

HARDWICK

LECTURE SERIES – AUTUMN INTO WINTER 2025-6



730PM, PACKING SHED, THE TOLHURST ORGANIC MARKET GARDEN, RG8 7RB

Hardwick is a hive of interested minds doing interesting things. Join us to hear from local experts about inspiring projects and practices. There will be tea and biscuits!

25th September 2025

James Quartermain

**NATIVE FUNGI: CULTIVATION,
CONSERVATION AND CITIZEN
SCIENCE**

An intersectional exploration of what fungi, our ecological ally, can teach us. James will discuss how cultivating mushrooms can offer a framework for collective healing and social transformation, arguing that native fungi can promote core principles of seasonal food systems and community: helping us connect with one another and the land. This workshop will challenge how we perceive expertise, helping build inclusionary networks of people and perspectives, to reclaim our relationship with food and nourish resistance.

30th October 2025

Andrew Clover

TO CAST A TREE SPELL

An hour of magic and storytelling, accompanied by an oak, a willow, a rowan, a beech, a poplar, a yew, and an ash. Author and comedian Andrew Clover will describe the different magic of each (the willow brings love; the rowan, power...), accompanied by the beautiful singing of Sarah Lambert-Gates. The audience will then choose which tree's magic they wish to inspire a magical meditation. On the way, Andrew will share how trees

inspired him to sail the Atlantic, and plant 2500 trees. He will also tell us how he got lost in the jungle, but found his way to The Lost City of the Kogis, where he had the most magical moment of his life, which he will try to recreate.

27th November 2025

Tamara Schiopu

WITNESSING THE FALL OF AN EMPIRE

Listen to a first-hand account of life in the Soviet Union and how it was to witness the fall and turmoil of everything changing over night. Tamara comes from Moldova, one of the 15 Soviet republics and was a young student and mother when their world turned upside down. Nevertheless, youth, friends and family made the events bearable.

29th January 2026

Michelle Thomas

**FRESH STREET COMMUNITY:
A FOOD SECURITY PROJECT**

Dr Michelle Thomas, from Reading University, will discuss Fresh Street Community: a project that provided non means tested food vouchers for fresh fruit and vegetables in areas of high deprivation, redeemable at local community organisation fruit and veg stalls. These provisions not only acted to improve people's physical health with more accessible healthy food, but also promoted greater wellbeing and community cohesion, demonstrating the power that access to good food can have on our society.