



Inside this issue:

<i>Handing on the baton</i>	1
<i>A note from Bastian and Inge</i>	1
<i>Testimonial</i>	2
<i>Great crop of Eleagnus</i>	2
<i>Fancy a holiday!</i>	2
<i>To trim or not to trim</i>	3
<i>Sad loss of rabbits</i>	3
<i>New website</i>	3

Handing on the Baton

Well, its finally happened, the transition of Semilla Besada to the new owners of Bastian and Inge. Contracts were signed at the Notary in Orgiva on 28th July and I, David have now left southern Spain and returned to the UK.

I have been at SB for a bit more than 12 years and well remember when we arrived. It was blowing a gale and the previous owners had taken every light fitting away, leaving only the wires hanging down! Much has changed! We have introduced animals and set up many veg gardens, installed a better solar system

and put up a wind turbine, created The Lodge as letting accommodation, enlarged and strengthened a sizeable reservoir, planted many trees and shrubs which are now starting to yield a crop. Learnt about Holistic Management and tried to apply its principles to our lives, deepened our understanding of Permaculture and offered courses to 'spread the word'. Much of this is due to the inspiration of Aspen, without who 's commitment to a holistic and less damaging lifestyle a lot less would have been achieved.

As for me, well its time to move on and 'hand on the baton' to



Bastian and Inge.

Our transition process has enabled us to become good supportive friends and I wish Bastian and Inge every success in generating fruitful and fulfilling lives at Semilla Besada.

We did not
inherit the land
from our fathers.

We are
borrowing it from
our children.

-Amish Proverb

We are Bastian & Inge, two Belgians, that found the Semilla Besada after two years of research. That little paradise, above Lanjaron in the Sierra Nevada came to us like a miracle.

We feel very blessed that we are given the chance to take over this project founded by David & Aspen.

A note from Bastian and Inge

We decided to change our life when the lies of government, media, politics, economics and many other things in our daily life became too big!

We realized that our society is destroying mother earth and many lives in useless wars that will never stop... unless we change.

We change the direction of humanity by changing ourselves! We are change! Freedom can be obtained if we try to do it differently. Wisdom of our ancestors is upon us all, we want to share this information with those who want to hear and we'll listen to those who know more!

David Edge is such a man, we've learned so much from him in these last months we've spent together. He taught us the first steps in how to maintain the land and the animals. He informed us about the acéquia, the blood-vain of the mountain that gives life to wildlife, fauna & flora. This proves that humanity can give an extra value to the planet if we work with the land and don't try to dominate it!

For now we are settling in and keeping the garden going. We will keep subscribers of the newsletter informed when the Lodge is ready to let out and



as soon as possible our caravan will be available again for volunteers who want to experience the Spanish mountains in a permaculture way.

We will try to do our best to maintain the Semilla Besada spirit and we'll even try to improve it...

Thank you David & Aspen for shaping a better future.

Testimonial



Zebu cattle in India

Hello David,

Just read the newsletter and the pdf book by Aspen and decided to thank you for them. I have benefitted immensely from reading about your work. I had always wondered why my homeland in India, which is very brittle, (Jaipur city and land around it) always looked and behaved differently to New York, where I was living at the time,

as regards to growing plants. Your website is where I first read about brittle and non-brittle environments and the puzzle pieces suddenly fell into place for me. This was 4 years ago.

I moved back with my husband and son to Jaipur India in 2009 and now have 2 Zebu cows, 30 or so chickens and 7 ducks and grow 80% of my own vegetables and some

fruits. I have purchased a 100 Acre farm recently in drylands near Jaipur in India where I plan to keep 200 Zebu cattle and grow fruits and vegetables sustainably.

Thanks for your inspiring help.

Warm Regards,

Deepti

Great crop of *Eleagnus* fruits

One of the most successful introductions to Semilla Besada has been the shrub 'Eleagnus Ebbingei' It flowers in the autumn, and the seeds ripen from March to April. The flowers are hermaphrodite (have both male and female organs) and are bee pollinated. It can fix Nitrogen, is good for windy sites and can survive on low rainfall.

The fruits are about 20mm



in length and the fully ripe fruit has a very rich flavour. It makes pleasant tasting with a slight acidity.

It is being investigated as a food that is capable of reducing the incidence of cancer.

Man has only a thin layer of soil between himself and starvation.

Fancy a holiday....*The Lodge continues!*



Bastian and Inge have decided to re-open [The Lodge](#) next year, 2012 and to offer 'gastronomic meals' as an added feature.

The Lodge has two twin bedrooms a kitchen/diner and separate toilet/shower room. It is situated on the first floor

of Semilla Besada and has great views south to the mediterranean sea.

Being situated at 1300m above sea level it is a fantastic place for those wishing to explore the mountains directly from your back door!



To Strim or not to Strim!

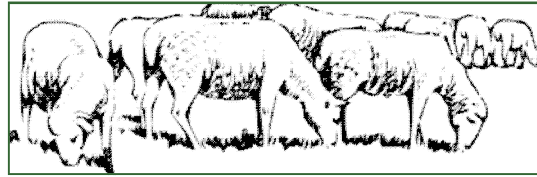
In a dryland environment it is important that plants are managed in such a way that they do not become a fire risk in the high summer.

The years of high spring rainfall are the most at risk owing to the greater levels of growth that occur.

For the past few years we have had our small herd of milk sheep and so we have

ensured that they have grazed any areas that may be a problematic. However this year there were no sheep and so the question of whether to strim or not has arisen.

Strimming does not have the same effect on grasses as grazing since it tends to leave dead material at the base whereas animals tend to tug and remove this.



The time of strimming is I believe of great import and I prefer to cut after the plants have flowered and set their seeds. If we do not do this we remove food for insects and as they are at the base of the food chain we cannot expect other species to thrive. We have also cut the plants into small pieces,

by successive cuts and this year we have left this on the ground as a mulch over this year's seeds.

Strimming uses fossil foods, is smelly, noisy, does a lot of damage, and is best avoided if possible!

Sad loss of rabbits from VHF



Unfortunately we lost almost all of our rabbits to Viral Hemorrhagic Fever. This spread throughout the mountain and many neighbours

with 3 rabbits and currently believe they are two females and a male. This could be very interesting and our hope is that their offspring may have

rabbits were also badly affected.

It is a horrible disease and the animals die within 24-48 hours of becoming infected. We have been left

an inherited resistance to the disease.

Several years ago we had a similar outbreak and were not left with any males so fingers crossed for this time.

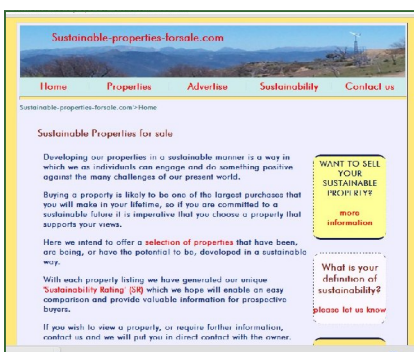
You can get comprehensive information about the disease by accessing the following link:

<http://www.holisticdecisions.com/vhf.pdf>

"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.

Mohandas Gandhi

New website www.sustainable-properties-for-sale.com



I have just developed a new website specializing in the sale of properties that have been or have the potential to be developed in a sustainable manner.

The website has only recently been released and so does not have many properties listed. However with your help in passing the site details to all appropriate friends maybe it can grow!

Website address is:

www.sustainable-properties-for-sale.com

I welcome comments about the idea, the site and possible other ideas along the same lines.

Please contact me via the website contact page with any comments: http://www.sustainable-properties-for-sale.com/sp_contact.html

Thanks for your support.....David.

Semilla Besada Companions shaping the future

Bastian Maerten and Inge beernaert

Apto. de Correos 19

18420 Lanjarón

Granada

Spain

Phone: (0034) 682 440 557

E-mail: bastian@holisticdecisions.com

www.holisticdecisions.com

Please note....

The previous telephone number for Semilla Besada of 0034 958 347 053 has been cancelled. If you wish to contact us about anything please either use the details above or contact us through the contact page of the website

Semilla Besada is a 12 hectare family farm, set in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains in southern Spain.



We provide a working model of Holistic Management and dryland Permaculture in mainland Europe, and hope in the future to offer educational opportunities to the local and international community.

A final note from David

I have recently come across the following quote which says so much of what I believe....

”Every farmer...knows that farming is much more than the individual, finite particulars of starting a diesel engine, ordering seed, putting seed in the ground, and harvesting grain. To be successful, the farmer needs a vision of the farm, faith that the seeds will grow and harvests will take place. Without the inspiration that comes from producing food, working with nature, or seeing a satisfied customer eating a wonderful loaf of bread, there would be little successful farming. Yet these parts of farming cannot be put into a calculus. They are spiritual practices. The very act of cooperating, of acquiring the breadth of vision necessary to imagine a future wherein community cooperation is more productive than individual competition, is a spiritual practice of the highest order.”

-Frederick L. Kirschenmann, “Spirituality and Cooperatives,” [Cultivating an Ecological Conscience](#), 2010

It has not been an easy process to leave Semilla Besada, but it has been a necessary one, made much easier by the relationship that I have developed with Bastian and Inge. My time at Semilla Besada has been an immensely rich one that will inform the rest of my life. I am extremely grateful for having had the opportunity to live in such an awe inspiring place and to have shared this portion of my life with such extraordinary people, some neighbours, others volunteers and most importantly one was my wife. But, its time to move on and and see what the next stage will bring. I don't think that you've heard the last of me yet.....

With gratitude for it all,

