

The Movement for Compassionate Living

New Leaves

No. 97 July - August - September 2010



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The Movement for Compassionate Living

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The Movement for Compassionate Living - the Vegan Way founded in 1985 by Kathleen and Jack Jannaway

NEW LEAVES

is the quarterly journal of the Movement for Compassionate Living (MCL).

MCL promotes:



- a way of life that is free of the exploitation and slaughter of sentient beings, that is possible for all the world's people and that is sustainable within the resources of the planet.



- lifestyles that depend as much as possible on locally produced goods, thus avoiding the resource wastage and pollution of unnecessary transport and packaging.



- Vegan-organic methods of horticulture and agriculture that use no animals or animal by-products and are free from artificial fertilisers, pesticides and herbicides.



- the planting of trees, especially on the land freed from livestock farming.

Trees absorb CO₂ and store the carbon as wood, thus checking global warming; ruminant livestock (cattle, sheep, goats) emit methane, a far more powerful greenhouse gas than CO₂.

Mature trees of appropriate species produce maximum food per acre.

Wood from trees can be used for many constructive and productive purposes.

Woodland industries can provide livestock farmers with alternative sustainable incomes.

Global warming and nuclear war threaten the survival of all life. Politicians may have the sense to avoid nuclear war but they cannot stop global warming unless people change their lifestyles.

Our herbivorous ancestors turned predators aeons ago when the forests dried up and they lost their food supply. The forests grew again but humans remained victims of their killing habits. Now vegans have proved that we do not need to kill animals for food. Land should go back to the trees.

New Leaves is produced quarterly and distributed in January, April, July and October. The Editors do not necessarily agree with articles published.

BROKEN FENCES

It was good to have the Annual General Meeting here in Wales: the report starts on the next page. We had some new people, not only Christina Palfrey and Malcolm Horne but others who had never attended an AGM before. Some came from quite far and others from nearby - great to have seen you all. My only disappointment was that more people could not stay longer. But, regardless, we had a good meeting, and a good time after with those who could stay.

I want to write a few words about the debate we have been having on the pages of *New Leaves* about “pet” ownership, particularly as we have lost one member because of it. First, I want to point out that the editorial collective has on purpose refrained from expressing their own personal views about the matter, leaving it to other members to debate the points. Secondly, MCL does not have a position on it one way or the other. Kathleen Jannaway's vision was: “In the New Order humans would not hunt animals and exploit them for their entertainment, but build positive relationships with them and do whatever they could to lessen their natural sufferings” (*STAVVs*). This to me does not rule out humans having other animals living with them, and in the best instances in today's imperfect world this can be beneficial to both parties whatever they are called (“pets and their owners” or “humans with animal companions” etc). I would like to close my thoughts today with this beautiful Japanese haiku by Sora (1649-1710) which I found while searching the *Vegan Views* website:

“My broken fence: on purpose left unmended,
As passage for the fawns I befriended.”



Ireene-Sointu

23rd October 2010 10am -7pm London Anarchist Bookfair
Queen Mary, University of London Mile End Road, London E1 4NS
www.anarchistbookfair.org.uk

24th October 2010 Housing Ourselves London (venue to be confirmed)
A free one day event exploring DIY housing solutions with discussion,
workshops, stalls and advice surgeries.
housingourselves.wordpress.com Email: housingourselves@riseup.net

Report from the Annual General Meeting held in Ystalyfera, Wales on 12th June 2010

Eleven members attended the meeting. Elaine Garrett chaired and Alan Garrett took notes.

Secretary's Report: There had been requests for literature, membership enquiries and some enquiries about members. General discussion followed regarding what information is provided to anyone, particularly when they enquire seeking personal contacts. Irene-Sointu confirmed that MCL members' details are kept confidential at all times.

Treasurer's Report: MCL currently has £46,385.71 in its bank account. The total of the legacies received from Beatrice Camm and Janet Higgins was £42,399.72. When that total is taken off, the remaining balance is £3,985.99. It was agreed that these members should be publicly remembered by having their names given in *New Leaves*. The accounts were accepted by the meeting.

Membership Report: MCL currently has members at 504 UK addresses and 55 overseas.

New Leaves Reports: Printing and Mailouts going well. *New Leaves* is mailed out to all the members' addresses, with 12 receiving multiple copies.

Editorial Collective: Christina Palfrey and Malcolm Horne spoke on behalf of the Editorial Collective. The editing work was enjoyable, the group worked amicably (even though they did not always agree!), and they were currently not having any problems finding enough copy for each issue.

Publications Report: Patrick Smith telephoned during the meeting to confirm that he is happy to continue managing the printing and distribution of MCL's publications. Brian Alford suggested that leaflets on global warming and/or water should also incorporate the message that mains water supplies necessitate the use of pumps which consume energy (electricity), the production of which uses fossil fuels and contributes to global warming.

Contact Scheme: Bronwen Lee has been co-ordinating the Contact Scheme for several years and would now like to pass this on. There were no

immediate volunteers, so the Contact Scheme will be put on hold until someone comes forward.

Website: Alan Garrett confirmed that, whilst the website contained all the MCL information, it was at present a static site with no updating and no current news. An interested member had formerly volunteered to become the new website editor but this had not come to fruition. Fortunately, a new member Juliet Lynn had come to the meeting to introduce herself and offer to take on the MCL website. Juliet was enthusiastic about web design and had checked the current website, concluding that it needed revamping and making more interactive. A blog (web log) could be incorporated, and the MCL booklets and *New Leaves* could be added in as downloadable .pdf files. It may also be possible to include subscription payment by PayPal. Juliet's interest was enthusiastically welcomed and it was agreed to proceed. Juliet will liaise with Irene as necessary.

It was noted that MCL's old website, hosted on unisonfree.net, was still online and showing up in search results. This site was shut down in 2005 when the hosting service closed down. Alan Garrett has been trying since then to get the site removed, but there is no access to it and no response from the former hosting contacts. This is very unfortunate as the old site is obviously long out of date. Alan will try again to get a response by contacting Unison.

(Please ensure you are viewing the current MCL website by using the address www.mclveganway.org.uk - any other links should be deleted.)

Facebook: Irene has started up a Facebook page for MCL at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Movement-for-Compassionate-Living/326478122128>.

Applications for grants: Following appeals in *New Leaves* for applications for MCL funding, using money made available by recent legacies from Beatrice Camm and Janet Higgens, five projects had applied. A total of £42,000 was available.

Various opinions had been received from members who were unable to attend the meeting and these were included in the decision-making process. All of the applications and suggestions were discussed in great depth and detail. Elaine Garrett summarised all of the views and opinions and a

consensus was reached on which applications were to be supported and what amount was to be allocated to each. Certain conditions needed to be applied to some of the allocations. Further discussion ensued regarding these conditions and their various legal, financial and practical requirements.

The final decisions were as follows:

CFF - Forest Garden Project – to be granted £21,000, on condition that, before any money is allocated, firstly, legal advice must be sought to ensure a mutually acceptable agreement can be made that would cover future use of, or disposal of, the land should the CFF project fail. Secondly, the suitability of any land to be purchased for the project is confirmed by soil survey, and local searches are completed to ensure there are no negative legal, planning or geological issues. Costs for such advice and surveys can be advanced from the allocation. These stages to be signed off by the nominated steering group.

Vegan-Organic Network – DVD production – to be granted £5,500, on condition that at least subtitles in English (for the hard of hearing) are included as an option on the DVD. Additionally, should the Vegan-Organic Network manage to secure full or partial funding for the DVD from other sources, the equivalent amount of the MCL allocation could be diverted instead into the Bursary Fund.

Vegan-Organic Network – Bursary Fund – no allocation to be made, however see note in the DVD fund allocation above.

Plants for a Future – Cornwall Project – the balance (£15,500) of the total amount available was allocated to the PFAF project in Cornwall (their application for a possible project in Brazil was withdrawn before the meeting). This is to help make the site in Cornwall more visitor-friendly, to help towards refurbishment of their temporary building to provide accommodation for helpers, and to provide compost toilets and washroom facilities. However, a condition on the allocation is that PFAF should first have a structural survey completed on the building to confirm that it is suitable for refurbishment. Costs for this survey can be advanced from the money allocated. Release of the final full allocation will be subject to the approval of the nominated steering group following receipt of a satisfactory structural survey.

MCL smaller projects fund - the suggestion that up to £5,000 should be retained by MCL for future small projects was generally supported, however it was agreed that the larger projects should at this time be allocated all the funds available. Should any of these projects fail to proceed, or if further donations or legacies are received by MCL, the smaller projects fund should certainly be set up.

The meeting appointed Ireene-Sointu, Elaine Garrett, Alan Garrett and Keith Spence to act as a steering group to administer and allocate the funds once any applied conditions had been met. The steering group is to report back via *New Leaves* during the year, and to the 2011 AGM.

Next meeting: The 2011 AGM to be held in London during May. (It was suggested that the 2012 AGM could once again return to Ystalyfera for a weekend gathering.)

Thanks were expressed during the meeting to all those who were giving their time and energy to administer, support and maintain MCL. The meeting closed with thanks to all who attended and/or contributed, and to Ireene for hosting.

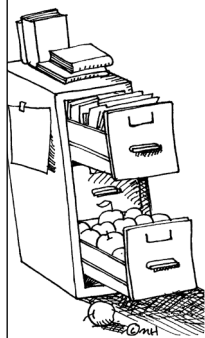
MCL CONTACT SCHEME CO-ORDINATOR NEEDED

The Contact Scheme aims to provide opportunities for mutual support, co-operation and friendship, and/or further the aims of MCL locally and regionally.

Details of contacts are only provided to those participating in the scheme.

The Contact Scheme offers a great opportunity to get in touch with other MCL members who are following or working towards compassionate, cruelty-free living.

The co-ordinator keeps a list of contacts and sends updates to those participating in the scheme. If you are interested in taking up this voluntary post, get in touch with Ireene-Sointu.



MCL ENVELOPE STICKERS

Global warming can be checked and people better supplied with food and other necessities if we use land for trees that absorb CO2 not for livestock that emit methane a much more powerful green house gas.

Details from
MCL, 105 Cyfyng Road
Ystalyfera, Swansea SA9 2BT
www.mclveganway.org.uk

Available for £1 per 100
or 1p each from
MCL, 105 Cyfyng Road
Ystalyfera
Swansea SA9 2BT

Cheques payable to MCL
and send s.a.e.

REPORTS FROM MCL FUNDED PROJECTS

VEGAN-ORGANIC NETWORK THE CENTRES NETWORK PROGRESS REPORT JUNE 2010

MCL Members will be aware that the objective of the Network is to work with the growers in order to establish a number of farms as education and research centres. Through Community Supported Agriculture, growers will become educators for their box scheme customers, whilst also acting as catalysts to other growers. The programme is planned over a five year period and involves intensive discussion and visits, all enabled by the grant from MCL. Separately, but closely related, VON will also make two new videos to demonstrate stockfree growing. These are funded separately; however some of the costs may be allocated to the Centre Network fund as educational materials, so for this reason information is given below.

Bluebell Organics in North Yorkshire operates the smallholding that was formerly run by our fondly remembered Dave of Darlington and his partner Jan. It is now farmed stockfree organically by Katrina Palmer and Steve Barker, and VON anticipates providing a grant to refurbish an on-site building as an education centre. This will house a library, DVD facilities, and an exhibition of stockfree organic methods. Other growers, local people, schools, colleges, and the media, will be invited to open days and special events.

Over the sea to the Isle of Arran. At the **Avalach Centre for Plant Study**, Maureen and Keith Robertson aim to teach stockfree organic growing courses and to begin work cultivating the three acre set-aside species-rich

grassland. They plan to grow oats and extend their veg growing area to supply the nearby farmers market and local hotel on a commercial basis.

VON has made a grant to facilitate stockfree organic demonstrations at **Oakcroft Organic Gardens** in Malpas, Cheshire. The aim is to develop the project according to a sustainable, vegan-organic model, growing as wide a range of produce through the year as possible, which will be sold locally. Plans include the adoption of no-dig principles for vegetable, herb and salad production, planting more fruit/nut trees and berries, and extending measures to enhance biodiversity. As this is a new project, a further grant will be considered when it is more established.

The Directory of Stockfree Organic Growers continues to be expanded and is readily available on request.

Actual expenses so far: £700 in respect of Oakcroft Organic Gardens, also travel expenses to visit holdings (to be confirmed).

FILMS FOR A FUTURE Home growers are being catered for. Graham Cole is the Head Gardener at Holywell House, Swanmore, Hampshire, and has used stockfree organic methods during the eight growing seasons he has been there. VON will soon start making a film showing Graham demonstrating techniques for home growers. Additionally we are discussing making a film of the Quaker Cooperative project **Growing With Grace**, at the edge of the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Their ethos is 'local food for local people'. VON considers that their two acres of protected growing and stockfree organic cultivation provide an important example of sustainability in a controlled environment in relation to climate change.

VON is still looking into grant funding to employ a worker to promote the Centre Network. Other commercial farms are being discussed as possible centres, and progress with particular projects can be rapid. Periodic updates are published in *New Leaves* and *Growing Green International*. For more details contact: David Graham, VON, Anandavan, 58 High Lane, Chorlton, Manchester M21 9DZ (tel: 0161 860 4869 or email: david.graham330@googlemail.com).

VON thanks the members of MCL for their continued support.

CREATING WELHEALTH CO-OP PROGRESS REPORT JULY 2010

The co-op is an MCL STAVV, a freeconomy, gift economy, freegan farm. Come and stay and help, and enquiries from potential full-time freegan members are very welcome.

House Renovation - Budget £1000, spent so far £399

All the house walls have been rendered. The next job is to make the windows and door, using wood we've gotten for free, and preferably high quality and thrown-away glass for the double glazed units - and then after that to make good the roof and roof fittings.

Forest Garden Nursery - Budget £1000, spent so far £562

So far: levelled and laid a black Visqueen floor in the main nursery area; compost bins made; long three-dimensional staging erected for seed growing and pots; mesh for ventilation made to protect nut propagation; many different wooden boxes made for storing seeds and other uses; large garden area next to the nursery laid with silage bag plastic to mulch it. These developments have been happening alongside the growing and propagating of our sweet chestnuts, goji berries, black and red currants, gooseberries, New Zealand flax, hazel trees, mint (especially apple mint), and other plants.

Since December we have purchased fruit bushes, blueberries, tayberries, four apple, seven plum and gage trees, five ginkgo bilobas, and 86 grow bags for propagation. The large garden area has been planted out with 45 goji berries as stock plants from which to grow more, and work is now starting on the 30ft long potting shed. The workshop is completely taken up with seed propagation boxes, growing the 70 odd different forest garden seeds that we got from the Agroforestry Research Trust. Two pine varieties have come up, as well as some types of perennial vegetables, Siberian pea shrub, and Japanese pepper tree.

Freeconomy (the Gift Economy) has been coming into the news recently, and it's very much on the rise. Mark Boyle has been doing such a good job publicising it, and has written a new book '*The Moneyless Man*'. We are all experiencing the joys of free access, of sharing and community on the internet, and it very much needs to come into the real life and centres of our communities. The free economy funds some of the biggest enterprises in

the world, the family, the volunteer sector, hobbies, interests, and all the world's religions - it is a totally socially inclusive economy, in that everyone is included without the need to pay admission charges! It's the free system, and people are also free to give a donation if money is needed, and they do, and those that can't, don't. We vitally need to use it to provide our basic needs of warmth and housing, food, water, and air - so that all mouths can be fed. The whole earth is already a free economy, and rather than thriftily or abundantly sharing it, we use the instrument of competitive moneyed work business exchange, and it starves those losers below! Because land does not get put to food if it does not produce the dollar, euro, peso, rouble, or pound.

Our land project is different. It is a serious Gift Economy project. It is about SLOW - slow life, slow food, slow transport, slow work, and slow low-impact living on the planet, with low technology for environmental sustainability on our seven acre vegan permaculture forest garden site. We are completely off any mains services, so all outputs are composted and biodegradable. Part of the land is being left for wildlife: there are friendly wild pheasants here that will eat seed from your lap, they are not 'imprinted'.

Our focus is to reduce the use of money down to a moneyless society, replacing that with increased sharing. Many people don't know that food and fuel grow for free, that we can provide ourselves with electricity for free from the wind and sun and water and biofuel crops. Water already falls down on us freely, and bubbles out of the ground freely, and that waste water and all our wastes become beautiful organic shite, and minerals, the recycling basis of the fertile ground from which all things grow. We are that life!

Finally, if we put a stop to the buying and selling of basic housing, we can put them into an incorporated co-op which has perpetual life. This is an exciting, worthwhile, and very important project. This is why we will try to use the least amount of money from the MCL grant. Using least money means we least exploit. And the less we use more there will be in the pot for others.

Frank Bowman
Telephone 07980 158661
E-mail frank_bowman@yahoo.co.uk



April: On a sunny day we held the BFG AGM, with cups of tea and lunch around the fire - also some much needed work got done. A start was made on coppicing the dogwood, which wasn't easy as it's got very tangly growth. Some of the Eliagnus shrubs were cut to stop them encroaching into other plants, and a start was made on clearing the veg beds at the top.

May: The two new Ginkgo Bilobas were planted and marked with plastic sticks, and we strimmed and weeded and watered the pot plants. Emma sowed some golden mange tout peas - they were planted outside the veg boxes as an experiment to see how they grow in amongst weeds, nettles, etc. But Natalia and I couldn't get there as the rear wheel fell of my tricycle, I kid you not!

June: The day was warm but showers came, which rained us off, then sun, then heavy rain. Great day's work was done, and networking too. The garden is looking good, overgrowth cleared, mostly all the trees and plants given space to grow, by cutting back those suffocating and encroaching onto each other. Spaces cleared to allow access. Thanks to Mark for the loan of his sickles, and cups of chai. The main work in a forest garden is stopping plants and trees from encroaching on each other. It's lazy yet very productive gardening!

Fire made, and kettle on the brew. Emma and Richard brought their generator and grinder to shorten the two metals on the fire. Did lots of clearing around the individual plants, and put the cut comfrey and weeds down as mulch around the plants. The herb spiral is looking good, with what's going to be a big crop of St John's Wort.

During this period a lot of work was done on a grant application. The BFG yurt and display was taken to an open day. At present, after two months of hold-up, to-ing and fro-ing with getting minor information from the Co-op bank for the grant app, it was finally sent off only to be returned to be redone on their new style form! That is now having to wait while paperwork is done in support of the large allotments and eco social site near

Menai Bridge at Bangor, where the BFG is hoping to be involved with forest gardening around the whole site.

The Bangor Forest Garden holds volunteer work days on the second Sunday of every month, also a Wednesday in between. We usually have a fire, and sometimes cook and eat food from the garden, and bake on the cob oven. Further details: 0845-3457716 (<http://www.thebfg.org.uk> or email contact@thebfg.org.uk). Tea, coffee, drinks provided. It's an opportunity to learn new skills and make new friends, while helping to maintain and develop the Garden!

Sessions are 11.30am-4pm.

Garden tour on request.



Frank Bowman

APPEAL VON BURSARY FUND

“Animal products, both meat and dairy, in general require more resources and cause higher emissions than plant-based alternatives” states a recent report by the United Nations Environment Programme. So the issue of animal-free food is moving forward. Commercial scale growers well versed in stockfree organic growing methods are needed more than ever - but where will they come from? With VON's involvement Glyndwr University in North Wales runs the Organic Horticulture foundation degree, with stockfree organic principles as a key feature. Thanks in large measure to MCL members, VON has been able to give bursaries to past students - many of whom would not have been able to study without this.

University fees are high, and the reserve in the bursary fund has gone down considerably, so VON has to scale back the amount of grants. We all know how hard it can be for young people to fund higher education. Potential students will be lost if realistic grants cannot be made. So please help by making a personal donation to the fund - for all our futures.

Please send cheques payable to VON to:

VON (Bursary Fund) 58 High Lane, Chorlton, Manchester M21 9DZ.

Thank you.

LIVING IN A SCOTTISH WOODLAND

Last year CHRISTINE HEELEY was living in rented accommodation in South Wales. One day she spotted a small ad in Permaculture magazine ("Native woodland plots for sale..."), and so began an adventure. Chris bought a half acre woodland plot, and moved to the west coast of Scotland, a little way south of Oban. She bought a small 6ft x 8 ft shed to live in, and for water she uses a small stream nearby. This is her story so far...

I didn't so much survive the Scottish winter as enjoy it! To explain a bit, I have approximately 70 trees on my plot and for a long time they were laden with snow and frost. It was magical, a very spiritual and emotional experience. Of course it was enhanced by three duvets, four blankets, three hot water bottles, candles, and three sets of cold-defying clothes at night (and up to five during the day). I learnt that winter need not drag, that there are many chores to do as in any other season. They are just more difficult to accomplish looking at them on one's backside on the ice!

I have purchased and planted approximately 40 hazel saplings. My good neighbour Woody acquired them for me, and they are sturdy with well-formed roots. I've sown a packet of milk thistle seeds, and a packet of Limnanthes. I've planted four fruit trees, all supposedly self fertile (cherry, apple, pear and plum). I have taken numerous cuttings, some of which have definitely rooted - they are wild roses, honeysuckle, white willow, coriander, periwinkle, alder, and others whose provenance I'm not sure of.

I worked very hard cutting down and clearing brambles, bracken, and other species of plant life unhelpful to my cause. As I write it is spring and I've begun to fertilise - comfrey and potash for fruit, comfrey and urine for veggies. (For anyone who has land that is heavy clay I can recommend planting blackberries and leaving them for a few years - nothing tills the soil to quite such a fine tilth.)

The bay tree I brought with me from Wales survived the winter with just a few leaves withered by frost, the strawberries are growing apace on a south east facing slope, and I am now planting seed potatoes. Back in November I sowed a variety of veggie seeds in a rubbish bag - they all germinated and about half survived the weather and have now been planted out. The elder bush is a stoic and has wintered well. For this year it will be a priority to

obtain crab apple and hawthorn trees, also I have on order 30 Scots Pine trees for the north facing slope. Incidentally wet logs take weeks to become dry enough to burn without the assistance of charcoal.

It's difficult having no other vegans locally, and I miss health food stores, although the shops are quite well supplied with the basics. Some of the local people are quite interested in permaculture, which seems to be growing in popularity throughout the UK. I'm in the process of buying pallets to recycle for building a second shed - for this I will have to hire a man with a drill and claw hammer, unless anyone volunteers. I have millions of seeds, and more plants which I hope are now in transit from their respective nurseries, so it's likely to be a busy summer for yours truly.

THE FRUITS OF OUR SILENCE ON THE LAND QUESTION: THE COMMODITISING OF THE EARTH

We need a general awakening to the absurdity of today's scene, this scene wherein a limited clique of human beings buy and sell to one another outright, once-for-all titles to the earth, this earth which none of us made, and which is a mystery beyond the knowing of any of us. How can any one of us possibly have a title to the earth above that of the poorest peon surviving in the Third World shanty town, or the most wretched slaver-in-the-fields for some pretended overlord?

Such grabbers of a dismembered Gaia we have for too long deified, through laws of land tenure which set them above moral law. Now, amidst today's planetary destruction, we can no longer afford not to recognise the infantile state of our development which such laws reflect. Nor can we continue to 'pass by on the other side' our desecrated Mother.

We may protest for all we are worth about the commoditising of the Earth and its resources, but until we achieve the quantum mental leap that will bring us to examining and questioning the foundation of today's titles to land, we must remain ourselves – permaculturists though we be, and for all our permaculture achievements – partakers in that on-going, relentless destruction of Gaia which continues throughout every moment of every day.

Shirley-Anne Hardy

Extract from an article '*The Rise of Globalization*'
published in *The Permaculture Activist* November 2004

BOOK REVIEW

The Land Question by Shirley-Anne Hardy

Shirley-Anne Hardy sent me the piece on the previous page for publication in *New Leaves*, along with some other articles for me to read and a booklet *The Land Question*. Shirley-Anne wrote *The Land Question* in July 1981, and published it as a discussion paper at the request of the Ecology Party (now the Green Party). It has been reprinted several times since then, the latest reprinting being in 2009.

The Land Question begins with an introductory series of questions: "Why is the land question so intractable? Why is there so little public knowledge of the only real answer to it? And in fact – why are the vast majority of us not even aware that there is a land question?"

The booklet goes on to answer the questions and to present us with "the only real answer to it". That answer has been available for anyone looking for it even before this booklet. There are extensive quotes from Henry George [1], and others whose writings have informed Shirley-Anne's own understanding, teaching and writing when campaigning on various environmental issues. The references in this 42-page booklet cover two of the pages.

Shirley-Anne explains "the dual nature of the rights which our land legislation confers". One is "the use-value of the land" which "covers the natural right to his labour-made property" of the occupier. The other "has no natural right about it at all" as it involves "the right to gain from the land beyond what the occupier's own exertions yield him. This further gain consists in what is termed the economic rent of land - and it is straight out of the hands of the community."

"The economic rent of any piece of land is the term given to the measure of its superior productivity over the least productive land in use in a society. This superior productivity may refer to intrinsic agricultural or mineral properties, or it may refer to a site advantage, such as access to transport or a central position in a busy thoroughfare – or again, today it may refer to zoning or planning use. The point is that the features which give this superior rental value owe nothing whatsoever to the individual occupier. The rental value is something created solely by the community."

Our land legislation thus hands something that belongs to us all over to just a few to own. Clearly none of us laboured to make this earth of ours, and consequently none of us can own it and profit from the part that belongs to us all. Shirley-Anne quotes Henry George on the two principles of the land question: "(i) that all men have equal rights to the use and enjoyment of the elements provided by nature, and (ii) that each man has an exclusive right to the use and enjoyment of what is produced by his own labour..."

The solution to the land question then is the separation of the two rights, and giving the occupier of any piece of land a "use-value of the land", and the community where the land is situated the "economic rent of land". As Shirley-Anne put it in an article *The Wizard Planning Law* (Comment, September 2009) "the rental values of the land, being created by the community and not by the individual, belong to no person, but to the community itself where they arise... Further, the fact that the land is local, and that its values are best known locally, indicates that these rents are best collected and disbursed locally too – which surely signifies that society is predestined to be decentralist in form – with all its developments evolving organically as the local inhabitants wish, and falling within the competence of the community itself."

The booklets gives as the primary cause of the ills of our society this fact that only a few are allowed to profit from the land at the expense of the many. Conversely we can heal our society by applying the economic rent of land. Shirley-Anne quotes Henry George: "The ownership of land is the great fundamental fact which ultimately determines the social, the political, and consequently the intellectual and moral condition of a people." An interim measure would be to use the present regulations of zoning and planning. "But we must look forward to a time when the human condition, under this reform, will more have normalized itself, since bureaucratic manipulation of the citizenry by the State is not a true answer."

The society we can look forward to is reminiscent of the one presented by Kathleen Jannaway in the booklet *Self-Reliant Tree-Based Autonomous Vegan Villages*. There are some differences, but the basics are the same: common ownership of land, people being free to work in the way they want, everyone having work contributing to the society, no state with corrupt politicians – basically freedom for all to develop to their full potential. Read both booklets and be inspired. You can get *The Land Question* from

Shirley-Anne Hardy. The style of writing is not the easiest to read and the sexist language (my very own pet peeve) now sounds outdated, but it is well worth reading.

Footnote:

[1] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_George: “Henry George (September 2, 1839 – October 29, 1897) was an American writer, politician and political economist, who was the most influential proponent of the land value tax, also known as the "single tax" on land. He inspired the philosophy and economic ideology known as Georgism, which is that everyone owns what he or she creates, but that everything found in nature, most importantly land, belongs equally to all humanity. His most famous work is *Progress and Poverty* written during 1879; it is a treatise on inequality, the cyclic nature of industrial economies and possible remedies.”

Ireene-Sointu

SURVIVAL INTERNATIONAL

helps tribal peoples defend their lives, protect their lands and determine their own futures.

Two recent reports can be downloaded from their website
<http://www.survivalinternational.org>

The Most Inconvenient Truth of All states that the measures to mitigate the climate change violate the rights of indigenous people “and make it easier for governments, companies and others to lay claim to, exploit and, in some cases, destroy their land – like climate change itself”.

2010 Annual Report states that tribal peoples, wherever they are in the world, “are deprived of their livelihood and way of life; driven from their land by mining, logging or settlers; flooded by dams or forcibly relocated in order to make way for cattle ranches or game parks”.

THE 30TH VEGAN CAMP

7th - 21st August 2010
at Hunstanton, Norfolk

<http://www.vegancamp.co.uk>





Last year, in *New Leaves* No 91, we published a tribute to Harry Mather, following Harry's retirement after some 23 years of editing *Vegan Views* magazine.

Sadly, in May this year, Harry died at the age of 85. Much of Harry's life was dedicated to promoting vegan, vegetarian and green ideas, and many people will remember him not only for *Vegan Views* and his extensive writings, but also from numerous Vegan Camps and several Vegan Summer Gatherings, as well as a host of other meetings and events.

Harry lived in France up to the age of 11, and was a fluent French speaker, later learning Esperanto too, as well as some Russian. He turned vegetarian in 1965 (and vegan two years later), and ran his local Bournemouth vegetarian group for over 25 years. In 1983 he self-published his book '*Looking for a Green World*', covering animal rights, veganism, disarmament, the Falklands War, society and economy, and many other topics.

A vegan life well lived...

Malcolm Horne

We always admired the amount of excellent work and dedication that Harry put into *Vegan Views* and his other writings. His marvellous book '*Looking for a Green World*' was a trailblazer and an inspiration. The vegan movement owes much to Harry as his contributions helped veganism to grow from a fringe interest in the middle of the 20th century to the popular and compassionate lifestyle choice for millions worldwide that it is today.

Alan & Elaine Garrett

We are all sad to hear of Harry Mather's passing. He was a valued friend and member, and he gave us a gift, a bridging loan, to allow us to purchase our vegan land - on complete trust that we would do what we are doing. We need vegan members and support to keep it solidly vegan.

Frank Bowman

LETTERS

There is another, as yet **neglected, aspect of the pets debate** currently running in *New Leaves*.

People are generally oblivious to the true extent of pet cruelty, our general impression of its nature being formed by occasional news media reports of RSPCA interventions in the most blatant and sickening cases, or the published statistics that can do no more than suggest trends. Thankfully, during our lifetimes, most of us gain quite limited first hand experiences of animal abuse.

We all tend to use the random information that does reach us about cruelty to distinguish one or two rogue owners from all the others out there, who we habitually assume give their pets the sort of loving home we ourselves would. But perhaps we should really be considering reported cruelty cases and statistics as the tip of the maltreatment iceberg? Perhaps a few moments reflection would bring to mind the sort of routine instances of cruelty that do actually go on:

- All the birds kept in cages, never able to fly; all the fish and reptiles who spend their whole lives imprisoned in alien tank or cage environments.
- All the pets belonging to those physically or mentally ill, or elderly people barely able to look after themselves.
- All the animals subjected to the neglect or whims of young owners the law deems not ready for so many other responsibilities.
- All the dogs and cats at the receiving end of people's bad tempers, anger and other unpleasant traits.

Unfortunately our laws have evolved to accord animals' lives little more significance than the non-sentient objects we may possess, so our pets receive little protection from the sort of low level but routine cruelty cases we may chance upon, and which many people unthinkingly consider 'acceptable':

- The dogs having to warily run alongside the wheels of their owners' disability scooters.
- The children's pets released when their owners lose interest.
- The guard dogs tormented to make them more ferocious and effective.

- The cats given regular baths – their owners adding a spot of bleach 'to get them really clean'.
- The cats and dogs left to fend for themselves when their owners go on holiday.

No. As compassionate people we must come to realise that our own personal possession of other species endorses a social licence where abuse can be neither monitored nor even regulated. The logic is easy. For us to own pets we must live in a society that allows this. And if people are allowed to own pets it means that many of these pets will be abused. So, in terms of the extent and blind acceptance of much abuse we must think carefully what effect our legal right to 'own' members of other species, and lay claim to their natural lives, has on the lives of all the animals.

Paul Galley

Being only a humble guinea pig I am not quite able to understand all of Denis Harrison's points in his letter entitled '**Struggling With Animal Owners' Self Deception**'. However, as one commodity on the conveyor belt to another, I would like to tell my story as I feel it has a bearing on the argument as to whether it is right to take in an abandoned animal.

One cold winter's day in December of last year – the day that snow warnings had been issued – my 'owner', definitely not suffering from an attack of compassion, decided to leave me in the park for cats, rats, snow and ice to decide my fate. However, a well-meaning but misguided member of the public saw me and took me to a vet.

Now the vet knew about the mad guinea pig woman who lived nearby, and when she went into the surgery (to have an elderly rescued guinea pig's teeth clipped) they told her about me, and in a fit of sentimental misguidedness she took me in. She also fed me - massacring sentient cabbages and carrots to do this.

So now here I am. Instead of been blissfully released from this vale of tears by Mother Nature I am having to endure the companionship of Russet and Elderberry, and believe me Russet is very grumpy to have to live with. So I sit in my cage and I eat to my heart's content, and I bask in the warmth of the living room. Russet and Elder tell me that come the summer we will be able to run about in the big run in the yard with two lop-eared rabbits that

were unwanted, but unfortunately for veganism rescued by the mad guinea pig woman.

What a shame that a detached Indian Sadhu hadn't seen me in the park because then he could have peacefully passed by on the other side of the footpath and not have his bliss disturbed, unless of course he had been a Jain....

Yours respectfully,
Saffron (aka Saffy)

I am pleased and grateful that my piece entitled '**Coping with Animal Myths**' in *New Leaves* No 95 stimulated so many responses in No 96 (both positive and negative). I read them all with interest. I respect those people who expressed different beliefs and values from my own. I hope such a variety of ideas has helped others to decide what they think about that topic.

I personally believe that it is important to keep an open mind and to be flexible, listening to everyone before discerning what is right for one's own self.

As a Quaker I have an experiential faith – i.e. no dogma or creed but beliefs coming out of my experiences. This is evolving and growing all the time. So my early beliefs when I first became vegan, aged 44, are very different from my values now as a 75-year-old. I expect I shall change some of these again before I reach my late 90s when my life on earth may nearly be over. I try to let science and common sense inform me. But, above all, it is compassion which has the most influence.

In love and peace to everyone,
Elizabeth M. Angas



I was hoping you would create the time to have a quick peek at this website (<http://www.longretreat.blogspot.com/>) by Euan Kerr, a new vegan and a Tibetan Monk residing at the Samye Ling Monastery in Scotland, and circulate it among your readers. I do not know him personally, but as a vegan of 20 years myself (14-34yrs) I feel enthusiastic enough to try to help Euan Kerr in his training - which is probably one of the most difficult things one may achieve.

Kindest Regards,
Carol

I am writing to share my **personal celebration** as I have now been vegan for 35 years. When I became vegan there were two margarines, Tomor and Outline, and Plamil milk in a tin – if you could find them! Now the varieties, plus cheese and ice creams etc, are fantastic. But the more important difference is the widespread acceptance that a vegan diet is healthy and possible.

For 35 years I have been healthy, as have my lifelong vegan daughters, Olive, Cherry (23), and Hazel (13). We had a vegan cat who died age 20, and have two more and a vegan dog (3½). I told my children the realities and truth about cruelty in farming, which is maybe why they are very committed vegans themselves.

I now feel the most urgent issue is climate change, caused partly by the livestock industry which emits more gases than all the world's transport combined.

I believe veganism is not sentimental eccentricity, as generally perceived, but the only realistic diet for our planet, with its low carbon footprint and requiring much less land.

We welcome contact from fellow vegans of all ages for get-togethers and/or campaigning (Dartington/Totnes area in Devon). Ring 01803-862158.

Bridget Meadows

21st August 2010 10am - 4pm Coventry Green Fayre

War Memorial Park, Kenilworth Road, Coventry, CV3 6PT

Free non-profit fayre celebrating local community initiatives that promote sustainable and compassionate living.

For more details contact 024 76 715040.

30th October 2010 11am - 5pm West Midlands Vegan Festival

The Wolverhampton Civic Hall

North Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1RQ

<http://www.veganmidlands.org.uk> Telephone 01527 458395

6th November 2010 10am - 4pm Lincoln Vegan Food Fair

Trinity United Reformed Church Hall, Garmston Street, Lincoln, LN2 1HZ

<http://www.myspace.com/lincolnanimalrights>.

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Contact Scheme

We have contacts in Antrim, Bedfordshire, Belfast, Birmingham, Bucks, Cheshire, Clwyd, Cornwall, Derbyshire, Devon, Dorset, Essex, Gwynedd, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Isle of Wight, Kent, Leicestershire, London, Middlesex, Norfolk, North Yorkshire, Northumberland, Nottingham, Powys, Shropshire, Tyne & Wear, West Glamorgan, York, Co. Galway (Eire), Goult (France), but no co-ordinator at the moment. **See page 5.**

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEXT NEW LEAVES TO BE RECEIVED BY 21ST SEPTEMBER

should be typed or clearly hand-written and marked 'for New Leaves'. Any press cuttings/references should be recent and identified with name and date of the source publication. Food items promoted in articles and recipes should be appropriate to MCL's policy of encouraging use of produce that can be grown in the writer's local region, rather than imported crops.

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Copy for the next issue by the same date as other contributions, please.

Please make cheques payable to MCL.

The Vegan Society, inventors of the word and established since 1944, 'The Animal-Free Shopper', our comprehensive guidebook of vegan products, just £4.99 + £1.50 p&p. Donald Watson House, 21 Hylton Street, Hockley, Birmingham B18 6HJ. See www.vegansociety.com. Email: info@vegansociety.com or phone 0845 458 8244. For help writing to local newspapers etc. please email Amanda: media@vegansociety.com.

Veggies and Sumac Centre: Catering for animal and social justice campaigns. Vegan cafe (Fri, Sat, Sun); vegan-organic demonstration garden; distribution of MCL booklets & leaflets; compilers of the Animal Contacts Directory (£5.80 incl. p&p / £5 unwaged). 245 Gladstone Street, Nottingham NG7 6HX. Tel: 0845 458 9595. www.veggies.org.uk.

Wales Vegan/Y Figan Cymreig, bilingual (Welsh-English) magazine, £3 for 3 copies a year. Bron Yr Ysgol, Montpellier Park, Llandrindod, Powys.

Vegan Views – a forum for vegan opinion. Details from Longridge, Bankend Rd, Dumfries DG1 4TP, email: sjolberg@online.no, tel: 01387 265348.

Sarah Two welcomes women & anyone interested in growing fruit (field turning slowly into orchard) & vegan permaculture. Le Village, 09600 Dun, France. Tel. 0033561604688.

Vegan puppies need homes. We have a lovely gentle vegan Jack Russell who will be having puppies in August. We want them to go only to vegan homes. If interested please contact Bridget Meadows (Totnes area) 01803-862158.

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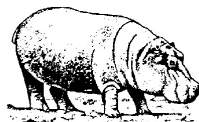
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