COMMUNITY GROUPS GROWING VEG: RE-SKILLING AND RECONNECTION THROUGH ALLOTMENTS

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Goodman and DuPuis (2005:364) call for a ‘reflexive politics’ of local food that pays attention to social justice:

“We have to move away from the idea that food systems become just by virtue of making them local and toward a conversation about how to make local food systems more just.”

Goodman & Dupuis (2002:17):
“Food is no longer polarized conceptually as totem or fetish, but emerges as an arena of struggle, as well as a realm of connectivity.”
RESEARCH ON TWO NEW ALLOTMENT SITES IN SOMERSET

SOMERTON ALLOTMENTS: CREATED BY COMMUNITY ACTION

LYTES CARY: NT & COMMUNITY CREATED
INITIAL FINDINGS: COMMUNITY CREATION ON ALLOTMENTS GROWING BETTER HARVESTS

• LYTE CARY ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION (LCAA) FEB '10: 40 HALF-PLOTS - 5 COMMUNAL - 3 PRIMARY SCHOOLS & 1 SECONDARY

• NT/COMMITTEE RUN

• SOMERTON ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION (SAA) NOV’10: 55 HALF-PLOTS 10mX12m

• COMMITTEE RUN

• EXPERIENTIAL RESEARCH GROWING AT SOMERTON

CHARLTON MACKRELL RED CLASS PLANTING SWEETCORN

Sunday, 4 September 2011
INITIAL FINDINGS: COMMUNITY CREATION ON ALLOTMENTS GROWING BETTER HARVESTS

- EXPERIENTIAL FIELD-NOTES:
  “I left the plots on a high at finally getting to the point of planting, it made me feel that we are ‘proper’ plot-holders and that we can be part of a growing community. Additionally, I was very touched and excited by the community support there...”

- RESEARCH INTERVIEW, BEN:
  “I find the community spirit up there very nice...people swap general growing tips: when I notice a crop has done very well, I ask the grower about what variety of seeds they’ve used and may use it myself.”
 Growing rules preserving the rural idyll

NT- Education work to breaking down barriers of growing knowledge.

Mutual assistance, community development and knowledge sharing, breaking the barriers to local food.
• Thanks to Somerton & Lytes Cary Allotment Associations, South Somerset NT and my supervisors—H Buller & I Cook

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