



Hello everyone - and Happy New Year!

This is mainly to remind you all about...

AGM + SPROUTS!

As you know, apart from the usual AGM housekeeping, we are dedicating the whole of **the AGM on the 20th Jan (4-6pm in Committee Room 1 of the Civic Hall)** to the planning of a major food growing / food awareness (topics to be finalised) summit, which will happen in early spring; code name

SPROUTS!

The basic idea - we'll develop this at the meeting - is to take a leaf out of the very successful [Leeds Summat](#) book, and have a room/s full of stalls, a series of talks, and a range of hand-on workshops and other engagement activities.

Hopefully we'll have participation from most if not all of the Feed Leeds member groups, plus others not yet involved, with lots of creative ideas to make it a truly transformative event. We can even consider having some music and art and things to make it really attractive and inspirational.

Things to be decided are,

- aims and objectives,
- topics and content
- title,
- venue,
- date,
- funding,
- publicity,
- participants,
- speakers,
- workshops,
- organisation (working group)
- roles
- extras - food, music, art, fun
- etc.

OTHER NEWS

What with the Solstice and other hiccoughs, operations and interruptions, we've not had a conventional meeting since November, and a number of important things have happened in the meantime, including:

KIRKSTALL VALLEY FARM



"We are delighted that Leeds CC granted KV Farm 'preferred bidder' status last month and should grant us the lease in April 2020. The land has now been fallow for over 2 years and is overgrown with thistles, etc, so we plan to clear and improve the land during 2020, with local volunteers and with the help of the Leeds Vintage Tractor group. We will plant green manures from Spring 2020 to improve the soil fertility and will create demonstration veg plots from summer 2020.

We have just launched a 'Crowd Funding' appeal <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/kirkstall-valley-farm-start-up-funding?> to enable us to purchase the polytunnels and other farm buildings we will need to start up the veg box scheme.

We have attended the monthly Kirkstall Abbey deli markets since the summer and recruited nearly 200 local supporters and 30 enthusiastic local people willing to help with farm tasks and social events from Spring 2020. We will hold family friendly social events to strengthen our supporter community.

We aim to recruit an experienced paid grower from Autumn 2020/ early 2021 and to produce our first veg boxes by June 2021.

A Consultant Ecologist has volunteered her advice to us on the conservation, enhancement and management of wildlife on the farm. We are negotiating with the Flood Alleviation Team over their impact on the farmland and the wildlife enhancements they could provide in compensation for the impacts they will cause. We are collaborating with Meanwood Valley Urban Farm and Leeds Permaculture and other local organisations.

Longer term we have plans to offer regular educational and social events, such as wildlife walks and eco-agriculture events, as well as (acoustic) music evenings, story-telling evenings, etc, etc.

We are now on our way £20,000, with £11,000 already in the bag.

Please help us get to our target in the next three weeks. Every pound you give will be doubled by a local benefactor. It means we have the chance to raise £40,000. A tremendous start to the Farm - allowing us to buy the poly tunnels we need and decent social space for the community. Come and hear about our Farm plans and discuss what you want to happen.

Suzy Russell from the Community Supported Agriculture Network will be showing us how other community farms have succeeded and what we can learn."

Wed 22nd Jan, 7-30pm, Upstairs at the Cardigan Arms

Registration and details [here](#)

FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY AT TEMPLE NEWSAM

It looks like growing on Parks land is back on the agenda



The Estate manager for Temple Newsam estate and their community liaison officer have been in touch via Paul Ackroyd. The Temple Newsam walled garden is approximately 250 – 300 metres square. There are some existing beds that have been cultivated previously, so the site is very clean and though the area does have public access through the day, it's locked on a night so is fairly secure - as good as any allotment site.

They will help enforce dogs on leads, tool storage and possibly the use of tools is also available. Also the gardening team will also be available to offer a small amount of support and offer surplus edible seedlings when available from their production.

They're looking for a group who would be interested in taking it on. Obviously a meeting and some discussion is needed in the first instance, with Feed Leeds in full support.

Contact Tom or Paul for more info.

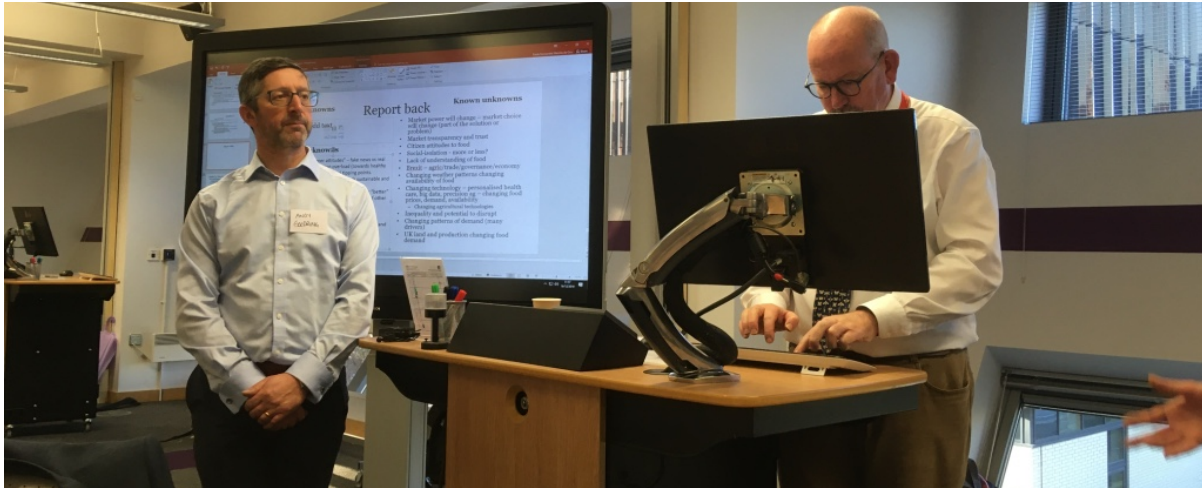
GROW TO SCHOOL - Outdoor learning & food growing practitioner needed.

Do you have the skills to deliver a wide-ranging and varied schools outdoor learning and food growing programme? Do you share our passion for helping children learn about and care for the natural environment? Do you want to be part of an exciting new team within a growing organisation?

Location: West Yorkshire, Salary: £21,937.50 pro rata, Hours: Part time, 18.75 hours per week
Contract: 12 month fixed term, term time only contract (potential to extend subject to funding).

Contact ama@growtoschool.co.uk for more information.

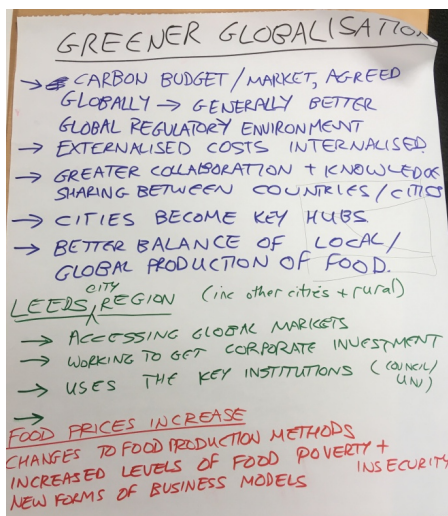
LEEDS FOOD SYSTEM WORKSHOP (1)



Andy facilitates Tim

This was originally suggested by Sue Ottley-Hughes and it follows from the series of meetings with the LCC CEO and officers. After many months of dogged work by Sonja, Tom and Andy Goldring, with increasing levels of enthusiastic support from the Leeds Climate Commission Resilience Working Group (especially Tom Knowland and Paola Hernandez Montes de Orca) we finally held this at The University of Leeds on Monday 16 December, under the title

'Enabling a climate-resilient food system in Leeds that promotes health, sustainability and food security'.



Following a keynote speech from Cllr Judith Blake, Professor Tim Benton led the workshop, with Andy facilitating. Attendees included local government, academia, business and community members - including strong presence from Feed Leeds and LFP.

The purpose was to identify the key drivers that will impact on how we might create more a climate-resilient Leeds, and to develop a set of scenarios of how Leeds might respond in light of these drivers.

It was a fascinating day and will be followed up with report and a second workshop on developing the policy responses required for each scenario. If you would like more information, please contact Sonja on s.woodcock@leeds.ac.uk



Becky explains everything to Les (and others)