
Herbal Leys on the Road



Ian and Sam have a busy week coming up, giving talks about soils and herbal leys to a variety of groups and organisations all over the country, ranging from the Cotswold Sheep Group and National Trust in Wiltshire, to Harper Adams and the partnership between Defra, the Environment Agency and Natural England.

Sam is kicking it off on Thursday morning, 24th January, in North Yorkshire, with a discussion on the 'Benefits of Herbal Leys: Soil and Stock Health.' The event, which takes place in Ripley Town Hall, near Harrogate at 10.30am, is organised by Catchment Sensitive Farming and Innovation for Agriculture, together with the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) is a partnership between Defra, the Environment Agency and Natural England, which works with farmers and a range of other partners to improve water and air quality. Meanwhile, Innovation for Agriculture seeks to connect farmers with farming research, working with leading agricultural researchers, businesses, landowners, and farmers to develop the knowledge and technologies that will make modern farming more sustainable, resilient, and productive. The event is part of CSF's commitment to offering a series of free training and advice sessions, together with Innovation for Agriculture's programme of practical and interactive workshops designed to help farmers put knowledge into practice.

Thursday evening's event is closer to home, in Guiting Power, where Ian is meeting with the Cotswold Sheep Farmers group to talk about the future of forage crops, new varieties and drought tolerance. It's ten years since Ian last spoke to the group, so he's very much looking forward to revisiting.

Next Monday Sam is also making a return trip, to his former University, Harper Adams, to talk to over a hundred second year honours degree students about developments with herbal leys, followed by a Q&A session. Meanwhile that same day, Ian is the guest speaker at a belated Christmas drinks for National Trust farmers on the Stow and Aylesbury Vale Estate.