



14 July 2010
for immediate use

Oxfordshire's Finest Food and Drink at the County Show

Head for the **Local Flavours** marquee at this year's Oxfordshire County and Thame Show on 31 July to feast on strawberries, wine, artisan breads and much more, all produced in Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire.

Give your tastebuds the time of their life with spicy chutneys and hot mustards, luscious cordials and fruity gins, squidgy cheeses and flavour-packed meat pies.

What's your verdict on Oxfordshire's school dinners? Food with Thought, the county council's catering service, is demonstrating dishes made with ingredients from local farms.

Have a go on the Taste of Adventure. Explore the five senses we use to eat: sight, sound, touch, taste and smell in this game run by Slow Food Oxon.

More than 30 stalls in the **Local Flavours** marquee are selling jams, biscuits, breakfast cereals, organic meat and vegetables, cold pressed rapeseed oil, yoghurts, quince preserves and delicatessen goods.

Top Oxfordshire producers in the **Local Flavours** marquee include:

- Supreme Sausages from Chalgrove with their 12 varieties of sausage – taste before you buy
- Shaken Oak Mustards from Hailey, Witney with award-winning mustards and preserves
- Oxford Cheese Company with squidgy and delicious cheeses
- Brightwell Vineyard from Shillingford Hill, Wallingford with award-winning wines
- Millets Farm Centre from Marcham with strawberries and other soft fruit, summer salads and vegetables
- The Old Farmhouse Bakery from Steventon with artisan breads, cakes, buns, quiches and pies
- The Granary Delicatessen from Watlington with a cornucopia of speciality foods
- Quince Products from Aston Rowant with the county's unique quince cheeses and preserves

Joining them in the **Local Flavours** marquee are many Buckinghamshire-based producers, Gloucestershire's top cheese-maker Simon Weaver Cotswold Organic Dairy and Berkshire's Sheepdrove Organic Farm.

The **Local Flavours** marquee is also the place to find out how to get funding from the LEADER programme for food, agriculture, community and forestry projects in Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire.

The **Local Flavours** marquee is run by the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire (BBO) Food Group CIC www.local-food.net to showcase an amazing range of delicious summer food.

BBO Food Group gives marketing and trade development support to food and drink producers from the three counties, publishes a highly regarded Food Guide, and organises the Local Flavours Festival. Funding comes from Oxfordshire County Council, Cherwell District Council and The Midcounties Co-operative.

Patrice Garrigues, Ethical Trading Manager at The Midcounties Co-operative, says: "As a member-owned, community retailer we believe in local sourcing and supporting local suppliers. Our Local Harvest scheme enables us to offer quality local products sourced from a 40 miles radius in our food stores from various suppliers. By supporting smaller suppliers it strengthens our relationships with the communities in which they operate. And reducing food miles – the distance that food travels from field to fork – is also better for the environment."

Happy feasting in the **Local Flavours** marquee!

Ends

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Notes to Editors:

Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes and Oxfordshire (BBO) Food Group CIC works to:

- enable as many people as possible to have access to good locally-produced food
- support producers who use humane, environmentally friendly methods, sell through local retail outlets, and are of benefit to local communities
- encourage retail and catering outlets (including supermarkets, shops, restaurants, hotels) to sell and use local food
- initiate and support projects that enable the production and consumption of local food by local people.

BBO Food Group is a Community Interest Company supported by Oxfordshire County Council. www.local-food.net

LEADER is a funding programme targeted at farmers, foresters, rural businesses and community organisations to help them strengthen the rural economy in specific areas of Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire. The funding is part of the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) with the money coming from Europe and the Regional Development Agency for the South East (SEEDA).

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