Building the Renaissance Programme
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Disclaimer: This programme is as correct as we could make it at the time of going to press!
National Policies for Land

**Monday January 6th, 9.30-10.30am, Ship St.**

What factors make land so hard to access in the UK? How can we overcome them? This panel will hear about the land as a commons (Martin Large), the effect of the planning system on land use (Daniel Scharf) and the role of taxation and land grabs in encouraging land consolidation (Simon Fairlie). It will also hear from Terre de Liens in France, which supports collective ownership of land for organic and small-scale farmers.

*Chair: Ed Hamer*

*Speakers:*
- Martin Large, Biodynamic Land Trust
- Veronique Riofol, Terre De Liens [@Terredeliens](#)
- Daniel Scharf, Chartered Planner
- Simon Fairlie, The Land is Ours

Evolution and Emerging Opportunities for Community Farming

**Monday January 6th, 9.30-10.30am, Habakkuk Room**

The Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens present an interactive workshop on the current landscapes for community farming. Led by Jeremy Iles [@FCFCG](#).

Where does community growing meet farming?
- Where does the new interface between “hobby horticulture” and semi commercial growing lie?
- How can people scale up into production?
- How can farmers meet the community in CSAs and other forms.
- How does community finance and crowd-funding fit in?
- The new Growing Together partnership and aspiration.

Seed Security

**Monday January 6th, 11.30-12.30pm, Ship St**

Access to seed from diverse varieties is essential in order for farmers to adapt to the local environment and respond to changing climatic conditions. This session will explore global and local issues impacting on seed security. It will look at the new EU seed directive and how it affects growers, explore opportunities for open pollinated seeds and farmer-led seed trials and reflect on the wider issue of global seed diversity.

*Chair: Emma Hockridge, Soil Association*

*Speakers:*
- Ben Raskin, Soil Association
- Peter Brinch, Open Pollinated Seeds
- John English, The Community Farm

Session led by the Soil Association.
Building Resilience into Farming
Monday January 6th, 11.30-12.30pm, Habakkuk Room
This workshop will look at how the concept of resilience can be built into farming. It will bring together ideas on the concept of resilience and permaculture to look at how to allow farmers to make practical changes to increase farm resilience. This will include recent work by Sara Burbi on pasture fed livestock, as one example of resilient farming.

Andy Goldring, Permaculture Association @andygoldring
@Permaculture_Uk
Mike Jones, Swedish biodiversity Centre @ _SLU

Launch of the Agroecology (strategy) Bill
Monday January 6th, 2.30-3.30pm, Ship St.
This session is about making Agroecology happen in the UK: Challenging Parliamentarians to learn and act. It will outline the broad principles of agroecology and how these principles can be taken up by parliament and embedded in government policy. What would agroecological policies look like and how can we achieve them? It is proposed that the Agroecology (Strategy) Bill be put forward as a Private Members Bill at Westminster.

Chair: Pete Riley, Agroecology Alliance
Speakers:
Nic Lampkin (Organic Research Centre) @OrgResCent
Emma Hockridge (Soil Association), Michel Pimbert (@CovUniCAFS) (Centre for Agroecology and Food Security), John Turner (Pasture Fed Livestock Association), Philip Lymbery (@philip_ciwf) (Compassion in World Farming), and Patrick Mulvany (UK Food Group).Michel Pimbert, Centre for Agroecology and Food Security.

The Future of Upland Farming: Roundtable
Monday January 6th, 2.30-3.30pm, Habakkuk Room
This roundtable will ask what contribution can the uplands make to a future of sustainable, enlightened agriculture? Do we need upland farming at all? And if it is part of the mix, what should it look like and why? What should our aims be? What stands in the way of these aims or helps pave the way towards them? How do we get there? Do come and join the discussion and add to the questions being reflected upon!

Chair: Lucy Ford, Oxford Brooks @oxford_brookes
Speakers:
Martin Harper, RSPB @Natures_Voice
Bill Grayson, Organic Upland Farmer
Patrick Krause, Scottish Crofting Federation @SCFtraining
Julia Aglionby, Chairman, Foundation for Common Land @4CommonLand
Mike Innerdale, National Trust @nationaltrust

The Future of World Food Systems
Monday January 6th, 4.30-5.30pm, Ship St
This panel will address the longer term future of global food supply.

Chair: Aine Morris, Sustainable Food Trust @susfoodtrust
Speakers:
Geoff Tansey, (@GeoffTansey, @FoodEthicsNew) Food Ethics Council. He believes that we need a range of paradigm shifts to solve the problems of hunger and environmental degradation.
Philip Lymbery, (@philip_ciwf) Compassion in World Farming. His forthcoming book is an investigation into the darker side of global industrial agriculture;
Tim Lang (@ProfTimLang), Professor of Food Policy, City University. He will offer his overview of the problems and how to solve them.

Pasture-Fed Livestock Association: Open Meeting
Monday January 6th, 4.30-5.30pm, Habakkuk Room
The Pasture-Fed Livestock Association is a farmer-based organisation that champions the raising and finishing of ruminant animals solely on grass and conserved forages. This meeting will summarise progress to date (including developing production standards through which farmers can become approved suppliers of PASTORAL meat - available at the ORFC dinner!), and plans for the future.

An Economy Fit for Farming
Tuesday January 7th, 9.30-10.30am, Ship St.
How can we re-work the way economics is viewed so as to favour the provision of good food to everyone, while neither destroying the planet nor bankrupting farmers?

Chair: Rev’d Nick Read: Director, the Bulmer Foundation @BulmerFoundatio
Speakers:
Colin Tudge, Co-founder, Oxford Real Farming Conference, Funding Enlightened Agriculture, Campaign for Real Farming
Martin Large, Executive Director, Biodynamic Land Trust; author of “Common Wealth” (Social Ecology & Change) 2010
Tim Crabtree, Senior Lecturer in Economics, Schumacher College; Senior Associate, Wessex Community Assets.

Research and Innovation for Commercial Smallholders: Meeting their Needs
Tuesday January 7th, 9.30-10.30am, Habakkuk Room
The Organic Research Centre leads a workshop on how to use the latest research to the benefit of smallholders. The workshop will look at the technical and business challenges of trying to make a living as a smallholder.

Phil Sumption, Organic Research Centre
Kate Collyns, Gardening for Profit @KateCollyns
True Cost Accounting
Tuesday January 7th, 11.30-12.30pm, Ship St

This workshop session will be led by Patrick Holden, who heads up the Sustainable Food Trust, with contributions from two of his colleagues, Richard Young and Aine Morris.

They will review the key conclusions of their recent London conference on this theme and make the case for developing a more honest economic climate which reflects, in financial terms, the environmental health and social costs and benefits of different food and farming systems.

Options under consideration will include redirecting CAP payments; and taxation and market mechanisms which reward the delivery of public goods and punish the polluter.

Machinery and Tools for Growing Vegetables
Tuesday January 7th, 11.30-12.30pm, Habakkuk

Understanding what level of mechanisation you need or want for your growing business is not always easy. As small scale horticulture declined in the UK the availability of kit for market gardens, as well as the knowledge and skills required to use and maintain them, have decreased. We will look at what tools and machines are available and how you can assess which are the right ones for your scale of operation and crops. This will include: hand held tools, hand held powered machinery, kit for small tractors, which equipment is essential when setting up an operation and some basic costing information.

This session is hosted by the Soil Association and the Organic Growers Alliance.

Enlightened Selling: Retail for Real Farming
Tuesday January 7th, 2.30-3.30pm, Ship St

If real farming requires by-passing the supermarkets and returning to a more local and community based food chain, this will require many farmers to become innovative retailers, using farm shops, box schemes, farmers’ markets and on line retailing as well as finding novel routes to customers. What does it take to sell farm produce successfully using alternative retail methods?

Chair: Lynda Brown @soilassociation
Speakers:
Simon Mellin, Roaming Roosters, Lancashire @RoamingRoosters
Caroline Corsie, Worcestershire Wildlife Trust, beef box scheme @wildlifetrusts
Ed Dowding, Food Trade @eddowding @foodtradeHQ

The Future of Family Farming
Tuesday January 7th, 2.30-3.30pm, Habakkuk Room

2014 has been declared the International Year of Family Farming by the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organisation. This session will look at what family farming is, why it matters and how it will look in the future.

Chair: Julie Ingram, Countryside and Community Research Institute will give an overview of the pressures facing family farms and why they are valued. She will also facilitate the discussion.

Becca Watkins (@becca_watkins) a farmer’s daughter currently studying biology at university will look at the interactions between family farms and new entrants to farming and how they can support one another.

Robert Jeffery, NewLandowner, consultant and farmer will discuss how family farms can create opportunities for their youngsters to earn additional income and provide themselves with a living from the farm.

New Models of Dairy Farming
Tuesday January 7th, 4.30-5.30pm, Ship St

In the wake of recent attempts to introduce “mega-dairies” to the UK, this panel looks at the alternatives to an increasingly large and industrialised dairy industry. Is it possible to make a living producing milk on a small scale? Three farmers show that is using a combination of pasture and local distribution.

Chair: John Meadley, Pasture Fed Livestock Association
Speakers:
Neil Darwent, Free Range Dairy @freerangedairy
Fiona Provan, Calf at Foot Dairy @CalfAtFootDairy
Nick Snelgar, Maple Field Milk
Matt Dale, North Aston Dairy

Democratising Agricultural Research for Food Sovereignty
Tuesday January 7th, 4.30-5.30pm, Habakkuk Room

The Centre for Agroecology and Food Security will lead this session, which will consist of a report, short film and open discussion on the St Ulrich European Workshop on Peasant Agrarian Culture and Food Sovereignty.

Speakers:
Michel Pimbert, Director of Centre for Agroecology and Food Security @CovUniCAFS
Ulrich Schmutz, Garden Organic
Donna Udall, Coventry University
Farmer Success Stories  
**Monday January 6th, 9.30-10.30am**
People who have been farming for a few years but started as new farmers will describe the obstacles they faced and how they overcame them, and offer inspiration to those starting on a similar path.

Chair: Julian Cottee, Cultivate Oxford  
Speakers:  
Joanne Mudhar, Oak Tree Farm @OakTreeLCF  
Paul Sousek, Cottage Farm @CottageFarm  
Stuart Jones, Mossbrook Growers @MossBrookGrwers  
Joe Hasell, Cultivate Oxford

Access to Land  
**Monday January 6th, 11.30-12.30pm**
A look at practical ways to access land in the UK from small-scale sharing, to leasing and buying, and an opportunity to assess all the options.

Chair: Rachel Harries, Soil Association @rachel_haries @soilassociation  
Speakers:  
Chris Walsh, FarmStart @kindlingtrust  
Toni Dipple, Ilford Organics @ToniDipple @OrganicIlford  
Tom Curtis, Land Partnerships @landshare  
Zoe Wangler, Ecological Land Cooperative @ecolandcoop

Access to Markets  
**Monday January 6th, 2.30-3.30pm**
Having grown your produce how do you sell it on a scale that allows you to make a living? What are the best outlets and ways of accessing customers?

Chair: Rupert Dunn, CSA UK  
Speakers:  
Ceinwenn Lally, Plunkett Foundation @Plunkettfoundat  
William Hudson, East Anglia Food Link  
Julian Cottee, Cultivate Oxford @CultivateOxford  
Helen Strong, Manchester Veg People

Access to Training  
**Monday January 6th, 4.30-5.30pm**
What skills are needed? How and where do we acquire them? What will it cost?

Chair: Jennifer Smith, Plunkett Foundation  
Speakers:  
Nick Green, Incredible Farm @incredibledible  
Ana Digon, Regenerative Agriculture Spain @RegenAGiberica  
Hannah Thorogood, Permaculture Association @RegenAgUK @HannahThorogood

Planning for Success: From Idea to Action  
**Lunchtime Session: Monday January 6th, 1:00pm – 2:00pm**
Do you have a clear vision for your real farming idea? Have you got a thought-through plan to achieve it? Maurice McCartney will demystify business planning and provide you with tips and techniques to help you prepare and write a great plan that is easy to share with funders and others interested in supporting your work. Topics will include:

- Developing a clear vision and the right strategy to achieve it
- Testing your big idea: the things that could go wrong
- Telling your story: writing a great planning document
The American Experience

**Tuesday January 7th, 9.30-10.30am**

A session with Severine von Tscharner Fleming (@greenhorns). She will reflect on the state of young farmers in the United States, with a focus on land access and community organising, based on her experience over the past six years running The Greenhorns, a national network that works to promote, support and recruit new farmers. Severine also co-founded the National Young Farmers’ Coalition and Farm Hack.

Politics and Campaigning

**Tuesday January 7th, 11.30-12.30pm**

How do we change the system and bring about real farming? Political lobbying, campaign building or changing consumer behaviour? This panel will bring together people working in food and farming to achieve real change.

Chair: Ed Hamer, The Land Magazine and Chagford CSA

Speakers:

- Severine von Tscharner Fleming, Greenhorns
- Judith Hitchman, URGENCI
- Barbara Stuetz
- Jyoti Fernandes, Landworkers Alliance

Access to Finance

**Tuesday January 7th, 2.30-3.30pm**

How can new farmers and food producers access the finance their projects need?

This workshop is run by Funding Enlightened Agriculture (FEA) which brings together different types of funders to help find investment and support for real farming projects.

Chair: Colin Tudge, Co-founder Oxford Real Farming Conference, Funding Enlightened Agriculture, Campaign for Real Farming

Speakers

- Olivia Bowen: Director of Gaeia (global and ethical investment advice); adviser FEA @gaeia
- Jamie Hartzell: Managing Director and Founder of Ethex (online ethical investment), founder Ethical Property Company, Chair of Divine Chocolate and Zaytoun; adviser FEA @ethexuk
- Helen Melia: Coordinator, Funding Enlightened Agriculture; specialist adviser Plunkett Foundation @Melia_Helen @FundingEA

Plenary: Building the Renaissance

**Tuesday January 7th, 4.30-5.30pm**

The plenary will bring together key points raised over the two days and produce a programme of action.

Chair: Julian Cottee, Cultivate Oxford

Speakers:

- Colin Tudge, Campaign for Real Farming
- Rachel Harries, Soil Association @rachel_harries
  @soilassociation
- Rupert Dunn, CSA UK
- Ed Hamer, The Land Magazine and Chagford CSA
Beacon Farms: What should a Starter Farm look like?
**Monday January 6th, 9.30-10.30pm, Krebs Room, Ship Street Conference Centre**

Phil Haughton, co-Director of the new Bristol-based IPS Beacon Farms Ltd will outline the vision for a new generation of incubator or starter farms designed to protect good quality land for horticulture and training. Beacon Farms intends to support and mentor new growers, offer training in growing, marketing, running a small farm business, the CSA approach and much more, as well as supplying the local area with high quality produce.

In this workshop growers or budding growers are invited to share what they would want to get from an incubator or starter farm. This is your chance to be part of shaping the vision for Beacon Farms’ first project Beacon Lane Starter Farm, an 80 acre site on the fringes of Bristol. If you are interested in getting into growing or furthering your growing skills and career, please come and contribute.

Phil Haughton is the CEO of the Better Food Company in Bristol, co-founder of The Community Farm in Chew Magna and a former Trustee of the Soil Association.

Reclaim the Fields
**Monday January 6th, 9.30-10.30pm, The Living Room, Turl Street Kitchen**

Reclaim the Fields is a constellation of people and collective projects determined to create alternatives to capitalism through cooperative, collective, autonomous, real needs oriented small scale production and initiatives, putting theory into practice and linking local practical action with global political struggles.

The session will explore the history and future of RTF in the UK and how agricultural change needs to be placed in a wider culture of resistance and radical social change.

The European Farming Experience
**Monday January 6th, 11.30-12.30pm, The Living Room, Turl Street Kitchen**

The ORFC aims to learn from the best farming practice worldwide. This session brings together two speakers with experience of European farming to give a flavour of what is happening across the Channel. Gonzalo Palomo is involved in a new network in Spain of consultants, consumers and producers attempting to shorten supply chains. He is also an expert in organic farming and animal health. Nick Green (@incredibledible) works for Incredible Edible but recently went to Romania where he was struck by the way that farming there is practised without destroying either local communities or the natural environment. He will ask what we can learn from Romania and how more people in the UK can experience what they are doing there.

Beyond the Fringe
**POP UP SESSIONS**

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*THIS SESSION RUNS FROM 4.00-5.00PM*
Regenerative Agriculture (RegenAG)
Monday January 6th, 2.30-3.30pm, Krebs Room, Ship Street Conference Centre

The RegenAG Spanish network (Agricultura Regenerativa Ibérica) will be represented by its coordinator and founder member Ana Digón, who will introduce the concept of Regenerative Agriculture. Ana is a professional translator and organiser of educational and social events. Thoroughly inspired by the teachings and philosophy of the international RegenAG network led by Darren Doherty, Ana works to spread the principles and practices of Regenerative Agriculture throughout Spain and Portugal, motivated by the firm understanding that these practices are a bridge towards the future in these times of climate change, food, economic and social challenges.

Farming, Food and Health
Monday January 6th, 2.30-3.30pm, The Living Room, Turl Street Kitchen

Durwin Banks discusses how small farmers could capture sales from the big supermarkets by learning about food and health. Recent media coverage of the role of hospital food in aiding the healing process shows that this issue is now only beginning to be taken seriously. Progress is slow and a significant reason is lack of knowledge amongst the general public about what food is needed for a healthy life, including a lack of reliable information on healthy eating from the health service itself.

The money currently being used to treat diet-related illness such as diabetes and obesity could far better be diverted towards supporting small and medium farmers to produce food that is healthy to begin with. Instead, the current cheap food policy destroys the countryside, drives people from the land and disconnects them from food production. More importantly it results in a loss of knowledge about what constitutes healthy food. Durwin will highlight the connection between a thriving farming culture, with more small farms, and a resurgence in healthy food. His aim is to use the ORFC to begin the journey to enthuse even more people about the wonders of healthy food for healthy people.

FarmDrop: The Future is Selling Direct: How the Internet Redresses the Balance of Power in the Food Chain
Monday January 6th, 4.00-5.00pm, Krebs Room, Ship St Conference Centre (NB 4pm START)

Ben Pugh will explore ways farmers can take advantage of one of the fastest growing areas in retail: online grocery shopping. Online shopping is one of the only meaningful growth drivers in UK grocery at the moment, with research suggesting the market will double to £11.2bn by 2016.

FarmDrop provides a revolutionary alternative to the traditional supply chain and retail model. With more consumer spending migrating online, this session will show how this can help existing channels increase sales of locally produced food - and help kick-start sales in areas without a direct channel for farms and food producers.

Community Supported Agriculture UK: Strengthening the Movement
Monday January 6th, 4.30-5.30pm, The Living Room, Turl Street Kitchen

A workshop for anyone involved with, or with an interest in, Community Supported Agriculture led by Phil Haughton. The CSA Network UK is a newly constituted organisation that seeks to connect the movement in the UK; provide and facilitate advice; promote the ideas behind CSA to the public; and represent the movement at national and local government level.

- Find about more about the network, how it can support you and how working together we can grow and develop it.
- Share with and learn from other CSAs, whatever the size and stage and development of your project.

Bees for Agroecology
Tuesday January 7th, 9.30-10.30pm, Krebs Room, Ship Street Conference Centre

Kevin Coleman will give a presentation on the role of beekeeping in food production and how bees have a central role to play in any agroecological system. Bees are widely known to be vital pollinators responsible for ensuring the success of a wide range of crops. At the same time bees provide valuable produce. Kevin will explain how the two activities fit together.

The Pig Idea
Tuesday January 7th, 9.30-10.30pm, The Living Room, Turl Street Kitchen

Charlotte Jarman, from Feeding the 5,000, will explain why they launched their Pig Idea campaign in 2013. The project fed eight pigs on catering waste at Stepney City Farm and then used the resulting meat for a feast in Trafalgar Square in October. The campaign aimed to raise awareness around the issues of pig feed and waste.

The Gleaning Network
Tuesday January 7th, 11.30-12.30pm, Krebs Room, Ship Street Conference Centre

Martin Bowman, coordinator of the Gleaning Network UK, will present the group’s progress to date. The Gleaning Network was set up by Tristram Stuart (@ThePigIdea @Feeding5k) and Feeding the 5,000. It is an exciting new initiative to save the thousands of tonnes of fresh fruit and vegetables that are wasted on UK farms every year. Crops are often unable to reach the market either because they fail to meet the strict cosmetic standards of the retailer or because of overproduction or the high cost of labour. The Gleaning Network coordinates teams of volunteers, local farmers and food redistribution charities in order to salvage this fresh, nutritious food and direct it to those that need it most, such as hostels for the homeless and charities.

To date, they have salvaged several tonnes of excellent unmarketable British produce, including apples, cabbages, cauliflowers, spring greens and kale, and redistributed them...
to charities such as FareShare and the Best Before Project. The movement is gathering pace, and is rapidly expanding into a national network, with new hubs launching in Kent, London, Cambridge, Brighton, Bristol and Manchester.

Engaging the Media
Tuesday January 7th, 11.30-12.30pm, The Living Room, Turl Street Kitchen

Francesca Price, author, journalist and broadcaster, who has worked for the BBC, the Guardian and recently the Sustainable Food Trust, will run a workshop on communicating campaign messages and getting heard in the media. She will be joined by Dan Saladino from the BBC Radio 4 Food Programme and Elisabeth Winkler, journalist and blogger at “Real Food Lover”.

Landworkers’ Alliance - Via Campesina UK
Tuesday January 7th, 2.30-3.30pm, Krebs Room, Ship St Conference Centre

The Land Workers’ Alliance is a coalition of producers meaning that membership is open to anyone who is actively involved in food, fuel or fibre production. They are members of La Via Campesina international and work in solidarity with their fellow land workers across the globe.

The alliance brings together like-minded producers to identify and organise targeted campaigns and lobby UK and European parliaments on issues affecting the livelihoods of small-scale producers. It aims to provide a network for producers to share farming skills and knowledge through training, tours and working group.

Soil Health
Tuesday January 7th, 2.30-3.30pm, The Living Room, Turl Street Kitchen

How to introduce the right micro-organisms for pest and disease control for farmers and growers.

Richard Higgins, was raised on a Somerset mixed farm in the UK and attained his NDA at the Royal Berkshire College of Agriculture. He later completed a ten year study, of the works of Sir Albert Howard, now considered the grandfather of organic farming. Richard has used Sir Albert’s growing system as the foundation of the Howard-Higgins system (HH-2), which renders all types of organic waste into fertiliser in 30-90 days. The system represents a revolution in farm waste management and nutrient recycling. Richard says it is all about creating the right micro-organic structure in your soil before you start. Together with good water management crop outputs can be doubled and even trebled. Richard advises farmers on how to introduce micro-organisms into their farms. He has travelled widely, including to Haiti and many parts of Africa demonstrating and implementing the HH-2 system. He also gives lectures in the UK including recently at Coventry University and the Soil Symposium.

The Pig Ask: Using Film to Inspire a Consumer Revolution
Tuesday January 7th, 4.00-5.00pm, Krebs Room, Ship Street Conference Centre

Factory pig farming produces ‘cheap meat’, but comes at great cost. Public health, farming communities, global environments and, of course, pigs all bear the brunt. In this workshop Farms Not Factories will explain their ambitious campaign - The Pig Ask! - and how they plan to reach out globally to start changing minds and changing habits.

The session will show their latest film, Pig Business in Chile, which tells the dramatic story of one village’s successful battle to close the world’s largest factory pig farm. There will be 15-20mins to discuss the film, The Pig Ask! campaign - and how you can be involved.

Planning Clinic Q&A on the Planning System
Tuesday January 7th, 4.30-5.30pm, The Living Room, Turl Street Kitchen

This session provides conference participants with the opportunity to obtain planning advice on queries relating to farms, smallholdings, allotments and low impact homes. The following advisors will be available to take questions:

• Simon Fairlie, Chapter 7: Simon has provided free planning advice to small-scale farmers, low-impact communities and on low-impact housing for over 20 years and is one of the principal authors of the DIY Planning Handbook. In 1998 he successfully applied for planning permission for Tinkers Bubble, a low-impact woodland community in Dorset.

• Daniel Scharf, RTPI: Daniel is a chartered planner with nearly 40 years’ experience. He thus has extensive experience of submitting applications for planning permission and for lawful development certificates and has managed planning appeals and assisted with judicial reviews.

• Zoe Wangler, Ecological Land Co-operative (ELC): The ELC was granted planning permission in April 2013 for three new residential smallholdings for new entrants to ecological farming. Zoe was responsible for preparing the planning applications and for preparing the planning appeal.