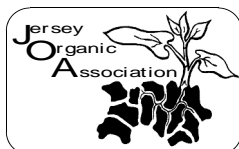


# JERSEY ORGANIC ASSOCIATION



ISSUE 80 6 April 2009

**Welcome to the Spring edition of the JOA newsletter.**

**<http://www.jerseyorganicassociation.org.je>**

## **Forthcoming events**

**Guided Walk at Portelet Common with John Pinel, Head of the States Countryside Team  
Saturday 20th June 2009, 2.00pm**

This is a follow on from the much appreciated walk at Ouaisne Common last year.

Going along La Route de Noirmont towards Portelet, turn right as if heading to Ouaisne. Take the left fork and head along Le Chemin du Portelet, continuing past Portelet Hotel, until you get to the car park at the common. Members and friends are asked to meet in the car park at 1.50pm

## **Jersey Organic Association Summer Meal**

The JOA invites all members to a summer celebration and social event at 5pm on Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> July 2009.

Please come along to an informal get-together to meet with other members of the JOA. Children are very welcome.

(See details below!)

## **Gardening Sub-Group**

This small informal sub-group of the Jersey Organic Association especially for gardeners (as opposed to commercial growers) had been running until last year. Activities included visits to gardens such as Trinity Manor, Samarès and the Zoo as well as to other members' gardens.

We are now looking for a co-ordinator for this sub-group – someone who can organise visits and re-energise the group. Meetings are normally held on a Saturday afternoon or early weekday evenings.

You may also have some ideas on activities such as seed and plant exchanges, providing workshops or setting up a general advice forum and we look forward to hearing exactly what members would like. Please contact me in the first instance on [angparrburman@hotmail.com](mailto:angparrburman@hotmail.com) if you are interested in either joining the sub-group or better still, co-ordinating it.

**Angela Parr Burman**

## **Jersey Climate Action Network - Update**

As reported in the January edition of the newsletter, the Jersey Climate Action Network ('J-CAN') has recently been established and is working on three main fronts –

- (1) to raise awareness of the issues of peak oil and climate change;
- (2) to provide a network for the exchange of ideas and information; and
- (3) to take action to reduce dependency on fossil fuels and counter the impact of climate change.

The group's first A.G.M. was held in January, and since then it has been meeting on a monthly basis and has been working in several areas, including transport, recycling, and energy use. Most recently the group

helped to publicise the 'Earth Hour' event on 28<sup>th</sup> March as part of the WWF campaign for a 'global deal on climate change'. This global deal will be discussed in Copenhagen in December 2009, when representatives from 190 countries will meet at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change to adopt a new international agreement to follow on from the Kyoto Protocol. This agreement is being referred to as the global deal on climate change, and it will set out how the world will tackle the growing climate crisis from 2012 onwards.

J-CAN's title echoes that of G-CAN which has been up and running in Guernsey for some time. Anyone interested in climate change and peak oil is recommended to look at the excellent publication 'Planet Guernsey', which can be viewed online at [www.societe.org.gg](http://www.societe.org.gg) G-CAN's website can be found at [www.g-can.net](http://www.g-can.net)., and J-CAN will be launching its own website in the next few weeks.

J-CAN's next meeting will be at 8.00 p.m. on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April (venue to be confirmed), and if you would like further information about the group and how to get involved then please contact Jeremy Harris (e-mail: [jeremyharris@jerseymail.co.uk](mailto:jeremyharris@jerseymail.co.uk)).

**Jeremy Harris**

## **JOA Affiliations**

The Jersey Organic Association has connections with certain other organisations. In my role as JOA Treasurer, I have recently been checking through these in order to make sure that all our subscriptions are up to date! For the information of members, here is a list and short description of all our 'connections':

### **Soil Association – CURRENT**

The Soil Association is the UK's leading campaigning and certification organisation for organic food and farming and its organic symbol is the UK's largest and most recognisable trademark for organic produce. The JOA started out in 1987 as a local group of the Soil Association. Today, the JOA remains listed as one of the Soil Association's local groups and renewed its membership in March 2009, with a voluntary annual affiliation fee of £25.

[www.soilassociation.org](http://www.soilassociation.org)

### **Garden Organic - CURRENT**

Formerly known as the Henry Doubleday Research Association, Garden Organic is the UK's leading organic growing charity. It undertakes research into organic horticulture and promotes organic gardening, farming and food. The JOA became a local group of the HDRA in 1991 and now remains on their list of local groups, having renewed its membership in March 2009, with a voluntary affiliation fee of £30.

[www.gardenorganic.org.uk](http://www.gardenorganic.org.uk)

### **Organic Growers Alliance – CURRENT**

The Organic Growers Alliance aims to bring growers together to promote their interests and to share their experience of growing and of all that goes with it. The JOA signed up to the Organic Growers Alliance in November 2008, following the talk by visiting speaker Alan Schofield, for an annual fee of £25.

[www.newoga.org.uk](http://www.newoga.org.uk)

### **Jersey One World Group – LAPSED**

The Jersey One World Group was launched in April 2007 as a successor to the Make Poverty History campaign of 2005. It aims to raise the Jersey population's awareness (of fair trade, aid and debt) through information, education and the further development of an education/resource centre in Jersey. The JOA joined the Jersey One World Group at the end of 2007, following a talk by local campaigner Daniel Wimberley, for an annual fee of £10. Our membership has lapsed and is now being reconsidered.

[www.jerseyoneworldgroup.org](http://www.jerseyoneworldgroup.org)

### **British Trust for Conservation Volunteers – PAST, POSSIBLY FUTURE**

The British Trust for Conservation Volunteers provides opportunities for volunteers to undertake practical conservation work to improve the environment. The JOA joined BTCV in June 2002 in order to take advantage of their special public liability and personal accident insurance offer for groups, as the JOA was that year involved in an event requiring insurance. We did not renew in 2003. We are now are looking into joining again for the same reason. Membership costs £35 (plus the insurance premium of about £100 if required). [www2.btcv.org.uk](http://www2.btcv.org.uk)

### **Practical Action – POSSIBLY FUTURE**

Formerly known as the Intermediate Technology Development Group, Practical Action is a development charity which works with some of the world's poorest people using simple technology to fight poverty. The

JOA has in the past donated to support this organisation's campaigns and we are finding out whether affiliation is available.

[www.itdg.org](http://www.itdg.org)

*Helen Weston*

## **AGM**

### **JERSEY ORGANIC ASSOCIATION**

#### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2009 at the Arts Centre, Phillips Street, St. Helier**

**Present:** 12 members were present.

**1. Minutes:** The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 15th January 2008, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.

**2. Activities in 2008:** Brian Adair reported back on campaigns and activities that had taken place during 2008, including guided walks and visits, the promotion of organic food, and the support given by the JOA to national campaigns organised by the Soil Association, Practical Action and other organisations.

**3. Treasurer's Report:** The meeting received and approved the Treasurer's report for the year 2008. It was noted that there was a total of £1,803.97 in the J.O.A. bank account as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008.

**4. Membership Secretary's Report:** The Membership Secretary reported that there were currently 62 members in the Association, consisting of 20 individual members, 33 O.A.P.s, and 9 unwaged. The high proportion of O.A.P. members was commented upon, and it was agreed the Association should aim to attract more younger members.

**5. Subscription Levels for the year 2009:** It was decided to make no change to the current level of subscriptions, which were as follows - £4 for students/ OAPs/ unwaged, £8 for individuals, £12 for families, and £20 corporate membership. Members would be asked to renew their subscriptions by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009.

#### **6. Elections to Committee:**

The Committee was elected as follows –

Chairman:	Brian Adair
Treasurer:	Helen Weston
Secretary:	Angela Parr-Burman
Membership Secretary:	Pat Harris
Publicity Officer:	Steve Jones
Newsletter Editor:	Sarah Matlock
Newsletter Coordinator:	Jeremy Harris
Newsletter mailings:	Jacqui Jones
Committee Members:	Brian Morin, Michael Overbury, and Sarah Johnson

**7. Campaigns and activities in 2009:** The meeting discussed campaigns and activities for 2009 and agreed these should include the following –

**(a) Allotments:** It was agreed that the allotments campaign should be a continuing priority in 2009. In this connection it was noted that the Environment Department and the parish authorities were all supportive of the principle of making more land available for allotments, and that a meeting was being arranged by Iain Norris to help move this forward;

**(b) Organic farming in Jersey:** The need to promote organic farming in Jersey was one of the main reasons for establishing the Jersey Organic Association back in 1987, and it remained as one of the Association's key priorities. The promotion of organic farming would take a variety of forms during the year, including display stands at agricultural shows, research into the local market for organic produce etc.

**(c) Workshop for organic growers:** The meeting supported a proposal that a workshop should be arranged for organic growers, led by Alan Scholfield and focusing in techniques in organic growing. Brian Adair volunteered to organise this event, and in this connection he would contact all the Island's organic growers (plus some non-organic ones who might also be interested). The event would provide a good opportunity to ask growers whether there were any other events or activities that they would like to be organised by the JOA.

**(d) Gardening sub-group:** There was support for the proposal that the gardening sub-group should be reactivated, with possible activities including garden visits and the bulk ordering at reduced prices of organic seeds and garden materials;

**(e) Environment Week (8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> June):** The JOA already offered support to this annual programme of activities that was coordinated by the Department for Education, Sport and Culture. Activities to be offered by JOA members this year would include farm walks and talks in schools on organic farming;

**(f) Guernsey visit (August):** Brian Adair suggested that a day trip to Guernsey could take place during the summer to visit Annie Sandwith's organic smallholding and box scheme;

**(g) Organic Fortnight (September):** Every year the Soil Association organise a national promotion of organic food and farming known as 'Organic Fortnight'. It was agreed that greater focus should be given to this event in September 2009 in order to promote the organic cause in Jersey. Possible activities could include -

- encouraging supermarkets and restaurants to increase their ranges of organic food/ingredients;
- a membership drive to attract new members, with leaflets being distributed in shops, garden centres etc; and
- the production of an organic directory for Jersey, with details of outlets selling organic produce, restaurants using organic ingredients, and 'organic' sites open to visitors, e.g. the smallholding at the Jersey Zoo;

**(h) Lady Eve Balfour Memorial Lecture (October):** It was suggested that the topic for this year's lecture could be 'Allotments', with a speaker being invited from the U.K. Allotments Association.

**Jeremy Harris**

### **Jersey Organic Association Summer Meal**

The JOA invites all members to a Summer celebration and social event at 5pm on Sunday 26 July 2009. Please come along to an informal get-together to meet with other members of the JOA. Children very welcome.

**Location**            Petit Alva  
                              La Rue du Petit L'Aleval  
                              St Peter

#### **Parking**

There is a little room for parking at Petit Alva, alternatively you could park on the top end (north end) of the wide 'La Route de L'Aleval' the road that runs up past the Vic in the Valley Pub. Or take the bus to Living Legend which has a very regular service during the Summer and is only a 2 minute walk away but do check to see when the last bus home is!

#### **Food and Drink**

Please bring a cold dish with you.  
All the food will be gathered together to provide a shared picnic/buffet for all.

Please bring your own drinks, and all the cutlery and crockery that you will need.

Chairs, tables etc will be provided

RSVP to Sarah Johnson 743718/07797725486. In the event of nasty weather the meal will be postponed to Sunday 2 August.

**The JOA Newsletter** is produced quarterly and distributed to local outlets and members, with copies to the Soil Association and Garden Organic. Members' contributions are welcome.

**Items for the Newsletter** should be sent to the editor, Sarah Matlock, La Petite Robeline, La Rue des Bonne Femmes, St Ouen, JE3 2ET, tel: 487883 (h) and 758012 (w) e: sarah@cimarine.co.uk

**Membership Enquiries** should be addressed to the Membership Secretary, Pat Harris, The Cottage Farm, La Rue du Bel au Vent, St Lawrence, JERSEY, JE3 1ND, Telephone: 730007

**Website:** <http://jerseyorganicassociation.org.je>