



# Going to Seed

A Counterculture Memoir

Simon Fairlie

**Publication Date: February 22, 2022**

Environmentalists & Naturalists, Memoir

\$19.95 USD

Paperback Original • 6 × 9.7 • 272 pages

ISBN 978-1-64502-061-5

**MEDIA CONTACT: Christina Butt,**

cbutt@chelseagreen.com, 802-295-6300 x127



**An unforgettable first-hand account of how the 1960s hippie movement appeared spent by the Thatcher-consumed 1980s, yet later became a seedbed for progressive reform, inspiring generations of rebels and visionaries.**

Simon Fairlie's path had been clearly laid out for him: boarding school, a prestigious university education, and an illustrious career in journalism—just like his father. All was going to plan until he ran headlong into 1960s London counterculture where he discovered Beat poetry, blues music, cannabis and the anti-Vietnam War protests.

To his journalist-father's dismay, Simon dropped out of Cambridge University to hitchhike to Istanbul and bicycle through India. Later, he established a commune in France, was arrested multiple times for squatting and civil disobedience, and became a leading figure in protests against the British government's infamous road building programs of the 1980s.

*Going to Seed* charts Simon's life as a laborer, a stonemason, a farmer, a scythesman, a magazine editor, and a writer of a very different sort. He shares the richness of his experience, alongside the painful cost of his search for freedom and the loss of friends and lovers to the excesses of the sixties, seventies, and eighties.

Part moving, free-wheeling memoir, part social critique, *Going to Seed* questions the current trajectory of western 'progress'—explosive consumerism, growing inequality, and environmental devastation. It's for anyone who wonders how we got to such a place and what the world might look like if we begin to chart a radically different course.

## About the Author



Simon Fairlie worked for twenty years variously as an agricultural laborer, vine worker, shepherd, fisherman, builder, and stonemason before being ensnared by the computer in 1990. He was a coeditor of *The Ecologist* magazine for four years until he joined a farming community in 1994 where he managed the cows, pigs, and a working horse. He now runs a micro dairy at Monkton Wyld Court, a charity and cooperative in rural Dorset, UK. Simon is a founding editor of *The Land* magazine, and he earns a living by selling scythes. He is the author of *Low Impact Development: Planning and People in a Sustainable Countryside* (1996) and *Meat: A Benign Extravagance* (2010).