

Reading Food Growing Network AGM Sunday 20th February 2022 Committee report for 2021

What we did during 2021:

Our activities were again severely curtailed throughout much of the year by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

2021 AGM on Zoom on Sunday 21st February. Pauline Pears gave her talk on “My Desert Island Vegetables”.

Pauline worked for Garden Organic for 30 years - running the advisory service, editing the members' magazine and writing quite a few books. She has been giving gardening talks for many years.

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 800kg towards the Veg4Reading total.

Ran seed swap Due to the Covid-19 pandemic we only ran a limited number of seed swaps on Saturday 22nd May at Bean Pole Day, on Saturday 18th September at MERL, at Reading Town Meal on Saturday 25th September, and Whitley GrowAllot on 24th October. However, Karen ran the seed swap from home during the remainder of the year, using the postal service to distribute the seeds. This year that included the semi-postal seed swap for Wargrave Allotment Society over the Easter Weekend of 2nd-5th April, a sort of “click and collect”. The seed swap kit is also available to borrow for other events.

Sustainable Growing workshop on Wednesday 18th August at Lavender Place by Food4Families' Michele Atkins.

We also continued to help with Reading Town Meal, which was a mix of virtual workshops and the live event in 2021. We organised and ran the online workshops and also helped to source and deliver vegetables for the meal.

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

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 have been very helpful with advice and support through the pandemic.

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

