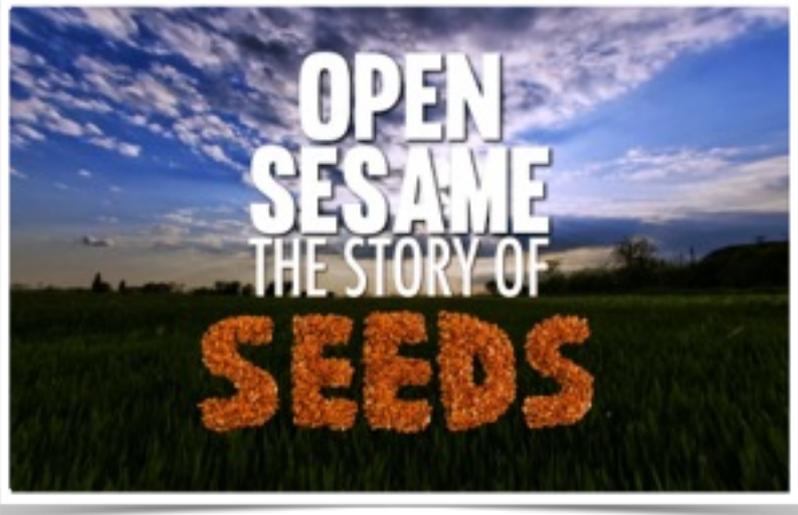


## AUTUMN 2015 NEWSLETTER

### SEED RETURNS

Here at the seed bank we are already looking forward to February and planting all the summer veg once again. We rely on the Guardians' returned seed to enable us to offer a diverse range of fantastic vegetable, herb and companion plant seeds to our members. If you can't make it to the guardian night in October then please try to return your seeds to the bank by Christmas. This will give us time to organise what we've got to offer for planting up in February. You can drop your seeds off to one of the SEEd team, bring them to seedy Wednesday or post them to us. Drop us a line at [guardians@seed.es](mailto:guardians@seed.es) to let us know how you are getting on and what we can expect to be sent in by you.



### GUARDIANS' NIGHT

As the summer veg is coming to an end and the late peppers and chillies are finally setting seed, we are looking forward to all the Guardians' seed flooding back into the bank to replenish the stocks to give out again next spring.

We would like to take the opportunity to say a big thank you to all our dedicated members by putting on a Guardians' night. This means we can bring in the seeds and also give you all a chance to get together and chat about the year's successes and failures.

We will be holding a Guardians' night at Camping Orgiva on Friday the 30th of October. Kicking off at 7pm we will be accepting and logging all the Guardians' returned seeds. There will also be the opportunity to swap some seeds with each other. At 9pm we will be showing the film "Open Sesame" in English, with Spanish subtitles. This inspiring film will encourage dedicated and new seed savers alike. We will also be welcoming anybody interested in becoming a guardian and talking to them about the project, so please invite all your gardening friends and neighbours and anyone else you know who might like to become a SEEd guardian.





## SERVIDAS EN RED

Ser Vidas en Red is a project to encourage the exchange of products, services, knowledge and resources aimed at stimulating sustainable self-employment, develop an economy based on respect for the earth and promote cooperation, solidarity and mutual support. SEEd is a member and we held, a seed bank stall at their event on the Plaza Alpujarra in Orgiva in May. It was a great day with a fabulous turnout of ecological growers, producers and craftspeople, and gave SEEd the opportunity to talk to local growers about our project. Look out for us at one of their future events. To find out more about Ser Vidas en Red go to <http://www.servidasenred.net/>.

## MAINTAINING THE CATALOGUE

The speed at which the seed bank has grown has wildly surpassed the expectations of the three founding members. We had no idea the project would be greeted with such enthusiasm from so many dedicated growers. We now have 168 varieties of vegetables, herbs and companions in our collection to maintain! Sounds overwhelming, but not every variety needs to be grown every year. But we do have a lot to grow out every year, so if you want to branch out and try something new or more challenging, check out the website guides, use the online forum to talk to other growers and of course the SEEd team is always on hand to answer your queries at Seedy Wednesday or by email or phone.

## NEW VARIETIES IN THE BANK

In 2014 the bank had a big focus on tomato varieties. Between us we added 82 varieties!! This year our dedicated growers have had a bumper year for chillies and with many varieties still rolling in, we hope to reach our target of 100. This is an incredible achievement for a small group of enthusiasts, so congratulations to everyone for making this happen! 2016 will be the Year of the Bean, so if you have any favourite varieties that you grow, please consider donating some to the bank so we can increase their numbers and share them out!



## VOLUNTEERS

As a not-for-profit community project, the seed bank relies on the input of its members to function. If you would like to get involved but don't have a garden there are other ways to help. You could work with a seed guardian in their garden, learning while you work, or help with the admin side. The online collection is in constant need of updating and we are also always in need of translators. Budding photographers and film makers would be most welcome to take pictures for the catalogue and film events and seed saving demonstrations. And of course there is always lots to do at Seedy Wednesday from planting seeds to packing seeds and everything in between.





## FARAWAY FRIENDS

We are delighted to have members from all over the world. With members from places including the north of Spain, Argentina, The USA and Dubai, we get very excited when the little packages of seeds arrive from our far flung friends. We also love it when you post your pictures on the website. Sorry you won't be able to make it to Guardians' night but we would like to say a great big thank you to you all!



## CHILLI FEST

August's chilli fest at the Bar Puente del Venta was a day to celebrate all things hot! Even the weather obliged and on a sweltering day a few brave souls took part in a contest to taste some of the hottest chillies in the world. Fran went wild with the most fantastic array of chilli tapas and organised a very amusing raffle with some "hot" prizes. Salsa Sierra Nevada sponsored the event and made a very generous donation to the seed bank. They hosted a stall of their products all day and also judged the chilli sauce competition. Sophie gave a very informative talk on the medicinal uses of chillies and three bands played late into the night. And throughout the day there was an array of some of the wierdest and most wonderful chilli plants on display. Next year's event is already in the pipeline so make sure you save a jar of your best chilli sauce this year to enter next years contest and don't forget to bring your chilli pods for the display. If you would like to help with the organisation of the event, please get in touch. Watch it here! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iEMh5ZW2rbA>





## **KIDS GARDENING DAY**

The kids gardening day in July inspired more kids to get involved with gardening and growing their own food. On the day children toured the garden and viewed and munched countless rare and unusual vegetables from Chinese Red Noodle beans to Rampicante summer squash, which are always a talking point in our garden.

The kids took cuttings, made seed bombs, dug up potatoes, picked their own pizza toppings, made their own pizzas, created salad faces and then sat down to a home grown feast together. A fun and informative day in the summer garden! We're already looking forward to the next one!

## **LOCAL ANOMOLIES**

Have you made an accidental cross? Congratulations, you are now an amateur plant breeder! Do you grow a favourite tomato or pepper but don't know the variety name? Have you inherited a pumpkin from you can't remember where? If it grows well in our region and we can eat it, here at the seed bank we love to hear about your strange, unknown or new varieties and to see your pictures. We would love to try out your amateur breeding projects. So please, tell us all about them and send in your seeds, if you have some to spare.

