

**Reading Food Growing Network
AGM Sunday 25th February 2024
Committee report for 2023**

What we did during 2023:

2023 AGM at RISC on Sunday 19th February. Ed Munday gave his talk on “Wilder Gardens” and explored gardening for wildlife, what it is and why we should do it, including giving some practical suggestions for things people can incorporate into their space.

Ed Munday is a Community Wildlife Officer for Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trusts and has worked on urban wildlife projects across the three counties. He is currently project officer for Nextdoor Nature, a community project supporting communities in Reading who want to create space for nature and people in their local area.

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

Reading Farmers’ Market, Saturday 4th February

AGM Sunday 19th February

Bean Pole Day Saturday 22nd April

Incredible Edible Reading event Sunday 18th June

Mini swaps at Tyford Village Fete (19th August) and Wokingham Festival (Aug Bank Holiday)

Caversham Horticultural Society Autumn Show 2nd September

Fungi talk Wednesday 20th September

Farmers Market Saturday 7th October

Incredible Edible Reading event at Reading International Festival Saturday 14th October

Reading Farmers’ Market Saturday 17th February 2024

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

Fungi on the Allotment talk by Dr Fay Newbery held on Wednesday 20th September and explored that not all fungi are bad and many perform functions essential for the health of our ecosystems.

Dr Newbery works as a plant pathologist, diagnosing diseases on plants. She is particularly interested in diseases caused by fungi, both in gardens and in our wild flora.

RFGN coordinates the local network for Good to Grow (formerly known as The Big Dig).

This year’s Good to Grow week is 22nd to 29th April. 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. If anyone who has surplus get in touch.

RFGN collaborating with Food4families and Transition Town Reading to investigate creating an Incredible Edible Reading.

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.

