



SATURDAY 7TH OCTOBER
LAND FUTURES Full Programme

Building Land Trust

Workshop location: The Pine Hall

MORNING WORKSHOP: Securing Land for Agroecological Farming and Growing in the UK

SPEAKER: Robert Fraser

ORGANISATION: The Real Farming Trust
feanetwork.org/who-we-are/real-farming-trust



BIO: Robert is a livestock farmer from Herefordshire and works for the Real Farming Trust. Currently Robert's main focus is on developing new programmes of financial and mentoring support for the sector. He is developing a new affordable loan programme, which hopefully will be launched early next year, and is looking at the feasibility of other ideas that will help with access to land. He is also involved with the organisation of the Oxford Real Farming Conference and the All Party Parliamentary Group on Agroecology for Sustainable Food and Farming.

WORKSHOP DETAILS: Access to affordable and secure land is one of the main barriers to the growth of Enlightened Agriculture and for those seeking to start or expand their farming and growing enterprises. The Real Farming Trust, with generous support from Power to Change is working on a feasibility study to explore the various financial / investment models and other related initiatives that could help with access to land. The aim is to review the current situation in the UK and the various initiatives being developed both here and in the rest of Europe and the USA, and to use this 'best practice' to develop recommendations on how to support those seeking access to land in the UK. We will investigate various models, including land trusts, a land investment fund, bridging finance and the potential for attracting social investment into land and land based projects. This work is at an early stage, and we would like to use this opportunity to gather opinion and ideas from delegates at the Land Futures event to inform our work.

AFTERNOON WORKSHOP: Land Whispering - Saving Land for Agro-ecological Farming

SPEAKER: Sebastian Parsons

ORGANISATION: The Biodynamic Land Trust
biodynamiclandtrust.org.uk



The Biodynamic Land Trust
stewarding farmland for a living, working countryside

BIO: Sebastian is a social entrepreneur working in business, health, agriculture, education and the arts. He's a founder of Stockwood Community Benefit Society that has raised over £3 million to protect in-perpetuity a 190-acre farm through pioneering the first land trust that provides a financial return. He is the executive lead for the Biodynamic Land Trust Ltd and has been active in the Agro-ecology movement for many years. He previously found commercial success through building the Dr Hauschka skin care brand to prominence in the UK. He campaigns for reform of the economy and has founded a new commons-based meta-structure known as the Commons Equity Society. He is passionate about ethical enterprise and has always believed that work should be meaningful and business a force for good.

WORKSHOP DETAILS: Land whispering is a broad-based movement for people that care for land. From participating in land festivals to organising action groups and fundraising for projects, they engage with land and people to support mutual care and understanding. The Biodynamic Land Trust innovates new ways of bringing land into common ownership, land whispering connects directly with our mission. The workshop will introduce land whispering and the different ways that people can become active in caring better for the land.



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Access to Land

Workshop location: The Piano Room

MORNING WORKSHOP: Community Supported Agriculture Schemes for Accessing Land

SPEAKER: Gareth Davies

ORGANISATION: Community Supported Agriculture Network UK
communitysupportedagriculture.org.uk



BIO: Gareth Davies is an active member of the CSA Network UK and has been closely involved in setting up two CSAs near Coventry, Canalside Community Food (canalsidecommunityfood.org.uk) and (Five Acre Community Farm (fiveacrefarm.org.uk)).

WORKSHOP DETAILS: The workshop session will explore the advantages of community supported agriculture schemes in both accessing land and in running a sustainable and ethical community business.

AFTERNOON WORKSHOP: Land Courtship - Trials and Tribulations in The Quest For Mutually Co-Operative Relationships Between Unequal's.

SPEAKER: John Yates

ORGANISATION: The Biophilia Project
biophilia.org.uk



BIO: - who am I? I'm a DFL who has spent a life time fighting against political / economic / social wrongs - as I see them. I've always believed citizens must fight for the future they believe in and not only against corrupt authority. Permaculture for local food production / local sale, suggests to me a much wiser way to be with the land and nature, of which we are part.

WORKSHOP DETAILS: Land seekers require security of tenure and often need sufficient time to learn new skills whilst striving to build a viable business in a very difficult corporate controlled market place. Crucially they need a durable co-operative relationship with the custodian of the land.

Custodians of land are cautious not to be saddled with incompetent game players that are versed in the art of sophistry. Custodians usually expect something tangible in return for the use of land and possibly infrastructure such as polytunnels, machinery and buildings. Crucially they need a durable co-operative relationship with the users of the land. Join John for an interesting discussion on both sides of the story.



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Land Planning & Systems

Workshop location: The Old Library

MORNING WORKSHOP: Help or Hindrance? Land Access and the Planning System

SPEAKER: Simon Fairlie

ORGANISATION: The Land Magazine
thelandmagazine.org.uk



BIO: Simon Fairlie is an editor of The Land magazine and author of *Meat: A Benign Extravagance*, *Low impact Development* and the *DIY Planning Handbook* (currently being revised). He is described as an agricultural campaigner and activist. He is a founder of Tinkers Bubble and also a formative influence towards the renaissance of the use of the scythe for grassland management and hay-making. He currently runs a micro-dairy of Jersey cows at Monkton Wyld Court in West Dorset.

WORKSHOP DETAILS: Two of the issues for those wanting to establish themselves on a land based venture are access to land, and living on or close to the land. There is a distinct shortage of affordable housing in rural areas and the planning system limits the spread of new dwellings of any sort, outside of current settlement zones. Simon's workshop will help explain the complexities of the English Town and Country Planning System and how, with understanding of the system you have a greater chance of success with getting a low impact development permitted as part of a land based venture.

AFTERNOON WORKSHOP: Supporting Regenerative Land-Based Live/Work Communities

SPEAKER: Joanna Dornan

NEW ORGANISATION: Regenerative Farming Communities Project (*working title*)

BIO: Joanna discovered permaculture in 2006, and for the past 8 years, set up and ran Bedford Fields community forest garden on some open access council land in Leeds (bedfordfields.co.uk). The project set out to reclaim a public space for community use and demonstrate agro-ecological land use in the city. She now lives in Llandeilo, south west Wales, in a little wooden cabin, where she is dreaming and scheming of larger-scale reclamation of this precious earth for regenerative, bio-intensive, human-scale farming.

WORKSHOP DETAILS: This workshop will present a proposal for a new project/organisation to be set up for the purpose of raising money to buy land and resources for bio-intensive regenerative agricultural projects. The workshop will include the presentation of the proposal followed by group discussion and brainstorming and ways we might take it forward.



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The Future for Small-scale Horticulture

Workshop location: The Dining Room

MORNING WORKSHOP: How to Access Land and Ensure a Secure Tenancy for New Entrants into Horticulture

SPEAKER: Ashley Wheeler

ORGANISATION: Trill Farm Garden
trillfarmgarden.weebly.com

TRILL FARM GARDEN

BIO: Ashley runs Trill Farm Garden, a one-hectare market garden, with his partner Kate. They rent the land from Trill Farm - a 300-acre organic farm in east Devon, specialising in growing salads to sell to restaurants around Lyme Regis. Ashley is also a founding member of Landworkers' Alliance and the South West Seed Savers' Cooperative and has been part of setting

WORKSHOP DETAILS: The workshop will introduce Trill Farm Garden - an example of how new entrants into vegetable growing managed to setup a market garden on a larger farm, who in turn helped to invest in some of the capital costs to make it more affordable for the growers. The workshop will look at how this particular tenancy agreement works, but also what issues there are for small scale growers in securing long term tenancies and accessing the land in the first place, as well as the obstacles that inhibit new entrants into horticulture in setting up their own business.

AFTERNOON WORKSHOP: Renting Horticultural Units from Larger Farms

SPEAKER: Rebecca Laughton

ORGANISATION: Landworkers' Alliance
dev.landworkersalliance.org.uk



BIO: Rebecca Laughton is a market gardener at Tamarisk Farm in Dorset, and author of *Surviving and Thriving on the Land* a book about how to make land-based projects sustainable for the people running them. The 'A Matter of Scale' study was supported by the Centre of Agroecology, Water and Resilience at Coventry University. The Landworkers' Alliance campaigns for the rights of people with small land-based livelihoods and is a member of the international campaigning group La Via Campesina.

WORKSHOP DETAILS: One of the LWA proposals in its new Horticulture Policy Booklet. is that the Government "Introduce a "Mixed Farms Scheme", supporting the creation of horticultural units on larger farms. While many new entrants would prefer to buy their own holding, renting a market garden on an existing mixed farm can kick-start enterprises by providing a foothold in a rural community as well as access to shared facilities such as farm buildings, machinery and manure for fertility.

The purpose of this workshop is be to explore the variety of different arrangements from the perspective of both the existing or potential tenant and the existing or potential landowner.