



Natasha Giddings

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# The beginnings

- Eliza Pearson did Darren's course in Oz
- Brought him to UK (Cowdray & CAFS)  
Nov 2011
- Aranya assisted co-ordinating and then took over running the organisation
- 2012: Kirk Gadzia - Holistic Planned Grazing
- 2013: Joel Salatin & Eugenio Gras

# Active Learning Group

- Holistic Goal
- Foggage - Stuart Norgrove
- Holistic Orchards - Matt Dunwell,  
Ragman's Lane
- Soil Carbon - Rob Richmond
- Keyline - Esbjorn Aneer
- Mapping - Adam ?

# My role

- Invited to help out by Aranya April 2012
- Small amount of funding Aug 2013 - Feb 2014
- Exploring who/what else out there and raising profile of RAUK  
> collaboration rather than competing/reinventing wheels
- November 2013: Survey to establish/confirm demand, needs and priorities of those already interested (others still welcome to complete it <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/R2BXXZ9> – the more feedback the better)
- December 2013: Meeting at Schumacher College to discuss how to take things forward bearing in mind the survey findings. Main events: APPGs, PFWG/PFRG, also Sustainable Food Trust True Cost Accounting in Food and Farming and BES ‘Rethinking Agricultural Systems in the UK’ one.

# Some Key Survey Findings

- Demand for courses to be more field-based, on sites committed to RegenAG, and for the opportunity to work through designs for instance as one does on a PDC
- Highest demand for Eugenio to come back and do another Introduction to Biofertility & Chromatography
- Need for courses to be more easily accessible for instance further north and west
- Need for more follow-up (in terms of active learning days and possibly online material)
- Demand for case studies and RegenAG Farm Business Surveys
- Conflict in best times for events depending on type of farming (horticulture needs winter whereas for livestock farmers winter is more difficult regarding looking after stock)
- Cost was a limiting factor
- Need for better networking – including high demand for an online directory
- High demand for easily accessed ‘evidence’ (research) and information
- People wanted organised collaboration for lobbying on policy

# Actions Arising

- Course scheduled with Eugenio, 29-31<sup>st</sup> May, Kingsclere (Tim May) –not as central as might be ideal but more accessible than Cowdray, with cheaper accommodation as well as camping available, and most importantly commitment to RegenAG; please register interest if you would like to attend (estimate £350 per head including lunch and refreshments with options of evening meals and packs of materials to do your own bioferts as well as chromas). Want to explore options for funding for those of more limited means – not got there yet but any pointers welcome.
- Looking to expand the Active Learning Group events as well as possibly put on some more shorter courses such as the Keyline day in different regions.
- Fleshing out concept of online ‘Agroecological Hub’

# Agroecological Hub

(not specifically RegenAG; collaboration under Agroecological Alliance including all?)

- **Home:** Definition of Agroecology; different perspectives on why we need it depending on the stakeholder concerned to help develop widespread stakeholder involvement
- **Blog/News:** Keeping people up to date with what is relevant, with which they might like to get involved, including e.g. E.U. Seed Law, DEFRA consultations (CAP), etc.
- **Calendar:** to raise awareness throughout the agroecology arena as well as so we stop clashing and so those doing similar events can connect and collate outcomes (e.g. SFT and BES)
- **Directory (of people/organizations):** searchable according to: region/interest/nature of entry
- **Directory (of resources):** something like PubMed for agroecology? Ideas?
- Use of sponsors? (If so criteria?)



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