



Feed Leeds AGM and Celebration
Monday 26th February 2024 6pm at Meanwood Valley Urban Farm

ATTENDEES

Adam Ogilvie (FL Chair, Meanwood Valley Urban Farm (MVUF)), **Sonja Woodcock** (FL Treasurer, Leeds Food Coordinator at FoodWise Leeds), **Rosie Atkins** (FL secretary –minutes, FL Farm group), **Anna Marsden-Ragnarsson** (Kirkstall Valley Farm), **Emma Andrews**, **Penny Pinn** (FL, Horsforth Community Café & Garden), **Dan Robinson** (Incredible Edible Leeds), **Alan and Gini** (Fruitworks coop), **Abbie Melia** (My place), **Alan Thornton** (Fruitworks coop), **Ama Chaney** (Grow to School), **Ann Forsaith** (Otley Common), **Bobby Lever** (Incredible Edible Moortown), **Cathy B** (Headingley Greengrowers), **Daisy** (Headingley Greengrowers), **Ed Elcock** (Yorkshire Mushroom Emporium), **Edwina Thomas** (CCOR), **Gemma Hoban** (Incredible Edible Leeds), **Husain Alogaily** (Compost-It), **Jacqueline Simpson** (Garforth Compost Collective and Incredible Edible Garforth), **Janet Galvin** (Horsforth Community Garden), **Janet Little** (Horsforth Community Café), **K Trills** (Fruitworks coop), **Kirsty Verner** (Living Potential Care Farm), **Lisa Chamberlain** (My place), **Lizzie Pell** (Incredible Edible Moortown), **Martin Hemingway**, **Nia Ward** (CCOR), **Niall Johnston** (Yorkshire Mushroom Emporium), **Niraj Sunil** (Compost-It), **Paul Magnall** (Rainbow Junktion), **Pip Goff** (Forum Central), **Rhian Williams** (Kirkstall Valley Farm), **Rob Moores** (Passion4Plants), **Sarah Moores** (Passion4Plants), **Simrun Punjabi** (Compost-It), **Tony Riley** (Passion4Plants), **Virginia Morandi** (Ginny) (Fruitworks coop)

APOLOGIES

Sarah-Jane Mason (FL secretary – minutes, RHS), **Becky Mears** (FL, IE Aireborough / Season Well CIC), **Helen Clayton** (LCC Senior Allotments Officer), **Mary Brennan** (Cross Green Growing Together), **Rosie Hall** (FL, LAF Secretary), **Chiara Tornaghi** (Prof Urban Food, at Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience, Coventry University.), **Cindy Leung** (PhD student based at The University of York), **Jo Cartwright** (Swillington Organic Farm), **Beth Bingley** (Bedford Fields Community Forest Garden)



Images show (L to R)

Attendees networking before the meeting, Adam, accepting thank you gift for his work as Chair and Rob, the new Chair being voted in and introducing himself to the Feed Leeds Members.

AGENDA

1. Welcome from Chair

Adam O welcomed the over 30 people attending the AGM, thanked Sarah-Jane, Sonja and Rosie for their work over the year, and members of the Committee for their involvement.

2. Minutes of previous AGM

Minutes from February 2023 were accepted by all committee members attending as a correct record (for a copy of the minutes see website <https://feedleeds.org/>)

3. Treasurers report

Sonja reported that currently there are no funds. A small grant application was made to support the @Sow a Row work and a response is awaited.

4. Chairs report and elections

a. Resignation of Chair - Adam announced that he was having to stand down as the Chair, having served the term formally limited to 3 years. Rosie A thanked him for his work and gave him a 'leaving the Chair' present . (He will continue to be a member of the FL Committee .)

b. Election of new Chair - Rob Moores was proposed as the new FL Chair and was elected unanimously and unopposed.

c. Election of Communications Officer - Emma Andrews was elected unanimously and unopposed.

d. Committee Members stepping down – Thanks for your support Luke Tilley, Caroline Scott and Anna Marsden-Ragnarsson

e. New Committee member – Welcome to Ed Elcock (Yorkshire Mushroom Emporium)

f. Committee members for 2024 –

Rob Moores (Chair)

Sonja Woodcock (Treasurer)

Emma Andrews (Communications Officer)

Rosie Atkins and Sarah-Jane Mason (Co-secretaries)

Ama Chaney

Ed Elcock

Rosie Hall

Paul Magnall

Becky Mears

Adam Oligive

Penny Pinn

Clarrie Ramsden

Dan Robinson

Camille Thomas

5. Feed Leeds Food growing awards – presented by Sonja.

The Awards were created to celebrate aspects of food growing by groups and individuals. Winners were chosen by the FL Committee, and 2 experienced independent Voluntary Action Leeds members. Congratulations to everyone who was nominated or received an award.



Most Enthusiastic Young Gardeners

Awarded to Khadija Begum who volunteers with KVUF, and Ellie Hopkins who volunteers with Incredible Edible Garforth

Outstanding Community Champion

Awarded to Bobby Lever from Incredible Edible Moortown

Best Food Growing Initiative

Awarded to Cross Green Growing Together

Best Food Growing Project Supporting Sustainability and Resilience

Awarded to Meanwood Farm CSA

Best Local Business Supporting Local Sustainable Food Growing

Awarded to Plate2Plate Compost

Best Community Composting Group

Awarded to Compost Collective Seacroft



Bobby Lever from IE Moortown receives Outstanding Community Champion award with Lizzie Pell, Dan Robinson and Sonja Woodcock

6. Updates from attendees

Passion4Plants – Sarah & Rob Moores <https://passion4plants.co.uk/>

Is in its 3rd season at Oakwood Market Garden and is now successfully selling produce through veg boxes, their farm shop and at Oakwood Farmers Market.

Involved their local community through eg plant swaps and open garden days.

Collaborated with Damasq to set up bee hives to provide skills and wellbeing for members of the Leeds Syrian community.

Particular focus on building healthy soil, including ramping up compost production with support from Compost-It and Yorkshire Mushroom Emporium.

Horsforth Community Garden- Penny Pinn <https://www.horsforthcommunitygarden.co.uk>

Received a £2k ChangeX Open Orchard grant for cordon and espalier apple trees, a plum and a greengage plus fruit bushes planted. They have nearly finished their raised beds . Cooperative grant to be received shortly. they will be contacting local organisations to arrange sessions in the garden this season.

Horsforth Community composting- Penny Pinn

Is sadly being blocked by Parks

Horsforth Community food growing- Penny Pinn

Has interest from several places including the Children's Centre, a church and an allotment with a community plot. Will be promoted at Horsforth Climate Action AGM this weekend.

My Place - Lisa Chamberlain & Abbie Melia

https://www.facebook.com/myplaceyorkshire/?locale=en_GB

This group are based in Middleton. With lots of local community help and support they started with 1 tomato and now have lots of raised beds to use. They work with 33 care leavers and unaccompanied asylum children involving them in growing, cooking and building skills and community in Middleton.

Headingley Greengrocer – Kathy Beels <https://www.theheadingleygreengrocer.co.uk/>

Supports local small food businesses including MVUF and Kirkstall Farm. Operates plastic free. Works with Plate2 Plate on food waste. Gives to Leeds refugee Charities, the Foodbank at Woodhouse and any surplus to the Pay as Your Feel cafe run by Rainbow Junktion.

Incredible Edible Leeds – Dan Robinson <https://edibleleeds.org.uk/>

IE supports, inspires and enables over 20 groups growing veg etc in public places. Obtained National Lottery Funding to enable this. Working on access to land issues with LCC and on the "Right to Grow" on public land campaign.

<https://www.incredibleedible.org.uk/what-we-do/right-to-grow-overview/#:~:text=A%20Right%20to%20Grow%20would,community%20cultivation%20or%20wildlife%20projects.>

Incredible Edible Moortown – Lizzie Pell <https://www.facebook.com/EdibleMoortown/>

The group now have 20 raised beds and work on Climate Resilience. They have a Little Veg Library, a community orchard and hold community events. They are aiming to hold a harvesting event this year.

Yorkshire Mushroom Emporium – Ed Elcock & Niall Johnston

<https://yorkshiremushroomemporium.co.uk/>

They have been established for 3 years, growing edible fungi and selling kits. They have overcome lots of issues and now want to connect more with others e.g. who may want some of their waste mushroom compost. They also aim to provide workshops and tours, etc. They are deciding on their organisational structure and business model.

Fruit Works- Alan Thornton and Gini Morandi <https://www.fruitworks.org.uk/>

Workers Co-op, based in Leeds. they work across Bradford and Leeds with community groups and in over 50 Bradford schools. They offer pruning services and learning sessions; help establish community orchards; and manage an old orchard from which they harvest and sell the apples. There are more community orchards in the areas than across most of Europe !

Fruitworks are looking for a new site (see AOB below) please do contact them if you know of any possible locations.

Feed Leeds Farm Group – Rosie Atkins <https://feedleeds.org/projects/project-feed-leeds-farm-group/>

Meet (on zoom) every 6 weeks.

We are working on the farm supply strand of Leeds Food Strategy, with SUSTAIN + NRFC members + Leeds University Research Staff.

Includes work on a feasibility study for a Northern bean processing unit(s) and developing a local 'Yorkshire Menu' of foods grown/ harvested in Yorkshire Region.

Living Potential Care Farm – Kirsty Verner <https://www.livingpotentialcarefarming.org.uk/>

Based at Sicklinghall, near Wetherby, works with young people with autism. They have just started work in the walled garden having obtained funding for therapy work there.

Grow to School – Ama Chaney <https://www.growtoschool.co.uk/>

have developed food growing resources linked to the curriculum with nature-based activities. Work in Kirkstall and Bradford and further. They get funding to deliver this in schools or schools can pay themselves. They work with 50 to 60 schools a year to embed sustainability into the school system.

Compost-It – Husain Algogaily, Niraj Sunil and Simrun Punjabi

<https://uk.linkedin.com/company/compostit>

Group aims to facilitate increased food-waste recycling by connecting households to local composters.

Their work is comprised of three core elements:

Collection - Flexible, convenient food-waste collection on demand for households within Leeds, with free caddy bins provided too for storage.

Connection - Virtual Community Composting Networks, which are digital communities centred around local composters. These provide a space for communication and mutually beneficial collaboration for food-waste recycling and beyond, between households, local composters, and the wider community.

Education - Concise, easy-to-understand educational resources surrounding important sustainability-based subjects, mainly focused on food-waste but also including more general topics.

Kirkstall Farm CSA – Rhian Williams <https://kirkstallvalleyfarm.org.uk/>

The growers and volunteers on their 16 acres of farmland now produce 100 veg boxes a week; funding from these pays the growers wages and seed purchases. They have trained a new grower and got the second polytunnel up. They offer regular Open Days. They also host a 'hungry holiday' scheme and other community events.

Food Wise Leeds Food Partnership – Sonja Woodcock <https://foodwiseleeds.org/>

Working to deliver the Leeds Food Strategy (<https://www.leeds.gov.uk/plans-and-strategies/leeds-food-strategy>) with Leeds CC. The current focus is working with other Food Partnerships across the Region, as many food supply sources are Region-wide, not local to Leeds.

SAVE THE DATE

Food Wise is presenting the 6" of Soil film at HEART in Headingley on Friday 10th May, with speakers. Sonja thanked Climate Action Leeds for funding the food at this AGM.

7. AOB

a. Landworkers Alliance Rhian encouraged people to join the Landworkers Alliance, for information, networking .. and good parties ! <https://landworkersalliance.org.uk/>

b. Fruit works Co-operative are looking for a Nursery site

Fruit Works Co-operative is a growing social enterprise in Leeds needing a new tree nursery site. Our agreement with West Leeds Activity Centre is coming to an end so we are looking for a new site for tree growing, public sales, and delivering training. We are one of only two fruit tree nurseries in West Yorkshire and a good local employer. We would be grateful of your help to find a new site based on our requirements below:

Essential

At least 0.25 acre minimum and relatively flat.

Fertile soil free from contamination

Vehicle access for our van and for lorry deliveries. Space to park at least 1 van.

Access to mains water

Secure from ASB and deer

Able to have public access at least once a week for tree sales, workshops, volunteering, etc.

5-year lease with rent to be negotiated

Desirable

Shelter and storage

Electricity

Rabbit-proof

Within Leeds ring road

Neighbours with shared interests, for example other growers, environmental services, social enterprises

c. Headingley Clean Air Day Sunday 16 June 2024

Far Headingley Village Society are planning another Clean Air Day street fair. The date will be Sunday 16 June, so mark this in your diary. Last year's event was hugely enjoyable, and we are hoping to match that and then some: more food stalls, more live music, more local crafts and more fun for kids.

We would like to have an information point about the dangers of air pollution and what Leeds is doing to combat this menace. A big part of this is sustainable transport, so we want to encourage more walking and cycling. We are looking to have cycling proficiency taking place at the top end of Cottage Road, as well as bike maintenance and marking by WY Police like last year. Hope to see you there.

d. The Edible Gardener <https://www.facebook.com/theediblegardener>

♥ I'm Looking for a Leeds school to work on a therapeutic gardening project, with 6 asylum seeking or refugee children of any school age ♥ 🌱 🌿 If you know of a suitable school please let me know:

Details: I'm working with School food matters and we have funds available to work with a Leeds school in 2024. We would like to expand our Welcome gardening sessions, which are therapeutic in nature. The aim is to support the children to feel connected to the school and community, and for them to enjoy all the mental health benefits brought by group gardening sessions. We've been running these sessions for a couple of years, and they are really lovely.

🌱 We run 8 sessions in each school (primary or secondary)

🌱 For a group of about 12 asylum-seeking or refugee children (6 vulnerable children who each choose a buddy to attend with them)

🌱 The sessions run roughly fortnightly from the end of March/beginning of April to July

🌱 Each session is about 2 hours long

Date of next meetings

The next FL meeting on zoom will be on Thursday 25th April at 4pm.

Further meetings will be held in June, September and November 2024. We are exploring which week days are best for holding meetings. Please check the Feed Leeds website for updates.

w/c 17th June (in person tbc)

No meeting in August

w/c 16th September (in person tbc)

w/c 18th November

END OF MEETING

Everyone then enjoyed the MVUF Meal and networking.