

## **Growing for Health speaker biography**

### **Robin Maynard, Director of Community Engagement, Feed Bristol/ Avon Wildlife Trust**

Robin Maynard has spent over 25 years working in and around the environment movement – starting as volunteer at Friends of the Earth (FOE) a few months before Chernobyl. That dark cloud led to a part-time job, tracking radioactive fall-out across the UK– helping farmers get compensation from a reluctant government. Since then he has held various posts at FOE, Soil Association, FARM –plus brief stints on BBC R4’s Farming Today and latterly the Forestry Commission (resigning when Government decided to ‘dispose of’ (flog off) all our public woods to set-up Our Forests with Jonathon Porritt and others to challenge and ultimately over-turn those plans. Currently, working at Avon Wildlife Trust as director of community programmes with responsibility for AWT’s health and wellbeing outputs enabling a wide range of groups and individuals to engage in nature-based therapeutic activities - as well as having oversight of AWT’s hugely popular Feed Bristol community food growing hub.

### **Dr Margi Lennartsson, Project Manager, Growing Health, Garden Organic**

Margi is Head of Programmes at Garden Organic working to inspire, encourage and support individuals and groups to grow organically. She is involved in a wide range of research, development and knowledge exchange projects related to organic horticulture and food production systems of different types, including fruit and vegetable production on large and small scale, domestic and community growing in urban and rural areas. Margi is project leader for Growing Health, a national project run by Garden Organic and Sustain and funded by the Tudor Trust, working explore how community food growing can be routinely used by the health and social care services as a way of promoting health and wellbeing.

### **Sue Brazendale, Health & Social Care Network Coordinator, Voscur**

Sue works for Voscur which supports, develop and represents Bristol’s voluntary and community sector. It builds the capacity and advocates on behalf of local organisations so they can improve the quality of life of individuals and communities. It facilitates partnerships within and between public, private and voluntary sectors to create social impact, reduce public spending and increase social inclusion.

### **Dr Angela E Raffle, Consultant in Public Health**

Angela qualified in medicine in 1980 in Birmingham, worked as a junior doctor in England and overseas, then specialised in Public Health. She became a national figure in the UK’s work on improving screening programmes and services for cancer. Since 2010 she changed direction, becoming a ‘Public Health Partner to Bristol City Council working on the combined agenda of health and sustainability. Her main focus in the past four years has related to our systems for food, for transport and for urban planning. She commissioned and supervised the Who Feeds Bristol report, and has been the health sector representative on Bristol’s Food Policy Council since it was established in 2011. Angela is also involved in Transition Bristol and is a trustee of The Community Farm in Chew valley.

### **Tom Gallagher, Director, Sydenham Garden**

Tom has an agricultural background, and has been involved in community gardens and farms for the last 11 years. Prior to his agricultural studies in 2002 Tom led a local community kids club from 40 children to 3000. During his studies at Writtle College and Essex University he took part-time employment on a community farm and outdoor pursuits centre in East London and was immediately enamoured with the community farm and garden movement. Since then Tom has managed a very successful period of growth and change for another community farm and garden in East London, and founded a project starting community gardens in Malawi, southern Africa. Just over a year ago he took over the running of Sydenham Garden, a mental health charity in Lewisham and has since successfully won contracts with both the CCG and local council. Sydenham Garden grew from 25 regular clients to 105 in the 2013/14 financial year.

### **Sue Walker Co-ordinator HHEAG, Bristol**

Sue Walker has worked for HHEAG for nearly 21 years, initially being employed to lead environmental work, especially with children. Her background is in Environmental Science made her the ideal candidate to develop the community gardens when food growing was identified as a project which could contribute to the promotion of health in the area. Since 1999 the development of the community gardens and associated activities has been her primary role, although since 2009 she has also acted as Co-ordinator (CEO) of HHEAG.

### **Harriet Cooper, Project Officer, Growing Health/ Garden Organic**

As Project Officer for Growing Health Harriet promotes the evidence of the benefits of food growing for physical and mental health and wellbeing and disseminates the information and learnings drawn together by the Growing Health Project to a wide range of stakeholders in the community growing and the health sectors.

At Garden Organic Harriet researches and develops delivery models and partnerships to expand and diversify their volunteer networks. Building on Garden Organics portfolio of partners and obtaining long term commissions to enable more people and communities to benefit from growing their own food, including horticultural, health and social benefits. She has met with over 50 Public Health teams over the past year to discuss the benefits of food growing, along with the justice & housing sectors. She has also staged multiple high level information sharing events for beneficiaries, commissioners and partners.

### **Joy Carey, Independent Consultant**

Joy Carey works as an independent Sustainable Food Systems consultant. She is author of 'Who Feeds Bristol? Towards a resilient food plan' (2011): a baseline report that has informed the development of the Bristol Good Food Plan. She is a member of the Bristol Food Policy Council and Director of Bristol Food Network. She is also a Director of f3 local food consultants. From 2010-2014 she was lead researcher with the impact assessment evaluation team for the Big Lottery Local Food Fund. She has also co-produced a 35 min documentary film, 'Local Food Roots' (2013), about the emergence, achievements and challenges of the UK local food movement since 1990. <http://localfoodfilm.org.uk/>

**Veronica Barry, former Development Manager Health and Wellbeing, Ideal for All**

Veronica Barry has worked for over twenty years in various urban and rural agriculture settings, including Surrey Docks City Farm, Tolhurst Organics a local box scheme, and from 2000 to 2014 in establishing Sandwell's public health driven urban agriculture programme. This included creation of Ideal for All's three acre Salop Drive Market Garden, from derelict land, into a model therapeutic and local food scheme, delivering vegetables to over 70 households a week. She has just started a PHD in Urban Agriculture at Birmingham City University, School of Computing, Engineering and the Built Environment (CEBE).

**Dr Ulrich Schmutz, Growing Health, Garden Organic**

Ulrich is an agricultural and horticultural economist. He has worked for Garden Organic for 10 years and is also a senior research fellow at Coventry University. His research interests are agroecology and the social, economic & environmental aspects of food growing, health and wellbeing. In the last two years, Ulrich has also been involved in the Growing Health project.

**Maria Devereaux, Project Officer, Growing Health, Sustain**

Maria joined Sustain on Capital Growth and the Growing Health project over two years ago after a successful career in marketing communications and PR. With over ten years experience in community food growing she has been a horticultural therapist for over three years working with adults and children with disabilities. She completed her diploma in Social and Therapeutic Horticulture last academic year. Maria is a Trustee of Sydenham Garden and Director of Incredible Edible Southwark and Local Greens, a South London veg bag scheme.

**Sarah Williams, Project Manager, Growing Health, Sustain**

Sarah Williams is the Food Growing Programme Manager for Sustain. She joined Sustain in 2009 and is part of the Capital Growth team who successfully supported 2,012 new community food growing spaces by the end of 2012 in London. Sarah has been involved in developing and fundraising for new areas of work, including the national Big Dig programme and work on health and food growing. Previous roles have involved working with various community groups in East London as well as Strategic Manager of the Newham Food Access Partnership, where for four years she coordinated the implementation a Food and Nutrition Strategic Plan. Sarah has a Masters in Leadership for Sustainable Development. She is also a Waltham Forest resident with a passion for food.