

Reading Food Growing Network AGM Sunday 19th February 2023 Committee report for 2022

What we did during 2022:

2022 AGM on Zoom on Sunday 20th February. Susannah Hall gave her talk on “Growing unusual edible perennials”.

Susannah Hall is a permaculture designer and organiser for Permablitz London which designs and implements edible garden makeovers throughout London. She is also the gardener at Cecil Sharp House permaculture LAND project and the co-ordinator at the Josiah Braithwaite Community Garden. She offers training in permaculture design and gardening.

Ran seed swaps We ran more seed swaps during the last 12 months:

Reading Farmers' Market, Saturday 2nd April

Bean Pole day, Saturday 23rd April

Have a Go Day at Lavender Place Gardens, Saturday 18th June

Wild About Reading Lavender Place Gardens, Sunday 21st August

Reading Farmers' Market, Saturday 3rd September

Caversham Horticultural Society Autumn Show, Saturday 10th September

Reading Farmers' Market, Saturday 5th February

Karen also continued to run the seed swap from home, using the postal service to distribute the seeds.

Final Straw film screening as part of Reading International Festival, was held on Friday 4th November.

RFGN coordinates the local network for Good to Grow (formerly known as The Big Dig). More details at: <https://www.goodtogrowuk.org/>

RFGN helps with the Veg4Reading project, which provides fresh fruit and vegetables to people in food poverty. We liaise with individual growers and allotment groups to gather in gluts and donations throughout the growing season. Last year these donations made up about 543kg towards the Veg4Reading total.

Continued our member benefits schemes: as members of RFGN we are entitled to discounts at Suttons Seeds (40% off seeds and 10% off other items from their catalogue). RFGN is also a group member of Garden Organic, giving us a 10% discount on everything in their catalogue. We joined Garden Organic's Heritage Seed Library and have received our 2022 seeds.

We're also members of Social Farms & Gardens <https://www.farmgarden.org.uk/> who provide very helpful advice.

Informed and connected people via our website, mailing list and social media.

