



Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes

The Food Groups in Berks, Bucks, & MK and Oxfordshire work as a federation - BBO Food Groups - and are supported by the South East England Development Agency and by various local authorities and sponsors.



Monthly Update from Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes and Oxfordshire (BBO) Food Group

April 18, 2008

NUMBER 10

Dear Food Group Members:

This is the monthly update from your Local Food Group.

Click on the links below to skip to:

- Membership 2008
- Shows
- Trade Development
- Farmers' Markets
- Awards to enter
- Training & Events
- Events
- Other
- Contact Us

Please note that our Monthly Updates are now posted on the News page of our website www.local-food.net

If you no longer wish to be part of this mailing list, or if you receive this message twice, please email

localfood@brookes.ac.uk

This is the last update sent to our 2007 Members. You should have now received your 2008 membership packs. As mentioned in the accompanying letter in the pack you do not need to complete the forms as we already have the information. Simply check your details on the information sheet and make any changes if necessary. Then return it, with a cheque for the correct amount (£100, £125* or £150) **made payable to Oxfordshire County Council**. This will ensure your membership is renewed for 2008 and you are entered into the **Local Flavours** Food and Drink Guide for 2009.

* Please note, that only TVFMC members applying for Full Membership (£150) are entitled to the £25.00 discount.

Shows

Preparations have started for this years County Shows: **Buckinghamshire on 28 August, Thame & Oxfordshire on 18 September, Berkshire on 20 & 21 September**. The BBO Food Group will have large stands to share with our members and discounts will be available to Full Members. The Application Forms will be sent out shortly, and unless you have already signed up directly with Show organisers, we'd advise you to let us know on your intentions and to claim your discount (Full Members only) from us. Thank you all those who've already written to us.

Here are details of other up and coming shows with information of who to contact if interested.

Thame Festival Food Market – Friday June 13,2008

21st Century Thame Project are holding a Festival Food Market on Friday afternoon/evening of the Festival week based in and around the Town Hall. The aim is to support local food producers and restaurants to provide a different platform to promote their business.

They would like to have food stalls outside the Town Hall with displays or demonstrations inside. If you would like to be involved in this event then please contact Alison Isherwood, 21st Century Thame Project Officer, e-mail ai@21stcenturythame.org.uk, Tel: 01844 215215. Cost: a donation of £20 for business stalls.

Sulgrave Food Show 28/29 June,2008

Exhibitors can book either marquee space or a colourful market stall all found in prime positions close to the house itself. If you wish to book just a space for your exhibit, please discuss with organisers directly. Stonehouse Events Ltd, 78 Harborough Road North, Boughton, Northampton, NN2 8LZ admin@stonehouse-events.co.uk
www.stonehouse-events.co.uk

Trade Development

Chefs Tour 2



A group of a dozen chefs attended on 12 March a tour of member producers in South Oxfordshire. The tour was organised by the BBO Food Group to highlight availability of local products to the local catering and hospitality trade. All those who attended were delighted by the quality of the products available and feedback from both attendees and producers has been very positive. We will monitor the success of the day in terms of future new sales to producers as a result of the tour.

Producers visited:

Brookleas Fish Farm

Q Gardens – also hosting Sugar and Spice, Hendred Vineyard

The Old Farmhouse Bakery

Challow Hill Beef Farm

Sampling from Dews Meadow Farm at the King Alfred's Head, Wantage.

Our thanks to them all for their hospitality!

Further tours are being arranged for Amersham area in Bucks on 10 June and Reading area in Berks on 5 August. Any producers interested in hosting/ being visited by an invited group of local chefs please email Wendy at membership@local-food.net

The tours are supported by Tourism South East and are part of a larger project **Fresh Skills for Chef's** Project funded by SEEDA.

Farmers' Markets

The new contact for Wokingham Farmers' Market is **Rob Vincent**. The market is looking for additional stallholders for 1st Thursday of each month, particularly non meat products.

If interested please contact Ms Hilary Bamberger, Amenities Officer
Wokingham Town Council
Town Hall, Market Place
Wokingham RG40 1AS
Tel 0118 974 0886 (direct line) www.wokingham-tc.gov.uk

Awards to enter

Waitrose Made in Britain Awards www.waitrose.com/madeinbritain
Please email localfood@brookes.ac.uk for an entry form. The closing date of 14th April.

Local Food Farmer of the Year Award - Farmers Weekly Awards
www.farmersweeklyawards.co.uk/ Deadline: 30 April 2008. Short-listed applicants should be available to attend the awards ceremony at Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane, London on 27 October 2008.
Best Farm Entrepreneur www.farmersguardian.com Deadline: 25 April 2008

Training & Events

Spaces are available on the following courses at **Vale Training**, Marsh Hill Farm, Aylesbury, Bucks.

Four day First Aid April 14-17th
Finance for the non financial April 22nd
Appointed person first aid one day April 25th
Chainsaw operation and maintenance April 28-29th
Influencing people April 30th
Spraying PA1 May 1st
Spraying PA2 May 8th
Spraying PA6 May 9th
Food Hygiene Date to confirm
Vermin control (Rats & Mice) Date to confirm
Spraying operators update Date To confirm
Successful Manager 5 days June-July-September
Transportation of livestock assessment S will be available throughout April.
Please also note that dates are now available for the basis training course which starts on Tuesday 21 October 2008 until February, for which funding should be available.

For cost and further details please contact Kate Mason 01296 612201/ 07801 833425 email kate.mason@valetraining.co.uk
The Business Link Service is providing Free Workshops on the following topics at Newbury Rugby Club, Newbury, Berks (NRC) and Northmoor Trust, Abingdon, Oxon (NTA)

- Climate change, NRC 29th April, NTA 15th May

- Rural diversification NRC 13th May, NTA 22nd May
- Prepare to meet thy planner NRC 27th May, NTA 2nd June
- Energy Options, profits and savings NRC 19th June, NTA 10th June
- Energy Crops NRC 12th June, NTA 24th June

The programme is funded by SEEDA and supported by NFU & CLA, with additional support from the National Trust, the Institute of Agricultural Secretaries and Administrators and the Horticultural Trades Association.

Workshops are from 9.30am to 12.30pm. For further information or to book a place phone 0845 6009006 or visit www.ruralbookings.co.uk.

Secrets of Low Cost Marketing, 8am – 12:30 pm

7th May - National Badminton Centre - Milton Keynes

13th May - The Kings Hotel, Stokenchurch, Bucks

10th June - Oxford Centre, Oxford

This event is for small businesses which want to attract more customers.

Presented by small business marketing specialist Nigel Temple - author of "How to Get Customers to Come to You". This event is offered free to owner-managers of small businesses in Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire with five or more employees.

Book now at

<http://microsite.businesslinksolutions.co.uk/news/details.asp?mid=4&x=4671&m=5&rid> or call 0845 600 9 006.

Upcoming Grants

Our three networking events about upcoming *grants* "What's in it for Us?" have been very useful to those attending and we have posted all presentations on our website, in News. If you were unable to attend and feel that you need more guidance, please let us know. We shall be happy to discuss your ideas and direct you to the relevant grant scheme. Email Tamara at localfood@brookes.ac.uk

Events

Channel Four's "F Word" with celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay, hopes to feature rabbit control and rabbit cookery! Filming will be by production company Optomen and it takes place up until mid April. The story will also highlight the damage that rabbits do if left uncontrolled. The production company has 'an ideal ferreter in mind' and the next stage is to find farmers who have a rabbit problem who would not mind if Gordon and the ferreter did some free pest control on their land. Naturally there are health and safety issues, as well as the legal aspect of permits and permissions. If you wish to take part, contact Dave Howarth tel: 020 7967 1245 or email David.Howarth@optomen.com

The Fringe Food Festival (part of Newbury Fringe Festival) is inviting small food producers or retailers to apply to take part. The food event is sited in a large marquee in Victoria Park with crafts, music and

performers. The main food festival is on Sunday 25th May with demonstrations, tastings and selling to the public. Further details available at www.newburyfringefestival.org or from catriona.ottner@newburyfringefestival.org

Supporting Community Groups Day Conference - 7th June 2008 - Newbury College

A day of workshops for voluntary and community groups. For further details contact the CAWB office on 01635 523861 or Denise Brown Project Manager, WB Capacity Builders Community Action West Berkshire 1 Bolton Place Off Northbrook Street Newbury Berkshire RG14 1AJ Tel: 01635 523 857. Email denise.brown@cawb.org.uk

Other

The **Migrant Workers Website** is now live at www.hse.gov.uk/migrantworkers/ under the title Working in GB from overseas - guidance for employers and workers. The web pages have been developed to help migrant workers understand their rights and responsibilities. They also explain what employers need to do to manage the health and safety of this group of workers.

Student seeking lambing experience: 17 year old student with experience of livestock seeks lambing experience for one week starting April 7 until April 11. Please contact Felicity Ferguson on 01420 541376, 0792718912 or babecentral77@hotmail.co.uk



Contact Us

BBO Food Groups

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