

Event: SEEDY SATURDAY Time and Date: 2-6PM 13/11/2004

Place: Walkley Community Centre, Fir Street, off South Road

What is a Seedy Saturday? An opportunity for local gardeners and growers to meet up to share and exchange seeds they have saved. Let's get together and share some of the season's most valuable harvest, the seed for next year's crops.

Origins? Gardeners and growers have always known the value of saving their own seed and passing them on to their friends and mates. This event is a chance to be part of a bigger network of seed-savers. Seedy Saturday events were pioneered in Canada by the Seed Savers Exchange. Many more people are now worried about the issues involved with seeds, such as the monopolisation of the market by chemical companies or the introduction of genetically-modified strains.

Why seeds? Seeds have are a symbol of wealth and renewal. They represent hope for the future, resilience, a concentrated store of value. Remember Jack and the Beanstalk! Seeds are the most valuable crop we can grow. If you know a few basics, you can avoid problems like cross-pollination and produce seed that's as good as what you buy.

Why Local? Biodiversity. We are appealing for seeds with "local provenance", heirloom varieties which might have been in the family for years. We have a variety of salad Tomato, *Scarlet Knight*, which has been grown in Sheffield for more than 40 years. When a seed is grown in a particular area or microclimate over three generations, it actually adapts genetically to local conditions, making it more robust and likely to succeed.

The Organic Food Initiative Richard Clare and Darrell Maryon set up Sheffield Organic Food Initiative in 1999 to promote the benefits of Organics, Biodynamics and Permaculture for Health, Education and the alleviation of Poverty. They have been running a seed bank of locally produced vegetable and herb seeds for the past ten years, distributing thousands of free packets of seed to hundreds of local people. Richard and Darrell are both now teaching courses in Growing Organic Food in Sheffield.

What's happening on the day / at the event?

It will be a bit like a jumble sale for seeds. We can guarantee that there will be more than 100 varieties grown on local allotments and projects.

N.B. You need to bring suitable paper containers for seeds, small paper bags or wage envelopes are fine.

Workshops: *How to save a fortune by saving your own seeds.*

Presentations: *Seed saver's Botany, Biology and Genetics*

The Venue: Walkley Community Centre is 100 m on the left up Fir Street off South Road. Fir St is opposite the Post Office on South Road and behind the Walkley Learning Centre. The venue is not fully wheelchair accessible.

Facilities: Refreshments available / Car Park / Toilets