUARIUM.CO.UK

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4. AOB

Feed Leeds AGM February 2024

The committee are very keen to hold a 2024 AGM celebration event & social similar to that in 2023. The proposed date is Monday February 26th 6-8pm.

We would like to introduce awards to celebrate the Growing Heroes and Projects across the city. If you have any ideas for categories please share with the committee.

ACTION

Adam check availability at MVUF on this date and reserve a space for our event.

Feed Leeds members share ideas for Feed Leeds AGM award categories we can consider including at the event

Kinder Leeds Festival, 11th of November 2023 between 11am and 4pm at Left Bank Leeds.

Feed Leeds will be represented by :

LVL We will have a stand promoting the LVLs and offering windowsill growing ideas to try and **Season Well** will be providing seasonal soup tasting and a chance to create a bouquet garni to take away.

ACTION ALL

If you would like to volunteer on the Feed Leeds stand please contact Sonja or SJ using info@feedleeds.org

If you would like a stand for your group please contact David Billington on 01943 262626 and david@fullcirclefunerals.co.uk

Compost_it

Husain Alogaily shared details of a new student initiative to encourage composting in Leeds. Students are encouraging individuals to register with their scheme. Residents save home composting waste to be collected by the students, who then drop it off at a local community garden who have composting facilities. Any compost created is then used by the community garden to improve soils for future harvests. The pilot project working with [Passion4Plants Market Garden](#) in Oakwood has been very successful and the students hope to gather sufficient interest to set up new hubs across the city.

If you are interested in more information please contact Husain by email alogailyhusain@gmail.com or on Instagram [compost_it_official](#)

Dates for your diary/ call to Action

Food Networking Bistro at Rainbow Junktion - Save the date!

A new food networking bistro will be taking place at Rainbow Junktion on Friday 10th November.

This is an event for a range of organisations and individuals involved in community food provision. If you are involved in local food work it would be great to have you down!

An eventbrite link to book your place on the event will be released very shortly. Keep an eye out on our [Climate Action Leeds events](#) page for more details to come soon!

Listen to BBC Food & Farming Awards finalist: Regather from 8th October 2023 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m001r7dg>

Regather is a food co-operative with a big mission. They want to "reshape the food landscape of Sheffield". What does that mean? It means building strong, local food supply chains that link the people of Sheffield with food that is produced sustainably and close by. The group runs a fruit and veg box scheme which funds its other projects - including community gardening sessions and campaigning. They also have a 15 acre market garden just outside the city where they produce fruit, vegetables and cut flowers for their boxes. Regather has been picked as a finalist in the "Farming for the Future" category of this year's BBC Food and Farming Awards.

<https://regather.net/>

Date of Next meeting:

Our last meeting of 2023 will be on Monday 11th December –

Join us for seasonal drinks and help plan the 2024 AGM event from 6pm at The Terminus Tap, Meanwood <https://www.terminustap.co.uk/>