



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

September 1st 2008

NUMBER 15

Dear Food Group Members:

This is the monthly update from your Local Food Group.

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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

Chefs Tour

Despite the dreadful weather, another successful chefs tour was held on 5th August in the West Berks area. Many thanks to **Cobbs Farm Shop and Kitchen** for their hospitality and delicious lunch and to all those producers visited:

Cobbs Farm Shop and Kitchen featuring **Beechwood Farm Free Range Eggs, Two Hoots Cheese, Doves Farm Foods**

Royal Berkshire Pork

Sheepdrove Organic Farm

Funding for the chefs tours is from Tourism South East as part of the Fresh Skills for Chefs Project, funded by SEEDA. Full details of the project and all the previous chefs tours held by the food group with TSE, along with producers that have been visited, plus links to their websites can be found under the news section of the website www.local-food.net This has been provided by TSE with a photo gallery of previous chefs tours. Details of chefs master classes for local chefs can also be found here.

Our next and final chefs tour for this year will be held in the North Oxon (Banbury) area on Tuesday 28th October. If you are interested in hosting a visit from a small group of local chefs who are looking to source their produce locally then please contact Wendy at membership@local-food.net

County Shows

Full members benefitted from subsidised stands at a very busy Buckingham County Show on Thursday 28th August. The Oxfordshire/Thame Show on Thursday 18th September will also have a strong local food presence. Then on Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st October it's the Berkshire/Newbury Show, again with full members benefiting from discounted stands to promote their produce.

Meet the Buyer

The opportunity to meet the Waitrose Buyer on Thursday 11th Sept in

Hampshire. For full details contact Tamara 01865 484116
localfood@brookes.ac.uk

Members Networking Event

SALSA (Safe and Local Supplier Approval) accreditation scheme free evening with Tim Betts (SALSA Auditor) **Tuesday 7th October 5pm to 7pm** (venue to be confirmed). For further details and to book a place please email Wendy at membership@local-food.net

Great Taste Awards

Congratulations to the following members who achieved recognition for their delicious products at the recent Great Taste Awards:

Chiltern Natural Foods, From Rani's Kitchen, Susie's Preserves, Gorvett & Stone and Well Preserved

Won any awards recently?....Please tell us., we would like to hear your news, both to publicise in the press and to accrue a list of awards that all our members have won to show what fantastic producers we have in the area! Email details to Wendy at membership@local-food.net

Awards

The Countryside Alliance Awards, formerly the Best Rural Retailer competition, open to nominations on Monday 1st September. It will be its most ambitious celebration of rural life to date. The changes to the 2008 competition will be of particular interest because it is recognising those doing the most for rural life in national, devolved and local politics.

The categories for the Awards are as follows:

1. Best Local Food Award
2. Best Village Shop/ PO Award
3. Rural Enterprise Award (formerly the diversification category)
4. Daily Telegraph Best Traditional Business Award
5. Rural Hero (new to 2008)

Nominations will be accepted online

<http://www.countrysideallianceawards.co.uk> until 27th October. If you would like any further information about the competition or have any questions please contact Sarah Lee Head of Policy Countryside Alliance T: 020 78409253 M: 07803 002352

Bursary Awards at BBC Good Food Shows 2008 in the Slow Food Pavilion. Slow Food UK and BBC Good Food Shows have teamed up this year to support producers of Good, Clean and Fair food at four major Shows in 2008, giving producers of traditional, quality food and drink the chance to promote their

products to a diverse audience.

Producers are invited to apply for the Bursary Award at the 3 remaining shows in 2008:

Glasgow: 31 Oct – 02 November

London Olympia: 14 – 16 November

Birmingham NEC: 26 – 30 November

The Award will offer a free stand for the duration of the event, giving producers the chance to exhibit at a major event that may otherwise be unaffordable. Only a limited number of Bursaries are available and only producers meeting the Good, Clean and Fair criteria are eligible to apply. Producers who are unsuccessful in winning an Award, may be interested in applying for one of the specially discounted stands in the Slow Food Pavilion, which still offers an excellent opportunity for wide exposure and association with Slow Food. Producers are welcome to apply for as many of the Shows as they wish, but must submit a separate application for each one. The forms are available with the BBO Food Group office at localfood@brookes.ac.uk together with details of the application process and selection criteria. Please note that the package for producers taking reduced-rate stands in the Slow Food Pavilion differs slightly between shows. Note also that the deadline to return all completed applications is 5th September 2008.

Events

Launch of blackberrybarn.co.uk on 1st September – a nationwide online farmers market focussing on the Thames Valley region, Berks, Bucks and Oxon. Many food group members have taken advantage of discounted subscription to Blackberry Barn.

Thames Festival on 13th September – a lively and magical celebration of London and its river featuring the 'Feast on the Bridge'. For further information visit www.thamesfestival.org

Wallingford Local Producers Market are moving to a larger and more central venue at the Regal Centre from 13th September and are therefore seeking more stallholders, particularly cheese and speciality producers. If interested please contact markcs59@yahoo.co.uk

East Oxford Market is also seeking a new more visible venue. As yet this has not been decided. For further information please contact markcs59@yahoo.co.uk

Tourism South East are inviting BBO Food Group members to a networking event 7pm to 9pm **Wednesday 1st October** at The Living Rain Forest, Newbury. Time to head inside a steamy rain forest and enjoy the birds, butterflies and monkeys amongst some very interesting flora and fauna.

For more information and a booking form please contact Jeanette Howse 07917 162876 or visit the food group website at

www.local-food.net

Local to London Trade Event on Wednesday 1st October from 7am to 1pm at New Covent Garden market. An invitation to attend this event is extended to food group members. The event brings together, under 1 roof some of the best producers and growers from the SE of England. To book to attend the event visit

www.southeastenglandfoodanddrink.co.uk/localtolondonmeetthesupplier

Bake a Better Business 15th October Free day for all those involved in making, baking and selling cakes and biscuits run by SEFGP at Leatherhead Food International, Surrey. For further information and to book a place please contact the events team at SEFGP 023 9245 2288 or visit the website www.sefgp.co.uk

For more training events please see the food group website www.local-food.net

New Members

Welcome to new members who have joined the BBO Food Group this month:

Blackberry Barn – Andy Tee - online farmers market. Website at www.blackberrybarn.co.uk

Coopers Cold Pressed Rapeseed Oil - Miranda Cooper -100% English extra virgin culinary rapeseed oil. Email at cooperscoldpressed@hotmail.com



Food & Drink
from the South East

Contact Us

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For previous newsletter please visit www.local-food.net