

BIOGRAPHIES

Charles Arden-Clarke

Charles originally trained as a zoologist and ecologist in the UK and South Africa. He then worked for six years for the Political Ecology Research Group in the UK, primarily on the impacts of civil nuclear power and conventional and organic farming systems. Between 1990 and 1999 he developed and led WWF International's Trade and Investment programme based in Switzerland, focusing mainly on the environmental impacts of WTO rules and negotiations, related ISO standards and the proposed Multilateral Agreement on Investment. In 2000 he joined UNEP in Geneva, focusing on the effects of trade liberalisation on the environment and the relationship between WTO rules and multilateral environmental agreements. Since 2004 he has worked for UNEP in Paris in its Division on Technology, Industry and Economics. He is Head of the Secretariat of the Ten Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Patterns (the "10YFP"), working also on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Wil Armitage

Wil was awarded a Nuffield scholarship in 2013, he travelled to Denmark, Sweden, France, Australia, New Zealand and America to investigate how leading farmers were growing large volumes of top quality forage. Wil is Managing Partner of Keythorpe Organic Farms, farming 350 autumn calving cows and increasing to 250 spring calving cows on two organic units totalling 1200 acres. Wil is passionate to promote Biological Farming and its benefits.

Bruce Ball

Bruce Ball is a soils expert specialising in soil physics and soil management. His research currently involves investigation of how organic farming, dairy farming, crofting, tillage and compaction influence soil quality and greenhouse gas emissions. He has recently developed and promoted simple methods for the visual evaluation of soil structural quality (VESS). He is also interested in the spiritual and ethical connections between soil, agriculture and communities with a view to improving food security.

Geoff Bowles

Geoff has been farming since he was 11 years old and now farms the 140 acre dairy farm - Ivy House Farm, Beckington in Somerset. He studied Agri-engineering and then began milking cows in 1982. He began processing, moved to Jerseys & converted to organic in 1999. He is married with 3 children - all involved in family business.

Josh Brem-Wilson

Josh is a Research Fellow at the Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience at Coventry University. His research focuses upon the degree to which formal policy-making opportunities enable the effective participation of small scale food producers and other rural, and non-elite constituencies. He situates this work in relation to the wider food sovereignty movement and public sphere theory. He places a strong emphasis upon collaborative and participatory research that seeks to generate practical benefits for non-elite constituencies seeking voice in the decisions that affect their lives.

Tom Brenan

Tom works for the Gaia Foundation where his role includes development of a new seed project. With a background in environmental law, he has previously worked for the National Trust and the Environmental Law Foundation. He is also a director of the Biodynamic Land Trust and has spent time working and volunteering on organic farms and smallholdings. He maintains one hand in the soil, and the other in the law.

Jonathan Brunyee

Jonathan Brunyee is a Director of the Pasture-Fed Livestock Association and a National Trust tenant farmer on a 75ha organic holding in the Cotswolds. He is also a Senior Lecturer in Farm Business Management at the Royal Agricultural University and a Nuffield Farming Scholar 2015 studying sustainable enterprise.

Gillian Butler

Gillian has worked with farmers for nearly 40 years, offering advice to livestock producers on feeding and forage production. She has been with Newcastle University since 1997 researching the impact of organic or low input management on product quality, primarily looking at animal fats; learning lessons about how we can produce dairy, meat and eggs that are better for our health.

John Cant

John Cant runs an online marketing agency, marumarket, which is focused on the grocery industry. He is a computer person who has run a grocery delivery business so it puts him in the unique position of understanding the issues and opportunities of selling fresh food.

Georg Carlsson

Georg Carlsson is working as researcher in cropping systems ecology, at the department of Biosystems and Technology, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Alnarp, Sweden. He has a MSc in biology (2000) and a PhD in crop science (2005). His current research is focusing on cropping system diversification and re-introduction of grain legumes in European agriculture for enhanced sustainability. Georg and Per Modig (see separate entry) are collaborating in the ongoing research project about intercropping grain legumes and cereals in organic agriculture, where they facilitate a participatory research process with organic farmers.

Tim Chamen

Tim has a degree in agricultural engineering and spent 25 years at Silsoe (Institute of Ag Engineering Research) where he spent 10 years on replicated field trials of tillage systems, tillage tool development and the effects of machinery compaction on soil and crop responses. As part of a compaction research project he was closely involved with the design and development of an experimental 12 m gantry tractor for field-scale trials and experiments within a combinable crops rotation. Since leaving Silsoe in 1996, he has worked independently, undertaking contracts for farm machinery manufacturers and amongst others, the EU, Natural England, Defra and AHDB (Cereals and Oilseeds). He completed a PhD in 2011 on the effects of controlled traffic and low pressure systems on a range of soils and crops and set up a Controlled Traffic Farming (CTF) focus group and website in 2007. He now runs CTF Europe which has five cooperating partners across Europe and has put CTF firmly on the map.

Kate Collyns

Kate runs market garden Grown Green @ Hartley Farm in Wiltshire, selling fresh produce from 3.5 acres to local farm shops, restaurants, box schemes and cafes. Kate did the Soil Association Future Growers' apprenticeship 2008-2010, and wrote Gardening For Profit to share her experiences of setting up a new business. Kate is on the committee of the Organic Growers Alliance.

Nicholas Corp

Nicholas is assistant farm manager at Shimpling Park Farms Ltd. Harper Adams graduate with a BSc (Hons) degree in Agriculture with Crop Management. Experience in both conventional arable and salad production. Keen Shot.

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Laura Creen

Laura grew up in Canada, skipped University and instead spent 5 years sailing on wooden tall ships exploring the world. She ended up in the UK (with a Brit for a partner) and when looking for work found the 2 year SA apprenticeship where she fell in love with weeding carrots and harvesting in the rain at Abbey Home Farm. Since then she's fallen in love with the UK climate, including the warm winters and cold summers and plans to make Devon home.

Will Davenport

Will has been growing grapes in Kent and Sussex since 1991 and converted his 20 acres of vineyards to organic management in 2000. Davenport Vineyards grow 9 grape varieties and make a range of still and sparkling wines. They were awarded the UKVA wine of the Year Trophy in 2014 and won the Soil Association's Organic Food Awards.

Peter Dollimore

Peter Dollimore has been growing organic vegetables for the box scheme and retail market, full time and a bit, for 18 years. He has a BSc in Environmental Science, specialises in growing glasshouse salads and has recently learned to skate backwards thanks to his 9yr old daughter.

Tim Downes

Tim and his family farm around 700 acres at Longnor, Shropshire milking 280 cows through a 24/48 herringbone parlour. In 1988 Tim, together with his parents, began converting the farm to organic, a process that was completed in 2000. The farm is certified by the Soil Association and Tim has been a member of OMSCo for the last 15 years. Tim is a Nuffield Scholar and has travelled the world in search of knowledge and best practice. Committed to sustainable farming - testing the browsing potential of trees is his latest initiative to trial.

Jyoti Fernandes

Jyoti Fernandes is a farmer running a 20 acre agroecological holding producing cheese, meat, eggs, fruit, preserves, apple juice and cider with her husband and four children. Her farm, Fivepenny Farm is a part of a local producers co-operative in West Dorset that shares facilities for adding- value to produce. She is a campaigner working on land rights and food sovereignty formerly with The Land is Ours and The Land Magazine and now as chair of the Land Workers' Alliance in the UK. She is also on the coordinating committee of the European Coordination of Via Campesina, an organisation representing around 200 million peasant farmers across the world. As part of Via Campesina she is active in lobbying for reform of the Common Agricultural Policy in Brussels and of the Food and Agriculture organisation as part of the Civil Society Mechanism of the Committee on Food Security.

Lucia Foresi

Academic background in forestry and agricultural sciences, currently doing a PhD on assessment of sustainability and resilience of organic greenhouse horticulture. Gathered practical experience as an organic grower between 2012 and 2014, working mostly 'for the glory' as a volunteer in eco-projects in Spain and Greece. Loves trekking, camping, growing vegetables, DIY, reading, and music.

Simon Gardner

Organic Salad and Vegetable grower in the Cambridgeshire Fen supplying the multiple retailers.

Emily Gascoigne

Emily graduated from the University of Cambridge in 2012 and began work with Synergy Farm Health Ltd (a large farm animal practice in Dorset). She predominantly works with commercial sheep flocks in Somerset and Dorset and increasingly with organic producers. Emily has also just begun a period of further study, supervised by Dr Fiona Lovatt MRCVS and working towards a European College Diploma in Small Ruminant Health Management.

Emily's particular clinical interest is lamb mortality and parasite control with an emphasis on maximising returns from organic and conventional flocks by limiting losses or challenges to performance and monitoring.

Eric Giry

Eric Giry is agricultural counsellor at the French Embassy in London and is in charge for the UK and Ireland of all issues or concerns dealing with agriculture, the agrifood industry, food, rural development, forestry and fisheries. He was appointed by the French ministry of agriculture where he exercised for 25 years many responsibilities in areas as diverse as CAP, common market organisations, multilateral trade agreements, food regulations, food quality, production and supply chains, and environmental issues in agriculture. He was for the 6 last years at the head of the department in charge of agrifood strategy and sustainable development.

Carolyn Goethel

Carolyn Goethel oversees The Food Assembly's producer network in the UK. She supports farmers and food makers in direct selling at their local Food Assemblies. Carolyn is interested in how technology can lead social innovation in the food sector and more widely. Her background in postcolonial studies combined with her wwoofing experience have shaped her desire to work towards establishing a fairer and more sustainable food system

Ed Goff

Ed took over the family farm (100 acres) in 1975 and began conversion to organic in 1983. As he had no children he had assumed that when the time came, when the energy and enthusiasm required exceeded that available, he would sell up and retire. However when the time came he was unwilling to abandon the farm to the possibility of it reverting to a conventional status.

Christine Gosling

Chris farms in Wiltshire with her husband Nick and son Edward. They have 120 Guernsey cows and process their own milk. They converted to Organic farming in 1998 and since then she has become increasingly interested in using natural methods to improve cow health including homeopathy, the Obsalim technique and the use of essential oils.

Roger Hitchings

Roger retired from his post as Principal Consultant in Information Services at the Organic Research Centre in 2013 after 15 years of service. His background is in soil science, education, and organic vegetable production. His work at ORC focused on knowledge transfer including commercial consultancy, OCIS visits, training delivery, and project engagement. He was a member of Defra's Advisory Committee on Organic Standards (ACOS) and Chair of its Technical Committee. He is a pool member of EU Expert Group for Technical Advice on Organic Production (EGTOP). He is an independent IOTA accredited consultant and Secretary of the OGA.

Stuart Holm

Stuart Holm is a Chartered Ecologist and has worked as a woodland creation advisor for the Woodland Trust for 5 years delivering a range of agroforestry and agricultural tree planting schemes. He is currently working on a scheme with the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust to look at woodland creation whilst retaining a viable understory grazing system without the loss of Basic Farm Payments. Previously Stuart worked for 11 years as an adviser with the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG). He has his own small farm in Leicestershire farming mainly arable with a small flock of sheep and around 50 acres of mature woodland.

Steven Jacobs

Steven has been working in food and farming since the eighties. Following his work with the Permaculture Association, Co-operative Wholesale Society, Fresh & Wild (now Wholefoods Market) and Essential Trading Co-operative Steven joined OF&G in 2007. He is OF&G's Business Development Manager. Since then he has increased his family by 40% (his wife gave birth to twins shortly after moving to Shrewsbury) and created annual events for the organic sector most notably the annual organic farming conference, National Organic Combinable Crops.

Samer Jarrar

Samer has a PhD in Plant Pathology and an MSc in integrated Pest Management from the University of Bari in Italy. His first degree was a B.Sc. in Plant Production and Protection from the University of Hebron in Palestine. Samer is currently Director of the Canaan Center for Organic Research and Extension (CORE), in Palestine. From 2002-2014, he was researcher and assistant to the Director of the Department of International Cooperation and Projects management in Bari, Italy (CIHEAM -IAM Bari). From 1996 to 2000 he worked in the Ministry of Education and local NGOs and has teaching experience as a part-time lecturer. His areas of interest are; plant pathology, agroecology and organic Farming, sustainable agriculture and rural development. He is married with two kids.

Phil Jarvis

Phil Jarvis has been running the GWCT Allerton Project's farming operations for over 20 years. Phil studied for an MSc in Sustainable Agricultural Management in 2011, is an advocate of LEAF's integrated farming and the resurgence of agroecological principles. Phil is a member the NFU's National Environmental Forum, East Midlands Combinable Crops Board and is County Chairman for Leicestershire, Northants and Rutland.

Helen Kearney

Helen has a lifelong interest in plants and growing, completed a Permaculture Design course in 1997 with George Sobol and Patsy Garrard and a Permaculture diploma in 2000. She has three children and became interested in herbal medicine when they were young. She completed a Bsc in Herbal Medicine in 2012.

Nic Lampkin

Nic is Director of The Organic Research Centre and has been involved in organic farming research since the 1980s, with a particular focus on economic and policy issues. He is author of Organic Farming, co-editor of the Organic Farm Management Handbook. He has played a leading role in developing support policies for organic farming in Wales, England and the EU as the co-ordinator of the English Organic Forum, organic sector representative on the Defra Agri-environment Stakeholders Group, lead organic policy adviser to the Welsh Government, and a permanent member of the EU Expert Group for Technical Advice on Organic Production (EGTOP). In 2015 he was made an Associate of the Royal Agricultural Societies.

Rebecca Laughton

Rebecca Laughton is Campaigns Researcher for the Landworkers' Alliance and runs a small organic market garden in Dorset. She holds a MSc in Sustainable Agriculture, and has been working on local food and farming issues for eighteen years, resulting in her writing the book, 'Surviving and Thriving on the Land' (Green Books 2008)

Mark Lea

Mark Lea is an organic farmer from Shropshire. The farm is around 580 acres, most of which is in a 5yr arable rotation including red clover for seed or silage, wheat, oats, quinoa and peas. The farm also includes a green-waste composting operation, a herd of pedigree Hereford cattle and a classroom, providing a base for on farm education.

Carlo Leifert

Carlo has been Research Development Professor of Ecological Agriculture at Newcastle since 2000 and Director of the Stockbridge Technology Centre Ltd (STC) since 2001. He leads the Nafferton Ecological Farming Group (NEFG) and currently manages R&D projects focused on: applied agronomic R&D to improve quality and safety and reduce costs in sustainable and organic food production systems; interactions between food production methods and food quality (especially nutritional and sensory quality) and safety characteristics and the selection/breeding of crop and livestock varieties suitable for 'low input' and organic systems. He is a visiting professor at the Chinese Academy of Agricultural science and a member of the academic advisory board of the Thünen Institute (German Federal Research Institute for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries). From 1999-2009 Carlo was a member of TESCO's Food quality and Safety expert panel and advisory board of Nature's choice.

Margi Lennartsson

Margi has worked at Garden Organic for more than 25 years leading the organisation's research and outreach programme activities. She has been involved in a wide range of research, development and knowledge exchange projects related to organic horticulture and food production systems of different types, including fruit and vegetable production on large and small scale, domestic and community growing in urban and rural areas. She is passionate about the important benefits that can be achieved by encouraging and supporting people to take an active role in food growing – benefits for the environment, for human health and wellbeing, for building stronger communities and for helping to ensure food security. Today Margi works as an Associate with Garden Organic and CAWR, Coventry University.

Tony Little

Tony Little has been involved in sustainable agriculture for nearly 20 years. For most of the last 14 he was a key member of staff at Organic Centre Wales. During his time there he worked with farmers, supply chains and retailers on many projects to develop and support organic businesses in Wales. He worked with the Welsh Government to strengthen organic policy and played an important part in developing the new Glastir Organic scheme. In September 2015 he left OCW to set up the Sustainable Farming Consultancy and continues to support organic farmers and growers, OCW and organic certification bodies. He is on the committee of the OGA.

Mark Measures

Mark is an independent organic agriculture consultant specialising in advice and training in farm business management, husbandry, conversion planning and organic systems development. He is Director of the Institute of Organic Training and Advice (IOTA) providing training, information and accreditation to advisers throughout the UK and Ireland, joint editor of the biennial Organic Farm Management Handbook and provides input into the ORC research and dissemination programme. Mark has 25 years of organic farming experience; he established the Organic Advisory Service (ORC) in 1985 and headed it for 15 years and initiated and coordinated the establishment of the Organic Milk Suppliers Cooperative. He has extensive knowledge of all aspects of organic production and its markets, research, and standards development. He has experience of organic extension throughout the world. He is a partner in a mixed organic farm in Shropshire.

Rob Meijer

Born in 1950. MSC in Horticulture at Wageningen University. Working in horticultural science since 1975. From 2007-2011 coordinator of the Dutch research programme on organic greenhouse horticulture; chair of the COST Action Biogreenhouse.

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Josiah Meldrum

Josiah is co-founder of Hodmedod, a company that aims to reacquaint or introduce the UK to over-looked or new British field crops – such as dry fava beans, carlin peas and quinoa. Emerging from a community project that researched and demonstrated more resilient diets and food systems in 2012, Hodmedod initially worked with British-grown beans and peas destined for export. Today the business increasingly works directly with farmers and growers to secure supplies of existing crops and develop new ones. Hodmedod believes that for some higher value, lower volume dried seeds and grains there's an overlap between horticultural and arable approaches to cropping; they're keen to explore the opportunities (and obstacles) these crops present to organic growers.

Per Modig

Per is both a farmer and an agricultural advisor, working with organic production of e.g. common bean, lentil, carrots and onion on his own farm Fagraslätt in southern Sweden and providing advisory services in organic crop production through his employment at the Swedish Rural Economy and Agricultural Society, Skåne (HIR Skåne), Sweden. Per and Georg Carlsson (see separate entry) are collaborating in the ongoing research project about intercropping grain legumes and cereals in organic agriculture, where they facilitate a participatory research process with organic farmers.

Patrick Mulvany

Patrick has been involved in the food sovereignty movement since its inception. He is an agriculturalist who works on policies and practices that advocate ecological and biodiverse food systems. In addition to working across the world with food movements, NGOs and United Nations organisations, he is a member of the Food Ethics Council and was formerly the Chair of the UK Food Group and the senior policy adviser to Practical Action/ITDG.

Neil Munro

Manager of the Heritage Seed Library at Garden Organic, a collection of open-pollinated varieties that are rare or unavailable. The varieties held are a collection of heritage and heirlooms sent out to members in our annual catalogue, produced since 1985.

John Newman

John Newman has been farm manager at Abbey Home Farm, Cirencester since 1992. A family partnership of 650 ha of award winning mixed organic farming comprising of dairy, sheep, pigs, poultry, beef, arable, grassland and vegetable enterprises. There is also an award winning farm shop and café and on farm processing of dairy and poultry products and a butchery. The farm was a founder member of The Organic Milk Suppliers Co-Op Ltd and has been involved with a number of collaborative organic marketing initiatives. John is a director of The Organic Seed Producers Ltd and of Organic Arable, and chairman of the Soil Association agricultural standards committee.

Susanne Padel

Susanne is Senior Programme Manager and team leader at The Organic Research Centre involved in several projects related to socio-economics and policy aspects of organic farming. She led ORCs involvement in the SOLID project. Susanne is one of the editors of the Organic Farm Management Handbook, published by ORC. She has been involved with organic farming since the early 80s. After working in advice for organic farmers in North Germany, she joined Aberystwyth University as a researcher in 2001 and moved to ORC in 2009. Susanne holds a degree in general agriculture from the University of Kassel, Witzenhausen and a PhD in agricultural economics from Aberystwyth University on conversion to organic milk production. She has a keen interest in knowledge exchange and in supporting good collaboration between farmers and researchers.

Adam Payne

Adam works with Organiclea, a workers co-operative who run a 12 acre organic market garden on the edge of London. He is also a

member of the coordinating group of the Landworkers' Alliance and of the European Coordination of Via Campesina, the regional representation of peasant and family farmers unions in the international Via Campesina network.

Dr Bruce Pearce

Bruce joined The Organic Research Centre in 1999 and has undertaken a number of roles and is currently Deputy Director. He is responsible for overseeing the research programmes, contracts and personnel of the organisation. His research activities have covered a wide range of areas including plant breeding, seed and variety rights, monogastric feed and production, farming sustainability assessment, implications of GM and participatory research methods. Prior to joining The Organic Research Centre he was part of MAFF's Chief Scientists Group and worked for the Consumers Association's "Gardening Which?" magazine. He has a degree in Biological Sciences and PhD in Horticulture.

David Price

David Price spent 25 years working in nature conservation, with experience of virtually all of the UK lowland habitats. Now, as Secretary of the Seed Co-operative, he hopes to apply what he has learnt about working with nature to reinvigorating the biodiversity within our farming systems.

Ben Raskin

Ben Raskin has been working in horticulture for over 20 years. He is currently Head of Horticulture at the Soil Association and also works freelance as a horticultural advisor. Ben has a wide range of experience working with growers at all levels of production. His own experience includes; running a walled garden in Sussex supplying a Michelin starred restaurant, working for Garden Organic at their gardens in Kent. Ben also set up and ran the 10 acre horticultural production at Daylesford organic Farm, before moving to the Welsh College of Horticulture as commercial manager. He is also author of "Compost a Family Guide" a fun but informative activity book aimed at young children and their parents. He is on the committee of the Organic Growers Alliance.

Francis Rayns

After studying at Bangor and De Montfort universities Francis worked for over 20 years in the Research Department of HDRA/Garden Organic and was involved with a wide range of research projects concerned with practical organic horticulture, particularly in the field of soil fertility. This included work on green manures, crop rotations, the use of composts and other amendments, growing media, vegetable transplant production, soil quality indicators and comparisons of soil managed organically and conventionally. He is currently a Research Associate of the Coventry University Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience (CAWR).

Adam Reid

Adam's work experience is rooted in land management for wildlife conservation having worked for the RSPB for several years. His work with The Earth Trust has taught him that land stewardship for food production as well as nature can be even more satisfying!

Ed Revill

Ed runs a market garden, producing mainly mixed vegetable crops for local direct sales in and around Swansea. He grows crops using systems and techniques with a view to optimising soil carbon generation and retention. He regularly teaches about soil carbon regeneration at workshops and at other events. He has a free information website which promotes the open source biochar stove systems he and others have designed - www.soil-carbon-regeneration.co.uk

Neil Rowe

Neil has 35 years' experience managing high performance beef and dairy farms, working with both conventional and organic systems. In 2004 was awarded a Nuffield scholarship to study 'Voluntary milking

systems and automated milk harvesting'. He has a reputation for innovation, sustainable farming and knowledge transfer, being a regular speaker at conferences and farmer meetings. For the last ten years alongside farm management Neil has been providing Agricultural consultancy to farmers and industry. In the last 4 years he has been a finalist or winner in 3 national awards. For 25 years he has been an Ambassador for the charity "Send a Cow".

Alan Schofield

Alan has been an organic vegetable grower since 1982, starting as a share farmer and now running Growing with Nature in Lancashire with wife Debra and son Christopher. Since 1992 they have operated a box scheme, offering home deliveries within a 25 mile radius of their holding in Pilling Lancashire. They work very closely with 4 other local organic growers to plan production to ensure the widest range of home grown produce is available to their customers. He has been involved with the Soil Association as chair of the Horticultural Standards Committee, on the UKROFS technical committee and, for the last 8 years, has been Chairman of the Organic Growers Alliance. He has worked as a horticultural advisor for the last 20 years and has been instrumental in setting up a growers group on the Isle of Man. Alan is passionate about local horticultural production and is keen to ensure that the new generation of market gardeners have access to the experience that they have gained.

Wendy Seel

Wendy has been growing organic vegetables commercially since 2005. She owns an award-winning business called Vital Veg, and has been runner up in the BBC food and Farming Awards - Farmer of the year. Wendy is passionate about innovation in organic growing, and runs many on-farm trials. Prior to becoming a vegetable farmer Wendy worked in academia as an ecological plant physiologist. Wendy maintains links with many of her scientific colleagues and is a board member at Sheffield University's P3 Centre for Excellence in Translational Plant Science. Wendy is on the committee of the Organic Growers Alliance and became Chair of the Scottish Organic Forum in October 2014. In this role she has led the revision of the Scottish organic action plan; Organic Ambitions (2016-2020) - building a new strategy for the Scottish organic sector.

Liam Sinclair

Liam was brought up on the family beef and sheep farm in the north of Scotland, before undertaking a B.Sc (Hons) in Agriculture with Animal Science at Aberdeen University. This was followed by a PhD at Nottingham University on the biochemistry of rumen fermentation. Liam was then appointed as the dairy lecturer at Harper Adams University, where he is now Professor of Animal Science. In 2011 he was awarded the Sir John Hammond Memorial Prize by the British Society of Animal Science in recognition of his outstanding contribution to ruminant nutrition and ability to transfer research findings to students and industry. Liam's research interests include forage metabolism, reducing methane output from cattle, low protein diets, and mineral/vitamin nutrition of dairy cows. Liam is currently the Senior Vice President of the British Society of Animal Science.

Andy Smith

Andy is Senior Lecturer in Forestry and Director of Research at the School of Environment, Natural Resources and Geography, Bangor University. He is also a visiting scientist at NERC's Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Bangor and Forestry Programme Director at the Bangor-CSUFT University Campus, Changsha, China. His research area is forest ecology, forest biogeochemistry, ecosystem service provision and the control of GHG emissions. His expertise spans the impacts of climate change on biogeochemical processes to the influence of livestock, trees and shelterbelts on ecosystem service provision.

Laurence Smith

Laurence is Senior Sustainability Researcher at The Organic Research Centre. His work is focussed on the development and application of sustainability assessment tools and farm-system modelling. Laurence is currently leading work packages across a number of EU projects which aim to assess the environmental, economic and social sustainability of organic and low-input farming systems.

Paul Smith

Paul is Production Manager at Loddington Farm Ltd, Maidstone, Kent, responsible for the day to day management of 80 Ha of apples, pears, cherries, and apricots, overseeing permanent staff of 7 and seasonal staff of up to 55. Paul's family have been farming in Kent since 1882 and he runs the farms with his brother and parents. Ninety percent of their production is dessert apples. They are a conventional farm using principles of integrated pest management. They are ELS members and pride themselves on farming with nature, not against it as far as possible. Paul has a degree in Environmental Science from Plymouth University. He spent eight years working for Kent County Council predominantly in Urban Regeneration, returning to the farm business in 1998 to oversee all of their production.

Martin Soble

Martin Soble came to organic farming with a background in international sales and marketing ready for a new life in rural Herefordshire. Rachel grew up on a farm and has a passion for top fruit. They have hosted apprentices from the SA Future Growers programme and Martin presents the fruit modules for them.

Jonathan Storkey

Jonathan is a weed scientist and plant ecologist at Rothamsted Research with 20 years' experience of studying weed communities and their impacts in farming systems, both negative in terms of crop competition and positive as a food source for wider biodiversity.

Phil Sumption

Phil is an organic grower at heart, researcher and IOTA accredited advisor. He is Research Communications Officer at ORC having previously worked as a researcher at Garden Organic and as a full or part-time grower. He is a director of the Seed Cooperative, on the committee of The Organic Growers Alliance, is editor of The Organic Grower and has contributed to a number of books.

Lucius Tamm

Lucius is a Member of the Board of Directors and Head of Department of Crop Sciences at the Swiss Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) in Frick. He holds a degree in agricultural engineering from ETH Zurich and has more than 25 years' plant pathology R&D experience working on cereals, potatoes and horticultural crops. The Department of Crop Science has extensive applied and strategic R&D and technology transfer experience in crop protection in vegetables, apples, grapevines and other crops. Research has focused on integration of novel crop protection strategies (including varietal resistance, agronomic strategies, DSS, and biopesticides) in low input and organic production systems. Copper replacement in collaboration with partners is a main focus of the FiBL research group. LT has contributed to the development of the regulatory framework for botanicals and bio-control agents and is currently involved in FP7 project CO-FREE as deputy coordinator.

Holly Tiffen

Holly Tiffen has been working around the topic of local food with Transition Town Totnes since its inception nine years ago, prior to that she worked for Dartmoor National Park Authority as their Sustainable Development Officer. Her early career years were steeped in compost; for 8 years she was teaching people how to make compost in their gardens, food seemed like a logical progression in her life-cycle!

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Iain Tolhurst

Organic producer since 1976, organic advisor and tutor since 1984. He is a leading figure in both organic and Stockfree Organic since its conception. Iain is internationally recognised as highly experienced in advisory services and has worked for many individuals and government departments in many parts of the world. He was one of the team that developed the Stockfree Organic Standards for VON and has run his own farm to these standards since 1990. His 8 ha vegetable farm is a commercial enterprise but also acts as a demonstration unit and teaching centre for stockfree, agro-forestry and agroecological principles of production. The farm grows a wide range of organic vegetables all sold locally. Farm walks and seminars are held regularly, and visitors come from far and wide to experience the inspiration and practice.

Benan Tong

After a master degree in Food and Nutrition Science (major Human Nutrition) at ETH Zurich, Benan worked initially at the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH) as scientific assistant in the food safety sector. After gaining some industry experience at Unilever Switzerland (DACH responsible person in RA and Nutrition) Benan joined FiBL in January 2016.

Andrew Trump

Andrew runs Organic Arable the only wholly organic grain marketing business in the UK. Organic Arable is run by farmers and works differently from other grain traders working on transparent fixed commission rates and seeking long-term supply agreements so members can grow crops for a known market.

John Tucker

John Tucker is a Chartered Forester with 30 years' experience in multipurpose woodland management. He has worked for the Woodland Trust for twenty years and is currently Director of Woodland Creation, with a particular focus on working with private landowners across the UK. John's experience in forestry and arboriculture is valuable in his role of seeking out innovative mechanisms to increase UK woodland cover, with a strong focus on native tree cover.

Anja Vieweger

Anja Vieweger is Senior Researcher at The Organic Research Centre. With a background in horticulture, specialised in vegetables, she has several years of experience in horticulture and soils research. Having joined the ORC in January 2011, she is now working on various subjects such as health concepts in agricultural systems, links between the health of soil, plant, animal and human; soil health assessment in the UK; participatory research; horticulture and soils aspects of Innovative Farmers; and an international network of organic greenhouse horticulture in the EU.

William Waterfield

William spent the first 15 years of his career in farm management before moving into advisory work, for the last 18 years he has worked as an independent consultant as a member of the Farm Consultancy Group. With more than 20 years' experience of working with organic farmers and growers, helping many of them through the conversion process, his work is now mainly focused on helping them to improve both the financial and technical performance of their business. The majority of his clients are dairy and livestock farmers but increasingly he is working with other farmers who are looking for alternative solutions to the current farming crisis. He specialises in helping producers develop more sustainable and robust farming systems. Having undertaken a Nuffield scholarship into "Information and Technology Transfer in the Dairy sector" he works with a number of producer and discussion groups alongside a retained client base. He is a long standing member of the European Organic Advisors Group. An ongoing theme of his work is to help producers and growers increase the output of grass and fertility building crops and decrease their reliance on imported sources of protein.

Christine Watson

Christine is Professor of Agricultural Systems at SRUC. She also holds a visiting researcher position at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU). Christine's research focuses on improving the sustainability of organic and conventional farming systems and she has worked in a wide range of systems including arable, dairying, pig production and agroforestry. Her research addresses nutrient management (N, P, K, micronutrients) in rotational and permanent cropping systems. She is currently President of the European Society of Agronomy and Vice President of AAB.

Ruth West

Ruth West has followed a varied career from community worker in London's east end in the early '70s to coordinator of a farmers' market in the noughties. She has worked as a researcher and campaigner in the areas of health, alternative/complementary medicine, the environment and human rights with spells as consultant for the WHO, UNEP and the Commonwealth Secretariat; run a research foundation exploring subjects that don't fit the current scientific paradigm — which at the time included climate change, along with dowsing and healing; and co-founded with Pete Riley the All Party Parliamentary Group on Agroecology.

Sally Westaway

Sally joined the Organic Research Centre in February 2013 and works as a researcher within the Agroforestry and Crops team. Sally's background is in plant ecology, land management and horticulture, she previously worked on an organic market garden in Manchester and completed a MRes in Ecology and Environmental Management at the University of York.

Ian Wilkinson

Ian Wilkinson studied farm and grassland management at Berkshire College of Agriculture and joined Cotswold Seeds 30 years ago, since when he's developed the business with a fundamental focus on the role of providing a bridge between farmers and the scientific community. A family business based in Moreton-in-Marsh, Cotswold Seeds has built its reputation on developing forage, herbal leys, green manures and complex seed mixtures as well as providing a personal service to its customers, which now number 10,000 farmers and landowners across the UK. It's always been part of Ian's vision for the business to have a farm for trialling seed mixtures and last year Cotswold Seeds acquired Honeydale Farm, 100 acres in the Cotswolds.

Lawrence Woodward

Lawrence, OBE has been at the forefront of developments in organic agriculture in the UK for over 30 years. He has also played a prominent role in its development in the EU and internationally. He was a co-founder of The Organic Research Centre and its director and currently acts as its Principal Policy Adviser. Amongst many positions he has been President of IFOAM; was for 15 years a member of the UKROFS Board during the critical period of standards development, and served on the Soil Association Council. He was the founding chairman of OMSCo and sits on the Board of Organic Arable. He is co-ordinator of Citizens Concerned About GM (GM Education), he advises Homeopathy at Welly Level (HAWL) and is working on projects about food quality and health (Whole Organic Plus).

Adam York

Adam York was a founder and prime mover at Unicorn Grocery Ltd and Glebelands Market Garden Ltd in Manchester. He is a long standing trader and producer of foodstuffs and is currently working at a market garden model for small to medium towns from his current base nr Cardigan.