

# NEWSLETTER



**Lea Valley  
Growers  
Association**  
Established in Britain, 1911

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Save 20% on BUPA Health Insurance.

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## Nursery For Sale/Rent

The Nursery is in South Cambridgeshire just off the M11 at CB21 6AS.

The site consists of 14 acres in total with 9 acres of glasshouses currently used to produce Lettuce.

The nursery Benefits from 15 years for free heating through a 1 MW Biomass with RHI payments

In addition there is a 45 kw Solar Panel System with 14 years of FIT payments on the contract left.

Packing and storage areas are included along with Workers accommodation.

For further details contact Enzo on 078 9999 7797 or 077 5360 6607



## Plant Health Services

In May 2021, the GB Plant Health Services launched a consultation for opinions on a risk-targeted approach for setting the frequency of import checks. The NFU has called for a risk-based import inspection regime for plants and plant products. Read on to find out more.

A follow up consultation on the frequency of checks for plants imported into Great Britain is now open. It will close on 28th January 2022.

The consultation, launched on 3 December 2021, is focused on a revised method to determine the levels of identity checks and physical inspection on regulated plant health goods imported into GB.

**The NFU has long been calling for a more risk based assessment on inspections, rather than the blanket 100% inspection frequency currently in place. The consultation has made some amendments but most plants continue to remain at 100%.**

The amendments Defra have made, are against two categories:

1. Cuttings, seedlings (except forestry reproductive material), young plants of strawberries or of vegetables, not intended for final users
2. 'Woody Plants' would no longer be subject to lower checks if they are intended for final users.

All other plants for planting frequency checks, largely remain the same.

Submit your views on the Defra website's [Follow-up Consultation: Method for Determining the Frequency of Risk Targeted Plant Health Import Inspections](#)

# NFU Energy and District Eating partner 'matchmaking' project

NFU Energy and District Eating are announcing their part Innovate UK funded project which aims to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by enabling growers to access stable and lower-cost heat.

The project will run for 14 months and assess the economic, environmental, and social opportunities associated with using sources of waste heat and carbon dioxide for protected horticulture in England.

District Eating's role in the project is to;

- Identify and contact potential sources of waste heat in England, to generate interest in the Innovate UK project.
- Explain the benefits of co-locating horticulture with sources of waste heat, and the opportunities it can deliver to sources of waste heat (financial, environmental, reputational).
- Model the potential economic, environmental, and social benefits of waste heat recovery.

Technical Director of NFU Energy Jon Swain said: 'With extraordinary gas prices rises towards the end of this year affecting the cost of heat and having an effect also on electricity prices and CO<sub>2</sub> production, growers are facing unprecedented costs of energy and CO<sub>2</sub>, which is used to enrich the growing environment for produce in the greenhouse.'

This service could provide growers with ideal opportunities to source local, sustainably, and reliable alternatives to gas, at a time when farmers are really feeling the effects of supply chain issues and the pressure of decarbonising.'

If you have waste heat or CO<sub>2</sub>, or you're wanting to know more about the project, you can register your [interest here](#).

For more on the work NFU are doing take a look at their website [www.nfuenergy.co.uk](http://www.nfuenergy.co.uk) or email [Claire.hartry@nfuenergy.co.uk](mailto:Claire.hartry@nfuenergy.co.uk).

For more information on District Eating, go to [www.districteating.com](http://www.districteating.com) or email [pip@districteating.com](mailto:pip@districteating.com).

# Labour Shortages inquiry Supplementary Evidence

**The Association were invited to provide further evidence to the Environment Food & Rural Affairs Committee following the appearance of George Eustice and Kevin Foster MP at the initial hearing on 16th November.**

## Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 16 November

The Association take this opportunity to express their extreme disappointment with the Secretary of States comment that Farmers (Growers) are taking a commercial Risk when deciding whether to grow British Food during a period of labour shortages.

Labour shortages have occurred due to government policy on the restriction of labour from overseas and are out of the control of British Growers.

Over half of Lea Valley growers have taken the decision not to plant this year, which, will result in increased foreign imported food from countries who do not produce to the same environmental and food safety standards as British Growers.

These comments show a fundamental lack of understanding of British Horticulture and/or a blind determination to ignore the evidence provided by Food producers in favour of the fantasy that manual food worker roles can be filled by a domestic workforce.

### Seasonal Workers Scheme

The announcement that the Seasonal Workers scheme has been extended from 2022 to 2023 at the same 30,000 level and reduced to 28,000 in 2024 would have been wholly inadequate on its own, however, to include Ornamental growers within the same numbers in nonsensical.

If you wanted to devise a plan to force British edible Growers out of business and create a hostile environment between edible and ornamental growers, this would be one way of achieving your aim.

Hundreds of thousands of tonnes of food and flowers were thrown away or left to rot last year with a value of around £61m due to a chronic lack of seasonal workers, this policy will only accelerate the demise of more British Growers as they struggle to compete for the same small pool of workers.

The protected edible salad season in the Lea Valley is ten months long so the scheme is of limited but essential use to our growers.

The Secretary of state recently told the Oxford Farming Conference that “Farmers must “stand their ground” on price inflation and ensure that the [rising costs they face](#) are reflected in the prices paid to them by supermarkets for their produce”

British Growers have been working with supermarkets for decades to increase the price paid in line with the cost of production.

British Government policy on Free trade or low tariff deals including agricultural products has resulted in the increased importation of lower priced fresh produce from countries who do not produce to the same environmental and food safety standards as British Growers.

Those British producers who take a tough position with retailers on price historically see their contracts lost to cheaper foreign imports.

# Seasonal Workers Scheme

A number of labour providers are recruiting seasonal workers for the upcoming season to help to fill any staff shortages, including:

- Pro-Force
- Concordia
- AG Recruitment & Management
- HOPS seasonal labour and seasonal work



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Our focus is on developing effective and environmentally friendly disinfection products. We cater to and provide solutions for a diverse range of industry sectors, including irrigation, soft fruit, food processing, vineyards, salads and horticulture.








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# Why Replacing Printed Business Cards with Contapp is Essential for Your Business

***Plus, complimentary premium access for all NFU Magazine readers (see below)***

As a business/individual, do you value streamlined management and convenience? These are often the priorities when using a digital business tool.

At **Contapp**, we identified the universal problems of printed cards and built a user-friendly platform to improve the way we use and manage business card data efficiently.

The problems business professionals face with printed business cards:

- Expensive to print & design
- Not convenient in today's digital world
- Damaging to the environment
- Not necessary in a post-COVID world
- Difficult to manage, store and organise
- Carrying printed business cards is impractical

## **A Simple Change for Incredible Benefits**

What's the key reason to look into a digital business tool? Usually it's to improve the conventional, manual way of doing things.

In this case, printed business cards fall into the category of being an old way of sharing business information. In fact, *not much has changed since the 15th century when the first business card was introduced.*

In this article, we'll outline the main reasons businesses and individuals gain an advantage by replacing printed business cards with Contapp.

## **Convenience & Security: Why Choose Contapp Instead Printed Business Cards?**

We live in a digital world where information is needed instantly. Easy to use business tools that help you become more productive and organised are a valuable asset to a professional's toolbox.

If convenience is a priority, it's time to look at a digital, an all-in-one solution, like the user-friendly Contapp platform.

### **Our platform works as a:**

- Digital Business Card
- Business Card Scanner
- Simplified Business Card Manager

But why do business professionals globally enjoy benefiting from Contapp, compared to printed business cards? Here are some of the highlights that will improve convenience:

- Share your Contapp business card with anyone in the world
- Save, use & manage 1,000+ business cards in your app
- Export/import your library as a CSV file, to use for marketing campaigns
- Intelligent search & filter options, the quickest way to find a contact or a group

The security of our users' data is an *absolute* priority and we don't cut corners when it comes to storing your data in our secure servers. Plus, you have the option for **Fingerprint/Face ID to get into the app**, for that extra security layer.

So you can continue to maximise the use of our platform, with peace of mind that your data is always

## Cost: Why Choose Contapp Instead Printed Business Cards?

Let's cut to the chase. You've probably seen it yourself, printed business cards are expensive and they're more than likely to end up in the bin.

On average, it costs **over £200 per employee, per year** for basic printed business cards.

We believe that using business tools to help boost productivity and convenience *shouldn't* come at a cost. So we created a feature-rich **free plan**, available to **download on iOS & Android**.

But sometimes, we need more than just the basics. Which is why we've also introduced *affordable* premium plans, **starting from just £1.33 per month, per user**.

A pretty big saving that can be used for important areas of your business. Plus, it's a simple change that will save you time, money and the planet.

## Sustainability: Why Choose Contapp Instead Printed Business Cards?

Did you know, **10 billion business cards are printed every year and 88% of those are thrown away within a week?** This raises many alarm bells.

That's a huge amount of waste being generated. 8 billion business cards thrown away. Just think of how much money is being wasted.

Businesses are becoming more eco-conscious, which is great to see. **By replacing business cards with Contapp, 7.2 million trees would be saved every year.** If you'd like to boost your sustainability credentials, replace business cards with Contapp today.

## Our Final Thoughts

Replacing traditional paper business cards with a modern, digital solution like Contapp, just makes sense. From a business perspective and also as a busy individual.

Put simply, *you'll be saving time, money and the planet*. It's no surprise that Contapp is *recommended* by business professionals around the **world**.

But don't take our word for it, check out our App Store reviews, 95% of which are 5-stars.

Discover why business professionals globally are replacing printed cards with Contapp by **downloading the app for free on [iOS](#) & [Android](#) today**.

## Exclusive Access for NFU Magazine Readers

To experience the full benefits of Contapp, Contapp would like to offer **all NFU Magazine readers a month of premium access to Contapp for FREE**.

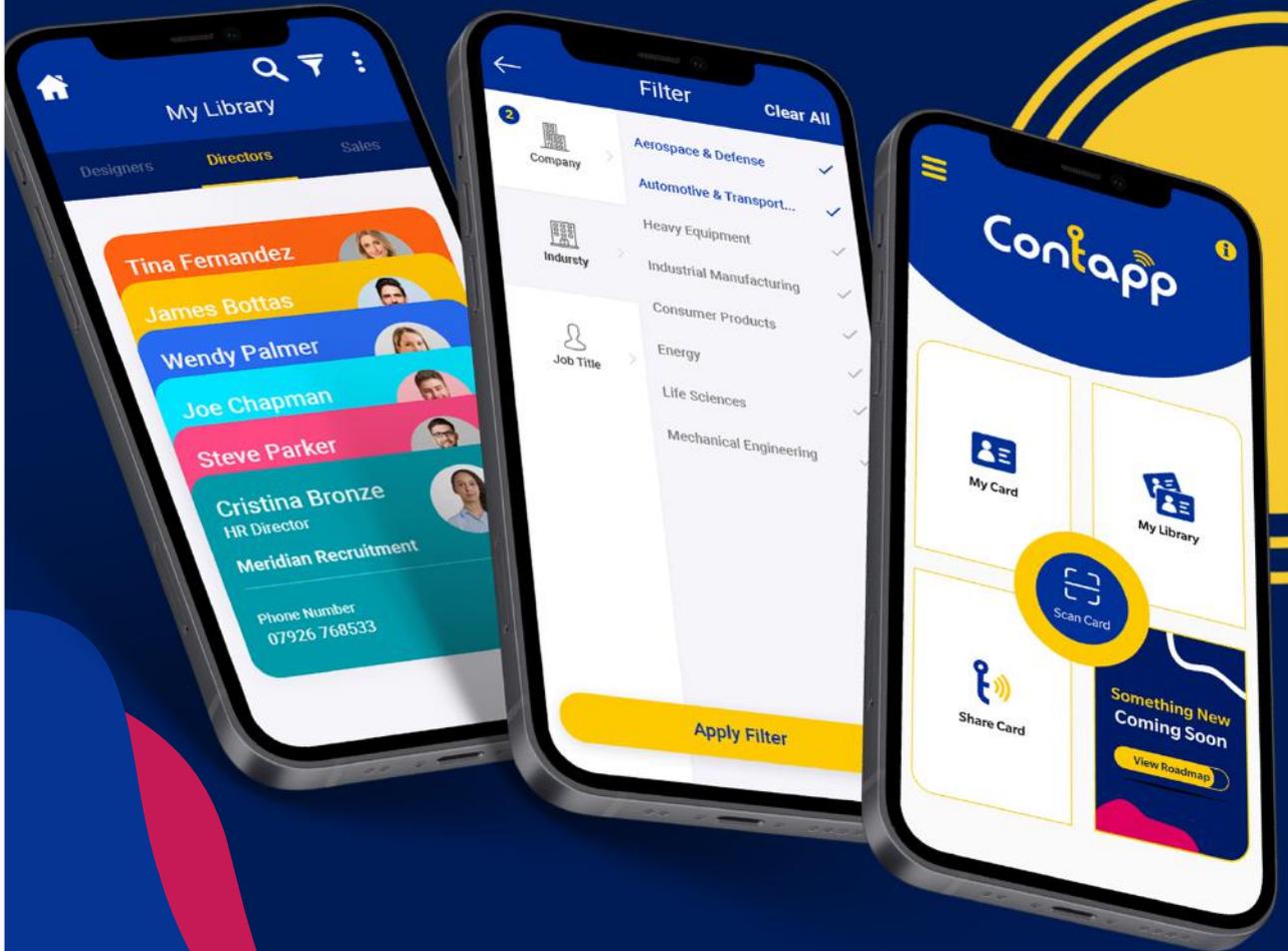
If you and your team would like to claim this offer, please email the team at [marketing@contapp.uk](mailto:marketing@contapp.uk) by mentioning this article. Alternatively, please connect with our Founder, Giuseppe Milazzo, on LinkedIn today and drop him a message.

We're looking forward to having you part of our growing community!

# Everything you **wished** your business card could do

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# Feed into Defra's labour absences survey

**Defra urgently needs real-time data about staff absences and labour supply in key sectors of the UK economy. Find out how you can help.**

*"Your contributions to this survey are highly valued and will directly inform senior government officials and ministers. Due to the sensitivity of this data, we will not be sharing the raw data outside of central government, or where relevant the devolved administrations."*

## Defra

Due to the developing situation with the Omicron variant of Covid-19, Defra has changed its weekly survey on labour absence in key parts of the UK economy to a daily survey.

If you can, Defra is asking you to complete the survey every day. It has been shortened and will take no more than three minutes to complete.

## Why should I take part in the survey?

The latest data suggests Omicron is extremely transmissible and is quickly becoming the dominant variant. Cases are doubling every two to three days, and Defra urgently needs real-time data.

The NFU is asking members to complete the survey to help ensure that Defra has regular, reliable information outlining the impact of current labour shortages and workforce absences across all sectors of farming, and the wider supply chain.

## Who can take part

The survey can be completed by any business operating within one of the following five sectors:

- Waste
- Water
- Food
- Vet medicines
- Ornamental horticulture

## How to take part

Access the survey here: [Labour absences in water, waste, food and veterinary medicine sectors](#). Bookmark this link to make accessing it even easier.

## Support available

We appreciate this is a challenging situation and encourage anyone feeling stressed or anxious by any themes covered in this survey to contact:

- [Farming Community Network](#)
- [Samaritans](#)
- Your local GP

*in memoriam*

## **Derek Hargreaves ‘A Remarkable Man’**

This week the UK horticultural industry mourns the untimely loss of one of its champions. Derek has sadly passed away after a short battle with cancer at the age of 73. There cannot be a person in the UK industry that does not know his name.



Derek started his working life as a lecturer at Askham Bryan College before becoming a Horticultural Advisor with ADAS in Beverley E. Yorkshire. He quickly learnt his trade and established himself as the man to contact for agronomic information on protected crops, especially cucumbers, he was instrumental in helping cucumber growers adopt new hydroponic growing systems which required significant technical input compared to soil and/or straw-bale crops and he quickly adopted the role as National Consultant for MAFF/Defra.

Derek provided exemplary service to the UK horticultural industry over many years working tirelessly to troubleshoot industry problems and help growers improve their crop production practices to ensure UK food production was of the highest quality and able to compete successfully with imported produce from mainland Europe and beyond. In this regard he helped change cultivation practices, improving efficiency allowing increased economic production, aid food security and helped protect consumers and the environment more broadly. Whilst he always provided advice on a range of crops, especially those under protection, he became particularly renowned for his expertise with the cucumber crop and this culminated in him becoming the National Cucumber Specialist/Consultant in MAFF/Defra.

From 1991, Derek worked as an independent crop consultant in the private sector but continued to serve the horticultural industry right across the UK and beyond. He was instrumental in helping to establish the British Cucumber Growers' Association in 2000 and he went on to provide his knowledge and expertise through the role of CGA Technical Officer. In addition to this, Derek also sat on the British Tomato Growers Association (TGA) technical committee and the Agriculture & Horticulture Development Board (AHDB) protected crops panel.

He was awarded the Harlow Carr medal by the RHS for services to the salad crops industry in 2008.

Throughout his career Derek showed passion and enthusiasm regularly acting as an ambassador to support the industry. He gained a great degree of respect from both customers & colleagues alike exemplified by his determination and commitment to any task presented to him. He was tenacious when needed to resolve difficult issues satisfactorily.

The real measure of his success, is appreciating how different the glasshouse industry is now compared to 30-40 years ago. Crops are almost unrecognisable and the amount of technology adopted to achieve this is due, in no small part, to Derek's vision and tenacity to get growers to adopt innovation at all levels. He earned the respect of the industry through his desire to see UK growers lead the world in the production of high quality residue-free crops, providing produce on the shelves of major UK retailers throughout the year.

Derek leaves a wife and two sons.

# Directory

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Please contact [lee.stiles@LVGA.co.uk](mailto:lee.stiles@LVGA.co.uk) should you wish to add recipients to the distribution list or to cease receiving the Lea Valley Growers Association monthly newsletter.

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