



Annual report

October 2022 – September 2023

Uniting farmers, growers, foresters and land-based workers to create better food and land use systems for everyone



WELCOME

Welcome to the Landworkers' Alliance (LWA) annual report for the year October 2022 – September 2023! This year has been as busy as ever and it is with pride that we look back on the diverse work carried out by our members, staff and supporters across the UK.

The year kicked off with mobilisations for the 16 October Europe-wide mobilisation for World Food Day, with our members joining forces with the broader food justice movement in London, Cardiff, and Edinburgh to agitate and campaign for the food system we want, deserve, and are building together. Socialising and connecting in person remain a key way for us to celebrate and build solidarity in challenging times, and the year has seen many gatherings across our membership - including another beautiful rendition of the Land Skills Fair!

We have all been heavily affected by the cost of living crisis, with prices of food, energy and other resources rising sharply and declining real wages – we see this as a Cost of Profit crisis. Not being able to meet our basic needs is a measure of the logic and priorities of the dominant financial system,

not a neutral reflection on the cost of living. While the number of food insecure households has doubled since 2021 and food producers are increasingly unable to secure viable livelihoods from their income, food retail giants continue to generate shareholder profits and benefit from the squeeze at both ends of the supply chain. We know that cheap, industrial food production is not the answer to food insecurity, and as part of the global movement for Food Sovereignty we affirm everyone's right to access nutritious, sustainably produced and culturally appropriate food. We work towards local food systems that prioritise the dignity and rights of workers alongside nourishment for the soil and ecosystems.

Our members are increasingly integrating economic and labour justice into their work on the land, building a strong foundation for the future: the year has seen increasing numbers of box schemes and Community Support Agriculture (CSA) businesses

offering solidarity pricing and sliding scales, and at the other end of the supply chain, in the formation of SALT (Solidarity Across Land Trades) – a grassroots trade union organising across land work for better working conditions. The challenges for seasonal migrant workers in the UK following the post-Brexit Seasonal Worker Visa scheme were exposed in a collaborative LWA report this year, highlighting that the racism and scapegoating that characterised Brexit and the cruelty of the Hostile Environment is being enacted within our sector with the removal of migrant workers' rights and suppressions of collective organising. We stand in solidarity with migrant workers and with the broader trade union movement as the transport, education, housing, and health sectors continue to organise for better conditions. Reviewing our own practices





partners in the UK Fruit and Vegetable Alliance (FVA) to resign from the government's Edible Horticulture Roundtable. While disappointing, the announcement was not surprising and LWA will continue to campaign for the support that the sector needs.

This was illustrated in March 2023 as a salad shortage hit supermarkets and Therese Coffey's comment that people should eat turnips

when it comes to racial justice, we collaborated on producing the 'Jumping Fences' report and commenced our Learning History project, outlining barriers to racialized people within the movement, with a commitment to enacting liberatory practices.

Bridging the gap between grassroots organising and traditional decision-making spaces, years of campaigning pressure has been successful as the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) finally removed the five-hectare eligibility threshold for Environmental Land Management Schemes (ELMS), the subsidies replacing the EU Basic Payment Scheme in England. Applications for the first round of subsidies in England were submitted in October, with work ongoing in Scotland and Cymru to influence their future policies. Unfortunately, the UK government announced that they will not fulfil commitments to create an English Horticulture Strategy, forcing LWA and other

to combat food shortages failed to meet the moment. The CSAs, farmers' markets and box schemes of our movement remained strong and clearly showed the resilience of short supply chains, and the bounty of a seasonal, biodiverse harvest. While appreciating our seasonal veg, active government support is needed to increase access to the abundance available from locally produced agroecological food, and we need to change the conditions of landworkers and citizens to increase access to nutritious affordable culturally appropriate food for all.

With frustration we see global action on climate change falling short and in spring 2023 LWA coordinated the Landworkers bloc at The Big One Climate march. Agroecological farming and forestry provides climate friendly and sustainable solutions that allow us to care for the soil and land, as well as the plants and animals we live alongside. Mainland Europe

saw intense heat waves causing wildfires and drought conditions, while a wet July made farmers wait impatiently for scarce dry days to harvest. A September heatwave brought a welcome late season boost to tender crops, but caused another jolt of dissonance as seasonal rhythms get unmoored. Disturbingly, the UK Government has responded by releasing new fossil fuel licences, reneging on net zero, investing heavily in high input technology, and deregulating trials of genetically modified crops. We will continue to fight for climate resilience and social justice in the discussion around these new technologies and the high profit focus which powers them.

As we move into a new year, we will hold onto our hopes for a regenerative and equitable future. Looking to the upcoming UK general election, we published our 'Manifesto for Food, Farming & Forestry', which expounds our vision for a UK food, farming and land-use system grounded in the principles and practice of agroecology, food sovereignty, and sustainable land-use. We know that a better future is growing strong and healthy across the fields, polytunnels and forests our members care for across these islands, and that these emergent alternatives can shelter and nourish our communities through the political, economic, and environmental shocks that may come. Long may we come together on the land, connect to these principles, and resource ourselves for the challenges ahead!



ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

We aim to:

Create a strong and resilient organisational structure that can support the LWA to grow into a large and democratic grassroots union operating within a participatory social movement dynamic.

With the LWA membership growing throughout the year, members and staff have been working collectively to improve our calendar of democratic events, design the process for creating our next five-year strategy, and developing our member-led decision-making systems. We have also aimed to increase the resources held within the staff team.

Democratic calendar

The Membership Staff Team has worked hard to support member organisers in coordinating wider LWA membership meetings. Over the winter, member organisers coordinated 13 **Regional Assemblies** across the UK which brought together 539 LWA members, supporters, and members of the public to discuss key issues facing LWA members and agroecological practitioners. Events included skill shares, social time, farm tours, and of course dancing

and singing. This all helped with building social networks and relationships of solidarity on a regional level as well as informing the work of the LWA.

The second ever LWA **Organisers' Assembly** was held in Sheffield in October 2022 and delegates from each member-led group came together with delegates from the Coordinating Group (CG) and

the Membership Staff Team - 38 people in total. At the assembly we shared information about what is going on in LWA on the UK level and in regions/sectors/identity groups and discussed how to strengthen the work of Member Organisers as well as looking at how the LWA can strengthen its democratic systems.

In early December 2022 we held our **Annual General Meeting** (AGM) online. Over 100 people attended any one time with good representation of both members and supporters from across Scotland, Cymru, England, and Northern Ireland, and 247 members voted online in our CG elections. We were



sad to say farewell to Jyoti Fernandes as a CG member, after serving her full-term length of nine years - she remains a staff member as Campaigns Coordinator. Dee Woods, Gerald Miles, and Ruth Hancock were re-elected onto the CG, plus we were delighted to welcome Steve Smith as a new member of the group. Steve joined us from West Yorkshire cooperative, Edibles.

The Coordinating Group

The Coordinating Group (CG) is elected to oversee the financial health of the organisation and support higher level decision-making. With a growing staff team, the CG have continued to step



back from day-to-day operational work and toward a more strategic, oversight, and advisory role. The CG now meets quarterly, with staff support from Dee Butterly (Operations Coordinator and Governance Officer) and Lauren Simpson (Membership Secretary) being critical to set up this structure. To maintain agile decision-making, smaller working groups with relevant staff, and CG members were introduced to

meet monthly and hold urgent questions around finances, fundraising, HR, and organisational structures work.

The CG has focused specifically on evaluating, researching, and proposing options for improvement to our democratic model. After reviewing two proposals developed by the Organisational

Structure Working Group in September 2023, the CG decided to pursue a general assembly model. This includes developing a new democratic body made up of delegates from all member-led groups and the CG, who will determine the LWAs overall direction and strategy. The model was discussed and developed further at the October



2023 Organisers Assembly, and engagement with the wider membership will continue over the next year.

As the LWA closes on year three of our current five-year strategy, the CG and staff team have been busy designing the process of consultation and writing of the next strategy, which will carry us through 2026-2030. In 2024 we start the wider discussions in the membership around our targets and priorities in the upcoming years.

Staff development work

We began the year with a staff away day held in Sheffield in October 2022, welcoming new staff into our midst and benefiting from much cherished time together to review our team goals and work plans. A core current focus of staff development is to aim to centre anti-racist ideas and practices in our organisation, with the goal of creating a racial justice strategy for the LWA. The staff team met in person again in March 2023, spending time reviewing our fundraising strategy and progressing the work on Racial Justice.

This most recent phase of the LWA's work on racial justice commenced in autumn 2022, when the staff team attended a racial justice training, delivered by Yassine Senghor of Confronting Change. She developed tailored workshops and resources to support LWA workers to have a thorough grounding in practices and ideas of anti-racism. These covered key aspects of cultural, political, and social history,

and engaged specifically with land justice related issues such as enclosures and colonialism. The Operations Team worked with Jo Kamal (Food Sovereignty Coordinator), with support from Dee Woods (Food Justice Coordinator) and Jyoti Fernandes (Campaigns Coordinator) and a co-design group made up of LWA members and staff, worked with Katherine Wall, PhD researcher and movement facilitator, to develop a Learning History process harvesting reflections on the racial justice work that has been done to date across the LWA. This process supports the organisation to learn about itself and its practices, and to consider what might come next for the LWA's racial justice work. The results will be disseminated in early 2024.

The Operations Team has had a lot of movement over the year, sadly saying goodbye to Charlotte Steel (Operations Coordinator) and Seeta Rajani (Finance Coordinator) early in the year and ending the year with wishing Dee Butterly well on her maternity leave! Nevertheless, we have been able to increase the team capacity as Nancy Langfeldt (HR Coordinator & Finance Administrator), Anaelle Bouabdelli (Finance Manager) and Elli Folkesson (Operations Coordinator and Governance Officer - maternity cover) joined.

They will be working alongside Hannah Leigh Mackie and Alyce Biddle (Fundraising Coordinator).

Membership Statistics

Our membership and supporter numbers continue to grow, with 348 new landworking members and 130 supporters joining the LWA in this reporting year. Lauren Simpson has worked on a new custom-built database for managing member data that uses open source software. With this comes the new member dashboard where for the first-time members can log into the website and update their membership details to keep our data up to date for ongoing representation, campaigning, and research purposes. The breadth and spread of LWA members continue to increase and we are honoured to have all you good folk in our numbers.

Financial report

The LWA's financial year runs from October to September, as such our annual accounts are not yet signed off. A presentation of the year's finances will follow at the AGM in February. Members will receive a copy of this via email, and our accounts will shortly be publicly available via Companies House.

Membership Statistics (October 2022 - September 2023)

Total Landworker Members	2,374
Total Supporters	567
Total FLAME members (landworkers and supporters)	208
New members joined this year	348
New supporters this year	130

SOCIAL NETWORKS AND SOLIDARITY

We aim to:

1. Develop strong social networks and build relationships of solidarity and mutual aid between members, other farmers and landworkers' organisations who share our vision around the world, in particular through La Via Campesina.
2. Improve the quality of life for members.
3. Increase the resilience of agricultural and forestry systems by increasing communication and reducing isolation.

Member organisers are the driving force of the movement on the ground. Over the past year, the Membership Staff Team has worked to strengthen our member-led democracy, enable effective solidarity and caring communities, and empower more members to be highly engaged, organised, and resilient. The team said goodbye to Robyn Minogue (England Membership Engagement Coordinator) early in the year and will be welcoming a new person into this role in January 2024.

Natalia Szarek (Membership Engagement & Democracy Coordinator) has improved communication between members with a new WhatsApp system, and member organisers have started receiving a monthly internal newsletter. Member Organisers

now also have access to the Member Organiser Handbook, an online member organiser folder and a new events handbook, developed by Emmott Baddeley (Membership Events Coordinator), that embeds our safer spaces

"MEMBER ORGANISERS ACROSS THE LWA ARE IN A MUCH STRONGER POSITION THAN THIS TIME LAST YEAR AND I FEEL REALLY PROUD OF THE AMAZING WORK THAT ALL THE MEMBER-LED GROUPS HAVE BEEN DOING, AND THE MEMBERSHIP STAFF TEAM FOR THE SUPPORT WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO OFFER!"

NATALIA SZAREK, (MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT & DEMOCRACY COORDINATOR)

policy into events planning and communication. The team has also put in place a new finance system for members and regular training sessions, for example on living systems and facilitation.

To provide material security and

solidarity to our members, the LWA continues to offer members a solidarity pot to access interest free loans in difficult times. Since the solidarity pot was launched, it has supported 15 members with over £17,000. We also continue

to engage with our broader membership through the LWA Film Club with monthly online showings of films about food, land, and farming, with inspiring stories from around the world, and 805 tickets sold in the reporting year.

The Land Skills Fair

The Land Skills Fair returned to Gloucestershire for its third year, with over 1,000 people from the local community and broader movement gathering for skill shares, workshops, talks, celebration, movement building, delicious food, beautiful music, and much joyful singing and dancing.

Topics covered at the Fair included CSA economics, queer ecologies, reparations, abolition, and land justice, demonstrating the intersectionality and interconnectedness of our social and land-based movements. We also held space for LWA member organisers across regions, sectors, and identity groups, a crucial opportunity for members to connect and grow our vision.

Huge appreciation and thanks to everyone involved, and especially to Brigitte Rowan and Bella Thompson (LSF Co-Producers and Curators), who created such a magical and inspiring event!

Member-led groups

The LWA now has 75 active member organisers in 13 organising teams across branches and regions, identity, and sector groups. Member Organisers access support and resources from the Membership Staff Team, ranging

from onboarding and training sessions to regular check-ins and admin support. This year saw the birth of the LWA Northern Ireland branch, bringing together 50 landworkers to plan a series of farm tours and skills shares throughout 2024. Viva!

With the support of Clem Sandison (Scotland Membership Engagement Coordinator),



Scotland branch members have held regular events, skill shares, farming and forestry site tours, and coordinated a growers training network. This included four Scotland Regional Winter Assemblies in December 2022 and January 2023, the South

West Scotland Summer Gathering, agroforestry events in Ayrshire and Skye, North Scotland meetups, and the LWA Scotland Forestry Gathering.

Our Cymru branch (Gweithwyr y Tir), continues its bi-lingual journey with the support of Amber Wheeler (Cymru Membership Engagement Coordinator). They were involved in organising the

Wales Real Food and Farming Conference in November 2022, and in July 2023 they worked with other partners to create a new space for Agroecology, Food and Community at the Royal Welsh Show. Hundreds of people, including the Welsh Minister for Rural Affairs, were able to take part in diverse sessions around agroecology.

Within and across our branches, LWA members are also organised through identity groups: **Out on the Land (OOTL) is the LGBTQIA+ group in the LWA.** This year Hester Russell took over from Zoe Miles (OOTL Administrator), and with their support OOTL have hosted performance and justice workshops, farm

tours, and a summer social with a feast and film. The group has also been involved in the Cultivating Justice project alongside Land In Our Names and Farmerama, producing incredible zines and podcasts. They continue working with the European Coordination

of Via Campesina (ECVC) on gender articulation.

Food, Land, Agriculture: a Movement for Equality (FLAME) is the youth branch of the LWA and is driven by members and supporters aged 16-25. Among other things, they have organised farm visits and skill shares to Tinkers Bubble, Hempen, and Tolhurst Organics in England as well as Caerhys Farm and Real Seeds in Cymru. Additionally, regional meetups and trips across the UK were organised in collaboration with Save Our Soils groups from universities and Young Farmer Clubs.

Racial Equity, Abolition and Liberation in Landwork (REAL) is the LWA group for racialized people. Supported by staff member Jo Kamal, they have been helping to coordinate the Racial Justice Learning History process that will inform the LWA's next steps in our racial justice work.

The Women and Diverse Genders in Forestry and Landwork network has spent the year building their foundation. They held a skill share in September 2023 for women and diverse genders to come together and teach each other practical skills, challenging a forestry narrative that is too often centred on cisgender men.

Our members work in a diverse set



of sectors, and our strongest sector group continues to be the LWA Forestry Sector. With thanks to Olly Craigan (Forestry Engagement & Advocacy Coordinator) and Oli Rodker (Land-use & Forestry Campaigns Coordinator) for the many years of building sector networks and connections, it is now very exciting to see this work being held within the forestry steering group, made up of Woddy Branch members. The publication of 'The Cutting Edge', a series of case studies on ecological forestry that builds on previous years' 'The Promise of Agroforestry' and the 'Forestry Manifesto', was a key moment.

International solidarity

We remain committed to standing in solidarity with peasant struggles across the globe. Following a visit to Brazil with Movimiento Sem Terra, Jyoti Fernandes has been coordinating our solidarity trade initiative in partnership with Hodmedod's, The Roddick Foundation, and Kayapó-led cooperative COOBA-Y, to import wild harvested Kayapó Brazil

Nuts to the UK. These are now for sale on the Hodmedod's website and the proceeds will contribute to the Kayapó's financial and cultural autonomy in the face of illegal extractive industries in their territories.

Through the work of Catherine McAndrews (Migrant Worker Solidarity & Advocacy Coordinator), we have continued to engage with our partners in the European Coordination of Via Campesina's Migrants and Rural Workers working group. LWA members have participated in delegations to Honduras, Andalucia, and Morocco to foster understanding of the exploitation of migrant workers internationally and build links between farmworker unions across borders.

Over the year, we have issued solidarity statements and calls for action criticising the government repression of Les Soulèvements de la Terre in France and the forced eviction of migrant workers in the El Walili camp in Spain, as well as regularly sharing and amplifying news and calls to action from La Via Campesina throughout the year. In April 2023, we also supported and chaired an online event with members of the West Papuan Liberation Movement to learn about their anti-colonial struggle.

TRAINING AND EXCHANGE

We aim to:

- 1. Support new entrants- particularly those from disadvantaged/ underrepresented communities - in making land-based work an accessible and financially viable career, working to address the barriers they face; such as access to land, finance, training and support.
- 2. Help build accessible models of training and knowledge exchange for new entrants, identifying gaps in provision and working with partner organisations to fill these gaps.
- 3. Develop a network of support for new entrants; signposting opportunities, linking with partners, and highlighting pathways for support and progression.

The New Entrant Support Team have continued to work at different levels to develop a variety of forms of training and support that are needed by new entrant landworkers and those who would like to become new entrants. While saying goodbye to Lucy Saville (Agroecology Traineeship Programme Coordinator) in February 2023, the team has continued with a broad range of support for new entrants.

On-farm training

In Cymru, Rhian Williams (Cymru Training Network Coordinator)

has continued to work alongside growers, farmers, new entrants, and partners to develop accessible and high quality on-farm training opportunities. The Cymru Training Network is a collaboration between LWA and partners at Lantra and Cardiff University that forms part of the Resilient Green Spaces project 2021-2023. Workshops were held in Swansea and Talgarth, with plans for further action research and dialogue over the upcoming winter. Sharing experiences of the network at the Royal Welsh Agricultural Show in July was a fantastic opportunity to platform the voices of trainers and new entrants within Cymru and

engage policymakers. In Scotland, a group of six market gardens and farms came together to collaborate, share resources, and create a valuable learning experience for horticulture trainees and new entrants. Based on the LWA Horticulture training curriculum and supported by Clem Sandison, trainers designed a programme of monthly webinars and farm visits. These took place from May to November 2023, with 17 trainees participating. This has been an exciting pilot project with potential for future funding.

In England, the LWA has worked

to support the Apricot Centre in the South West region to create their Level 2 course in Regenerative Land-Based Systems. This course was taught by the Apricot Centre as a skills bootcamp at Huxhams Cross Farm and was free for all participants. Next year, the team will share the resources developed for use in on-farm and informal training settings and explore the possibility of farms delivering accredited Level 2 training via the Apricot Centre.

Working with partners at the Apricot Centre over the past year, the team have also developed a one-day 'train the trainer' workshop. Looking at themes of learning theory, communication, wellbeing, and justice, it aims to provide useful insight and tools, and crucially to facilitate space dedicated to peer-to-peer learning amongst trainers. Workshops were delivered in Bristol, London, Lancaster, Stockport, Devon, Perthshire, and Edinburgh. The team plans to continue refining and developing this course and hope to bring it to an area near you soon!

LWA staff have also explored issues around justice within agroecological training, particularly the on-farm traineeship model that is prevalent in horticulture. Within LWA membership there are both those who deliver training and those who receive it, and LWA strives to provide the support that each group needs to grow our movement and to do so in line with its principles of equity, justice, and care. With slightly expanded capacity within the New Entrant Support Team over the next three years, the team will continue to facilitate dialogue between



different organisations leading work in this area, representing both trainers and learners.

National collaborations

Our work with the National Farmstart Network has continued, with the support of Hatty Richards (Farmstart & Accredited Training Coordinator). A skill share was organised for new organisations to learn from established farmstarts, or farm incubators, and a day long 'How to Set up a Farmstart' workshop was run at the Kindling Trust. LWA also took part in a European Erasmus+ project for

incubator farms which included a visit to French incubator projects with members of the network. A European wide network has been formed and future plans include further knowledge exchange visits and the development of shared resources.

Members of the Farmstart Network were also key delivery partners in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) New Entrant Support Scheme (NESS) pilots (October 2022 – June 2023). LWA applied in partnership with Famstart Network members Tamar Grow Local and Organiclea

along with Shared Assets to deliver pilots in the Southwest and Southeast of England. The programme included a range of site visits, an online business training programme, one-to-one coaching, and land and finance matching. The delivery of these projects built on the work of the Farmstart Network and has had a tangible positive impact on the new entrants who participated. It also underlined the credibility of incubator projects as an important training and progression option for new entrants. Network members have also gained from a legacy of training resources, improved delivery frameworks, and strengthened partnerships.

LWA have led on the development of a new collective of agroecological trainers, mentors, centres of learning, and demonstration farms that work together to share and deliver the skills and knowledge needed for a regenerative future. The Agroecology Learning Collective (TALC) aims to facilitate collaboration and knowledge-sharing across the sector, building regional, national, and international links between teachers and learners, stimulating the development of new courses, and promoting agroecology as a career. Over the last 12 months, significant progress has been made in establishing the foundations of the collective. The focus next year is to officially launch TALC, alongside the launch of the website and to establish long term funding for further development.

The team has been working with Emma Cardwell from Lancaster University to develop a module



exploring the political and social dimensions of agroecology which has been incorporated within the Apricot Centre's Level 4 Regenerative Agriculture course. This is the first time these topics have been taught at this level in combination with practical on-farm training, which is an important step forwards in the delivery of holistic training which helps to ensure that agroecological principles are foremost in the approach of new land workers. Our future plans will focus on incorporating 'Agroecology as a Movement' into more accredited and informal/on-farm offerings in the UK.

LWA has been involved with a core group of organisations looking at the feasibility of setting up a national land-matching service that would improve access to land. This year as part of the New Entrant Support Scheme (NESS) pilot, we were able to pilot a land matching service in the Southwest of England with Tamar Grow Local. This has helped build on a body of knowledge around land-matching

services, and, after an engagement event and further research this year, next year a core group of organisations will continue to push forward this work - researching, developing the concept, and seeking funding for a UK-wide service. We are using the learnings from the NESS pilots to advocate for longer term support for new entrants.

Other new entrant support

Connecting with new entrants at the Oxford Real Farming Conference and the Land Skills Fair has been vital for sharing useful outputs, and making sure the staff team is fed by the views and experiences of new entrant landworkers.

For many (potential) new entrants, understanding how to begin a journey as a landworker and how your career might develop moving forwards, has been unclear. LWA has now collated information that maps out possible pathways in forestry, arable, horticulture, livestock/dairy, and forestry sector (available on the LWA website).

The New Entrant Support Team also collated some of the educational resources that are most useful for new entrants trying to navigate the vast array of material available. These cover practical, political, and economic aspects of agroecology, and the list is available on the LWA website.

MEDIA AND ADVOCACY

We aim to:

1. Improve the public's understanding of the social, environmental and economic benefits created by agroecological farmers, growers, foresters and land-based workers as well as the challenges they face.
2. Raise the public profile of agroecology and food sovereignty as solutions to social, economic and environmental crises.
3. Improve our communication channels and increase the reach of our media.

The work of our Media and Communications Team stretches across all our work streams, as they continue to grow our social media and online presence to raise our profile.

Our monthly national newsletter (6,000+ subscribers) and weekly member bulletin (2,000+ subscribers) remain our main communication channels to members, supporters, and our wider network. With Abel Pearson (Media & Communications Coordinator) joining Yali Banton-Heath (Campaigns Communications Coordinator) in July, the newsletter has been revamped to provide an exciting and accessible way for members to stay up to date. Abel is also working on new ways to tell our members' stories and elevate the

inspiring work they are doing through our communications channels. The team said good-bye to valued co-workers Joanna Blundell (Press Officer) and Steph Wetherell (Media & Communications Coordinator).

Social media

We have seen continued growth on our social media channels and we now have over 58,000 followers across our Instagram, Twitter (X), and Facebook accounts. Instagram remains our most successful platform with many of our posts in the past year reaching tens of thousands of accounts. We have continued to improve our strategic use of different platforms, using Instagram to do live coverage of events such as the Good Food Good Farming March and the Land Skills Fair, and using Twitter (X) to

share quick responses to current affairs and policy announcements.

Press

Joanna Blundell worked hard to secure good coverage of the Good Food Good Farming March in October 2022, which included Chris Packham promoting the march on Sky News as well as write-ups in The Independent, Bloomberg, Farming UK, and other online news outlets. The National and The Scottish Farmer also covered our Scottish Day of Action for Small Farms in October 2022. The collaborative report 'Debt, Migration, and Exploitation: the Seasonal Worker Visa and the Degradation of Working Conditions in UK Horticulture' was mentioned in Farming UK, The Scottish Farmer, Wicked Leeks, as well as on Farming Today. Our 'Soy

No More' report was covered by Farming Today, Mongabay, and Wicked Leeks.

Other media appearances throughout the year have included LWA member Ed Hamer on a Novara Media podcast talking about agriculture and rewilding; staff member Rebecca Laughton reacting to Therese Coffey's 'let them eat turnips' remark in The Guardian; and Jyoti Fernandes being interviewed about agroecology on Ed Milliband's 'Reasons to be Cheerful' podcast.

Films and media



Early in the year, we worked with Brazilian filmmaker Simone Giovine who produced a short film for our Soy No More campaign about the impact that soy plantations have on Kayapó territories in the Amazon. The film was launched at Oxford Real Farming Conference (ORFC) 2023 and screened in Westminster as part of our report launch event in June 2023.

In early 2023 we started working with Right to Roam Films to create five videos about agrobiodiversity; hearing from farmers, seed savers and landworkers about what agrobiodiversity means to

them and why it is so important. The purpose of the campaign Agrobiodiversity = Resilience is to raise awareness and understanding about agrobiodiversity, what it looks like in practice, and why it is so important for the survival of our food system in the face of global warming. These had huge engagement on our Instagram channel when launched to coincide with World Diversity Day on 22 May 2023. Over one dozen members became Agrobiodiversity Champions and the team have since worked with them to promote the campaign on social media and share their stories and knowledge of what agrobiodiversity looks like

in practice. The films will be screened at ORFC 2024, and the broader campaign will support our ongoing efforts to have payments for agrobiodiversity included in ELMS.

While the Landworkers' Radio podcast original

funding came to an end, we secured new funding from the Lipman Miliband Trust for LWA member and audio producer

Georgie Styles to produce another mini-series on the history of the LWA and the wider land and farming movement in the UK. This is due to be released in January 2024.

Publications

Over the year we have published a series of research and policy reports including Debt, Migration and Exploitation, Soy No More, The Cutting Edge, A Market Garden Renaissance, and our Manifesto for Food, Farming and Forestry (please see the campaigns and lobbying section for more information on these reports).

With funding support from The A Team Foundation, Be The Earth Foundation, and The Roddick Foundation, 2023 also saw the LWA launch our book, *With the Land: Reflections on Land Work and Ten Years of the Landworkers' Alliance*. This beautiful book is filled with poetry, prose, and images submitted by over LWA members and explores what it means to work with the land, while also reflecting on the wider land work movement and celebrating what is achievable through collective action. Thanks to everyone involved and Sally

"(WITH THE LAND) IS THE HYMN BOOK FOR ALL THOSE THAT LOVE AND WORK THE LAND, THE VOICES HERE WEAVE TOGETHER ALL THAT IS GREAT ABOUT WHAT THE LWA HAS ACHIEVED IN ITS FIRST TEN YEARS AND WHAT A SONG THEY SING, WHAT A CHORUS OF VOICES INDEED. THIS IS A JOYOUS READ BECAUSE IT GIVES YOU HOPE AND BETTER STILL FUEL TO DO MORE, TO DO BETTER. HERE'S TO THE NEXT TEN YEARS AND BEYOND!"

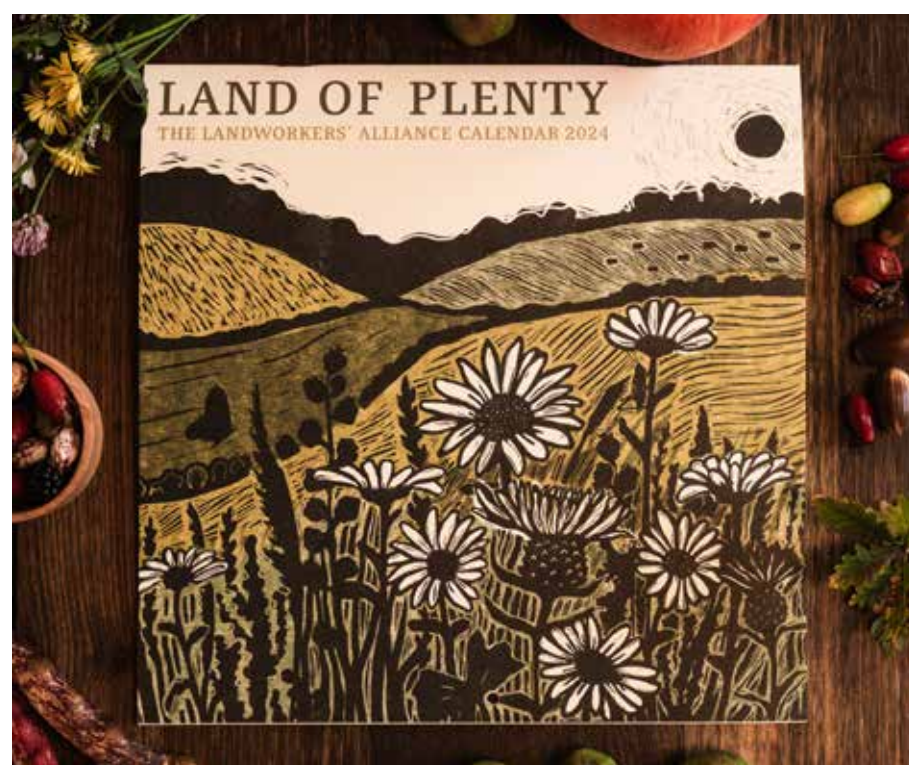
ALYS FOWLER, BRITISH HORTICULTURIST AND JOURNALIST



Polly Meyrick. Culture and art are integral to the work of the LWA, helping us build new relationships and spread our message!

With the support of Emma Groves, the 2023 Calendar On Common Ground took us all by storm and sold just under 4,000 copies. The calendar invited us on a journey through the landscape of the burgeoning and diverse movement for land justice in the UK and marked the ten-year anniversary of the LWA. It featured beautiful illustrations by printmaker and long-time LWA collaborator Rosanna Morris, who continued to work with us throughout 2023 to create the 2024 Calendar Land of Plenty. The 2024 calendar explores the myriad of lifeforms upon which our agroecological farming and land-use systems depend and is a celebration of the rich web of life that sustains us.

The Sales and Merchandise team also continues to support internal and external events with a merch presence. This year we have had stalls at Groundswell, ORFC and Land Skills Fair. Event stock is also now held regionally by regional coordinators and Member Organisers to facilitate the availability of merchandise at regional events.



Lai for the incredible job she did managing this special project.

Sales and merchandise

In March 2023 the Sales and Merchandise Team said goodbye to valued team member Roberta Emmott, but throughout the year, Emma Groves and Sally Lai (Sales & Merchandise Coordinators) have continued to work on streamlining our branded goods,

and collaborative products ranges and processes. As a result, the LWA has moved its clothing merchandise over to a print-on-demand service and an external distributor of stock. These measures have helped us get rid of deadstock and waste and have relieved a lot of pressure on the team in busy times. All in all, this gives us more opportunity to work with artists on collaborative products – as can be seen in our new forestry tee, designed by artist



CAMPAIGNS AND LOBBYING

We aim to:

- 1. Improve the public's understanding of the social, environmental, and economic benefits created by agroecological farmers, growers, foresters, and land-based workers as well as the challenges they face.**
- 2. Raise the public profile of agroecology and food sovereignty as solutions to social, economic, and environmental crises.**
- 3. Improve our communication channels and increase the reach of our media.**

The LWA has an active Campaigns and Policy Team who work at both a policy and grassroots level to advocate for our members interests and bring about change in our food, farming, forestry, and land-use systems.

Guiding the agricultural transition

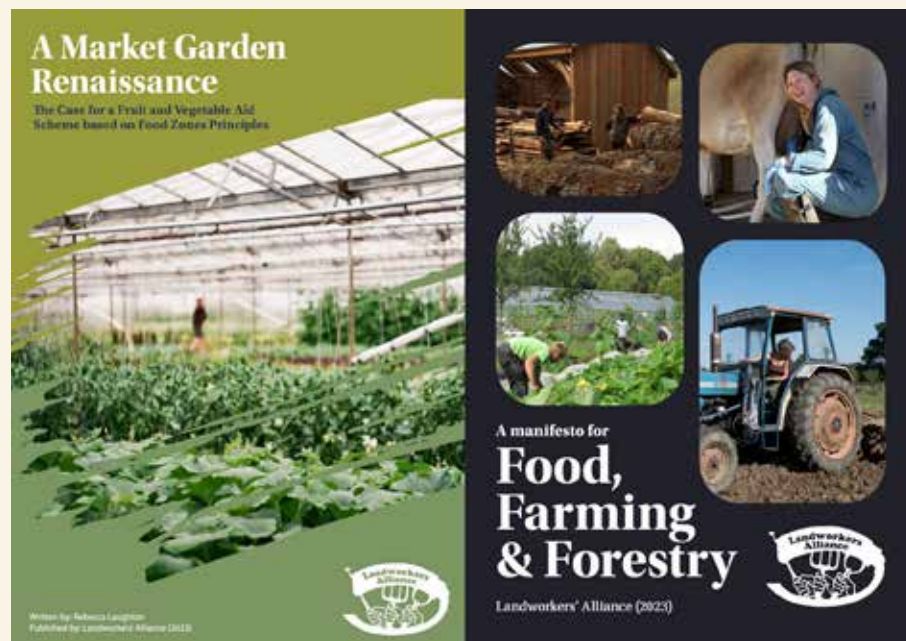
We started the year with strong concerns that the England ELMS would be scrapped. In response, the LWA called for members to write to then Secretary of State Ranil Jayawardena and Farming Minister Mark Spencer, and over 400 people sent letters! It was soon confirmed that ELMS would remain, and we used this as an opportunity to demand a bigger budget and more ambitious agricultural policies. In October

2022, we organised the Good Food, Good Farming March which brought hundreds of farmers, landworkers, food system workers, and activists together to march on the streets of London.

Jyoti Fernandes (Campaigns Coordinator) has continued to work closely with Defra and the ELMS Engagement Group, calling for payments for agrobiodiversity, public engagement, and access on farms, and an extension of ELMS eligibility so that it includes farms under five hectares. In September 2023 it was confirmed that the threshold would be removed in 2024 – a huge win! We also published our Manifesto for Food, Farming and Forestry' a 24-page booklet outlining our vision for a UK food, farming, and land-use system grounded in food sovereignty and agroecology, and giving policy

recommendations which we will be urging Members of Parliament to support in the upcoming general election.

In Scotland, Tara Wight (Scotland Policy & Campaigns Coordinator) has been working with other food, farming, and crofting organisations to coordinate key policy requests for the new Scottish Agriculture Bill. This includes calling for a redistributive payment to support small farms and address inequalities underpinned by unequal land ownership in Scotland, for the introduction of support for new entrants, and for the inclusion of fruit and vegetable producers in agricultural payments schemes. The bill is currently making its way through parliament, but we have already seen some positive results from our campaigning work. These include the development



of the Small Producers Pilot Fund, which will support small-scale local food producers to develop supply chains, share knowledge with one another, and access training; and the introduction of the New Entrants Training Fund. Alongside our work on agricultural policy, we have been advocating for ambitious land reform in Scotland and working with inspiring land workers and activists to develop a grassroots campaign for land justice.

In Cymru, Holly Tomlinson (Cymru Policy Coordinator) and Amber Wheeler have continued to engage with the Welsh Government and others on the development of agriculture and food policy. We worked with WWF Cymru on their report Land of Our Future, which featured two of our LWA Cymru members as case studies and made the case for a Sustainable Farming Scheme that supports agroecological farming. As a result, the Agriculture (Wales) Bill passed in August had an explicit reference to agroecology in the explanatory memorandum. Work advocating for a better planning system for

small farms is starting to pay off: Welsh Government commissioned research into planning barriers holding back horticulture and we are part of a project developing supplementary planning guidance supportive of rural workers' dwellings on small veg farms.

Horticulture campaign

The horticulture sector, phase two of the Growing the Goods (GtG) ELMS Test and Trial was in full swing this year. Three groups (including peri-urban growers near Bristol, Cumbrian "non-traditional growers" and Kentish fruit growers) tested ways to reward, map and collaborate on the delivery of public goods. Facilitated by Rebecca Laughton (Horticulture Campaign & ELMS Coordinator) and Bella Thompson, GtG have brought together enthusiastic and committed participants who attended workshops, completed questionnaires, and navigated this complex policy area collectively.

As co-chair of the Fruit and Vegetable Alliance (FVA), Rebecca

Laughton took a lead in creating the Cultivating Success paper, after the Defra Horticulture Team requested the FVA to present their priorities in preparation for a Horticulture Strategy for England. With great disappointment, plans to create a Horticulture Strategy were shelved in April 2023, and the FVA decided to withdraw from the Edible Horticulture Round Table. We have since been working closely with our agroecological allies in the FVA to explore how we can lobby for the Fruit and Vegetable Aid Scheme to be made more accessible.

Our work on Fringe Farming with Sustain and the five urban partners ended in September 2023 with the publication of the Fringe Farming Toolkit, bringing together all the resources developed over the two-and-a-half-year project. This collaboration, and our contribution to organising the Peri-Urban Practitioner Forums, has led to stimulating meetings on peri-urban farming in Cuba, Learning



from Regather and Accessing Council Land. In September, we also published 'A Market Garden Renaissance', which will provide the foundation for our Horticulture across Four Nations campaign. We have been gathering case studies illustrating the multiple social and environmental benefits delivered by market gardens and these bring to life a numerical model of how market gardens could substitute 20% of UK fruit and vegetable imports.

change. The Food In Our Hands project has been making steady headway with the support of Jo Kamal, building relationships and alliances with other food justice organisations in the UK food sovereignty movement.

In September 2023, Food In Our Hands hosted 'Reframing Food Futures' to bring together communications professionals, activists and community workers in the food and farming sector to interrogate misperceptions around food and the power dynamics underpinning them. The project hosted two online workshops, including an initial pilot workshop alongside a wider Food Futures Summit presenting its findings so far, alongside the work of Ian Byrne MP, Dr Kai Heron, and Dr Nicola Scott. We have also been working in an advisory capacity with Navigate Cooperative to develop a strategy to build capacity, resources, and resilience within the food sovereignty and agroecology movement.

We continue to advocate internationally for food sovereignty

Food Justice

A key part of our work around food justice has been to better understand UK food narratives and we have worked closely with the Future Narratives Lab to delve deeper into affecting narrative

and the Right to Food. Dee Woods (Food Justice Policy Coordinator) has represented the Landworkers' Alliance at the Civil Society and Indigenous People's Mechanism, aiming to facilitate civil society, social movements and indigenous peoples' engagement and participation in the policy work of the United Nations (UN) Committee on World Food Security (CFS). Dee has also been active in the UN Women and Gender Diversities working group, attending negotiations in Rome at the UN Food and Agricultural Organisation throughout the year on the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women and Girls Empowerment. Furthermore, they have started coordinating an Equity working group for the next CFS workstream on Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition. In November 2022, Holly Tomlinson also supported the international delegation of LVC at COP27 in Egypt, championing agroecology, peasants' rights, and climate justice.

Soy No More!





In May 2023 we launched our collaborative report 'Soy No More: Breaking away from soy in UK pig and poultry farming' in Westminster. The launch event had presentations from several of our pig and poultry farming members who are already using soy-free animal feeds. The report included research and modelling from feedback about the UK's soy animal feed supply chain, and the land-use impact of eliminating soy from UK pig and poultry feed. It found that to eliminate soy from UK pig and poultry feed supply chains – without increasing UK cropland area dedicated to growing animal feed crops or compromising on protein intake – poultry consumption needs to be reduced by 82% and pork consumption by 86%.

An online action was organised to encourage members to write to their MPs and ask them to support a transition to soy-free pig and poultry farming in the UK. 80 people wrote to their MP

in England, and in Cymru 260 people wrote to their Member of the Senedd with their concerns about Intensive Poultry Units. The next phase will involve research into government support for a just industrial transition for those employed in industrial pig and poultry

farming and processing in the UK, aiming to prevent an adverse impact on rural employment.

Resilient local food systems

Despite the clear environmental, economic, and social benefits associated with agroecological short supply chain systems, they only represent a small proportion of the UK food supplies. This year, the Resilient Local Food Systems team (Bryher Bloor and Peter Samson, and previously Tony Little) started



working on a cross-organisational project to create a Resilient Local Food Systems Action Plan. It will provide a roadmap towards future growth and investment within the UK short supply chains sector by:

- Developing a common vision for the development of local and short supply chains food systems among all key stakeholders.
- Establishing and developing metrics to measure the size and impact of local and short supply chains systems, enabling a baseline to be established, and to measure progress towards the goals set out in the vision.
- Developing an action plan for the attainment of the goals set out in the vision.
- Explore collaboration models that will enable the large scale, concerted, and coordinated effort that will be required to deliver the action plan.



This two-year research and development project is being delivered in partnership with Pasture for Life, The Sustainable Food Trust and The Food, Farming & Countryside Commission. We are also working closely with Sustains Local Food Retail Project to enhance the reach and impact of the work.

Solidarity with migrant workers

The LWA collaborated with a range of partners to publish the report 'Debt, Migration, and Exploitation: the Seasonal Worker Visa and the Degradation of Working Conditions in UK Horticulture'. Coordinated by Catherine McAndrew, the report investigates the drivers of exploitation of migrant workers in the UK supermarket supply chain and migration system, and includes a review of the

Seasonal Worker Visa, original testimonies from former seasonal workers, and a breakdown of the distribution of value between the supermarket, the farm, and the worker in the sale of soft fruit. It concludes with a program for action derived from experiences of workers organising internationally and has been presented in webinars hosted by the LWA and by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism. In the next year, we will be focused on lobbying supermarkets and government institutions and deepening work with seasonal workers.

Activating Land Justice

This year, Anya Whiteside (Youth Land Justice Mobiliser) delivered the final elements of the Activating Land Justice project, which aimed to explore the barriers and opportunities for land

access for young people, Black people and people of colour in Gloucestershire. This included supporting FLAME with their collaborative 'How Farming Can Cool The Planet' project, aimed at bringing young people interested in food, farming, and climate together. This resulted in several field visits to Land Skills Fair, Knepp regenerative farm, and participation in the Emergent Generation gathering, as well as producing a short film about how changing our farming practices is central to tackling global warming.

This project also supported a series of Youth Forestry Taster Days (coordinated by Karina Ponton) throughout summer 2022 to give young people aged 16 to 25 a chance to get out into woodlands and learn skills including heritage land-based crafts, practical forestry, and woodland creation. This included working with County Councillors across Gloucestershire to advocate for the protection of county farms, as well as local organisations and individuals who are exploring options to give land to new entrants.





The
Roddick
Foundation



THANK YOU

The activities and achievements of the LWA are the result of the skills, passions and commitment of hundreds of people. What you read in these pages would not be possible without them.

We thank all our members for their incredible work this year. We thank the growing numbers of supporters and donors who contribute time and money to our vision.

And we thank the foundations, charitable trusts, and grant making organisations that have funded our work this year, including:

Thirty Percy
Network for Social Change
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation
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Friends Provident Foundation
The Young Foundation
The Rothschild Foundation
Agroecology Fund
The Roddick Foundation
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EnRAW
H2020 COACH
DEFRA
The Transformational Governance
Collective
The Movements Trust
European Coordination La Via Campesina

Inside front and back cover photo by Ella Taylor

Join us! Our strength is in our numbers. If you are a landworker in the UK please consider becoming a Member, or if you are not engaged in land-based work but wish to support the movement, we invite you to join us as a Supporter. You can do so on our website: www.landworkersalliance.org.uk

Connect with us online:

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Instagram: [@landworkersalliance](https://www.instagram.com/landworkersalliance) and [@landworkers_shop](https://www.instagram.com/landworkers_shop) // Email: info@landworkersalliance.org.uk

Also see: www.viacampesina.org

