



**Feed Leeds In-person Meeting and Seasonal Drinks**  
**-Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023 6pm at The Terminus Tap, Meanwood**

**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); **Chiara Tornaghi** (Prof Urban Food, at Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience, Coventry University.)

**APOLOGIES**

**Becky Mears** (FL, IE Aireborough / Season Well CIC), **Anna Marsden-Ragnarsson** (Kirkstall Valley Farm), **Helen Clayton** (LCC Senior Allotments Officer), **Mary Brennan** (Cross Green Growing Together), **Emma Andrews** (FoodWise ); **Penny Pinn** (FL, Horsforth Community Café & Garden), **Dan Robinson** (Incredible Edible Leeds), **Rosie Hall** (FL, LAF Secretary), **Alan and Gini** (Fruitworks co-op)

**AGENDA**

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

**1. Feed Leeds Current projects**

- **LVL Sub-group**

November Kinder Leeds Event at Left Bank: very well attended with good mix of families and students. Becky (Season Well) made pumpkin soup; Sonja and Sarah-Jane (Feed Leeds) offered a pea tops/microgreens seed planting activity using recycled paper cups, Plate to Plot compost and leftover seeds (including Batchelors dried peas) to demonstrate that crops can be grown cheaply all year round.

**Plans for 2024**

LVLs and Sow a Row are awaiting news on application for funding to take part in GetGrowingLeeds for another 12 months. Lots of exciting projects planned including working with the LCC libraries to enable more people to grow food at home.

**2. FL Members updates**

- **Foodwise**

**Silver Award** – unfortunately Leeds did not receive the Sustainable Food Places award.

**'Right to Grow'** following Hull CC announcement of their 'Right to Grow' Policy, Katie Dye (Chair of LCC Climate Advisory Committee ) is exploring pros and cons with Food Partnership. Also Effie Papagyropoulou and Sara Gonzales at Leeds Uni are carrying out research on Hull's 'Right to Grow' so best practice can be shared.

**Procurement** - Leeds Uni and FoodWise are submitting a proposal for a PhD student to work with Yorkshire Procurement Organization to better understand the potential for

including and increasing small and medium sized local producers into procurement frameworks.

- **Meanwood Valley Urban Farm**

The farm have recently hosted a number of funders at the site to help generate new income for exciting projects planned on site in 2024.

The Market Garden is progressing well and the current trainees have been supporting Ben until a new worker is recruited to take Luke's place.

- **Horsforth Community garden**

Horsforth Climate Garden will be planting fruit trees and finishing making the raised beds this winter so we should be able to start engaging with local groups to help grow fruit and veg from the Spring.

Horsforth Climate Action is also supporting Horsforth Children's Centre to establish some raised beds in their grounds for food growing with local children and families.

- **FL Farm Group**

**Northern Real farming Conference**, Leeds, 6<sup>th</sup> Nov.

Sonja, Barbara and Rosie A attended on behalf of the FL Farm Group (FL Farm Group). The event was well attended by farmers, growers, restaurant staff, wildlife people, University researchers, food campaigners and some Local Authority staff. Focus was on working groups to discuss aspects of food growing and distribution across the region.

FL Farm Group participated in the Procurement and Processing groups and are pursuing actions in 2024 (Including a feasibility study for a bean processing plant for the North). Next meeting will be held in January.

**6" of Soil Film**- Sonja has agreement to possibly show the film at HEART in Headingley or Slung Low in Holbeck, during Spring 2024. Sonja will explore possibilities and potential speakers.

**ACTION** Sonja explore dates, possibilities and potential speakers.

- **Sustainability at Leeds University - Positive Impact Partners event**

Ama Chaney attended this event and reported that the University asked the following:

- Whether the third sector knew of the opportunities available to partner with the Uni research staff and students?
- What organisations might want from the Uni?
- How they could improve sustainability across their faculties?

More details can be found here <https://sustainability.leeds.ac.uk/advancing-together-through-university-community-collaboration/>

- **Bedford Fields**

Huge **programme of workshops** next year, all led by qualified and experienced Horticulture/Permaculture educators. Our Winter programme and LPN Permaculture Course etc. has just gone live in the events section on our newly revamped website... [bedfordfields.co.uk](http://bedfordfields.co.uk)

**Permaculture and Climate Action day on 11th May 2024.** If anyone is interested in having a stall/running a workshop, please ask them to email me.

**New** Climate Action Leeds grant funded '**Get Involved in Growing**' programme starting on Mondays commencing 27th Jan. Free weekly fun, practical and educational sustainable growing sessions which will cover forest gardening, living willow construction, propagation (seeds, cuttings and divisions), tree and shrub planting and maintenance, pruning composting, building soil fertility and more... detailed programme will be out soon.

*The programme will run across the Hyde Park/ Woodhouse area rotating between Rainbow Junction, Bedford Fields and Woodhouse Community Centre and is suitable for novice Growers and people who have some experience.*

- **Space 2**

Activity Timetable now available for Spring 2024. Full details can be found <https://space2.org.uk/whatson/>

### 3. Climate Change Updates

The COP 28 UN Climate Change Conference has been taking place. Of interest to our members is the **Food Declaration**. For the first time, the COP recognised the need for food system transformation in addressing climate change:

“Recognizes that unprecedented adverse climate impacts are increasingly threatening the resilience of agriculture and food systems as well as the ability of many, especially the most vulnerable, to produce and access food in the face of mounting hunger, malnutrition, and economic stresses.” For more detail please see: <https://www.cop28.com/en/food-and-agriculture>

### 4. AOB

- **Welcome back Dr Chiara Tornaghi** – Feed Leeds has been involved in research for over 10 years. Way back in 2012 this research was championed by Dr Chiara Tornaghi then working at Leeds Uni working on the Urban Food Justice platform. We are delighted to welcome Chiara back to Leeds and excited to hear her plans for urban agro agriculture research in the city, including the below workshop.

**Landed Community Kitchens Workshop:  
2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024, Woodhouse Community Centre**

Are you a farmer looking to diversify your income streams and open a kitchen on site? Or perhaps you are looking to reach out to urban centres and sell your products to caterers and kitchens? Are you a community kitchen using mostly conventional surplus food, and looking to shift to locally produced, ethical and agroecological food, but don't yet have an economic model for keeping the food affordable?

Whether you already are part of an active kitchen-farmer collaboration, or you are exploring how to start one, you might be interested in this workshop: **“Landed community kitchens: Growing relationships and collaborations between social justice oriented community kitchens and local agroecological farms in the North of England”**.

The workshop organisers are Chiara Tornaghi (Centre for Agroecology, water and resilience, Coventry University), Maddy Longhurst (Urban Agriculture Consortium) and Aryo

Feldman (peri-urban farmers coordinator for Sustain until September 2023), and we are looking to support coalition building among farmers and kitchens, and to explore learning needs to co-design a research project with them). For more information on the background work leading to this event, see [here](#).

For book a place, find out more info, or to be kept informed of future events, please contact Chiara Tornaghi, [chiara.tornaghi@coventry.ac.uk](mailto:chiara.tornaghi@coventry.ac.uk) (or [chiara.tornaghi@gmail.com](mailto:chiara.tornaghi@gmail.com)) *Limited funding available to support travel for those who need it. There will be a follow up event for those who cannot make it.*

- **Feed Leeds Food growing awards** – proposed by Sonja.

We would like to host the nominations online using a google form (or similar) so our members can nominate individuals or groups which meet the categories proposed. Awards to be presented at FL AGM in February.

**Outstanding Young Champion**  
**Outstanding Community Champion**  
**Best Food Growing Initiative**  
**Best Food Growing Project Supporting Sustainability and Resilience**  
**Best Local Business Supporting Local Sustainable Food Growing**  
**Best Community Composting Group**

Further details about the awards can be found in Appendix. The Awards will be announced at the FL AGM on 26<sup>th</sup> February evening at MVUF., where the Award Certificates will be given to winners.

**ACTION ALL** Look out for information being shared in January with details to propose people and projects for the awards.

- **Save the date FL AGM**

The Feed Leeds 2023 AGM will be on Monday evening 26<sup>th</sup> February, at the Epicentre, at Meanwood Valley Urban Farm. (Probably 6pm-8pm tbc). Followed by a celebratory meal at MVUF Cafe 'The Barn'. *Further details to book your place and order a pre-pay meal to follow in January.*

**ACTION ALL** All FL members and Groups are invited to come and give a 1 minute presentation of their work in 2023- further information to follow in January.

- **Funding available**

1. **Nature Hubs Fund** <https://hubhub.org.uk/the-nature-hubs-fund>

The Nature Hubs Fund is funded by the 5p Cup Charge and is part of Hubbub and Starbucks' wider ambition to build stronger, greener communities across the UK. This fund will improve access and connection to nature in the communities Starbucks serves, by creating green spaces within a 5km radius of Starbucks stores.

2. **The TCV Chestnut Fund grant scheme**  
<https://www.tcv.org.uk/communities/chestnut-fund/>

Supports grassroots community groups and initiatives wanting to deliver practical volunteering that improves the natural physical environment and better connections between people and green spaces. The grants fall into two categories – 'Start-up' grants (of up to £200) and 'Support' grants.(of up to £500). *Groups must be members of the TCV Community Network prior to applying for a TCV Chestnut Fund grant.*

## 5. **Dates of 2024 Meetings-** for your diaries

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February evening at MVUF: FL AGM & Celebration of 2023**

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April**

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June**

**No meeting in August**

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September**

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November**

## **APPENDIX: DRAFT FL Food Award Categories**

**Outstanding Young Champion** – Feed Leeds wants to celebrate young people who are getting their hands dirty and learning to grow food. This can be in their own, school or community garden. Tell us about the young people in Leeds making a difference.

**Outstanding Community Champion** – We want to celebrate the real heroes of community food growing. We know that success of community gardening projects depends on the commitment of individuals who turn up each week with enthusiasm to learn, share, encourage and engage others in getting involved with food growing. Let us know who you are nominating as your local community champion.

**Best Food Growing Initiative** – Feed Leeds aims to encourage more local sustainable food growing in Leeds. We want to hear about food growing initiatives across the city and to celebrate their successes. Tell us about your community or school garden or orchards, your market garden, CSA or other food growing enterprise. Tell us what you have achieved so far and any future plans. We want to plant the seeds for local food growing in every community in Leeds!

**Best Food Growing Project Supporting Sustainability and Resilience** – Amid concerns for the climate emergency and inequality, Feed Leeds wants to showcase the very best in community food growing in Leeds. We are looking for food growing projects that have helped communities become more sustainable and resilient. It could be a project that supplies fresh produce to local food banks or community kitchens, a community orchard or community garden that teaches people to grow and harvest their own fruit and vegetables. Tell us how your project helps others.

**Best Local Business Supporting Local Sustainable Food Growing** – Local businesses and restaurants can play an integral role in supporting local food growing initiatives, helping them to grow and be financially viable. Feed Leeds wants to discover which businesses are supporting local food growing initiatives and celebrate their vision and commitment to supporting the Leeds local food network.

**Best Community Composting Group** – Composting food scraps is a great way to reduce carbon emissions and return nutrients back to the soil. Community composting is on the rise and Feed Leeds is keen to find the best community composting group in Leeds. Composting groups can be with neighbours, via the Share Waste app, at school or a community gardening project. Let us know who is leading the way through composting!