



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

October 1st 2008

NUMBER 16

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

Our next chefs tour is to be in North Oxfordshire, Banbury and Deddington 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

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.

County Shows

Full members benefitted from subsidised stands at The Oxfordshire/Thame Show on Thursday 18th September under the *Local Flavours* banner. The busy show was a great success and there was a strong local producers presence in the food tent along with food group demonstrations throughout the day promoting members products. Thank you to all members who attended.

At the Berkshire/Newbury Show on Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st September members **Cobbs Farm Shop**, **Chiltern Natural Foods** and **Just Biscuits** benefitted from discounted stands to promote their produce. There were large crowds enjoying the sunshine and wide selection of foods being offered in the Food Fare marquee. Again thank you to all our members there.

A selection of photographs from both these shows will be posted on the website very soon. So please visit www.local-food.net to see them.

Members Networking Event

On **Tuesday 7th October 5pm to 7pm** the food group is hosting a free evening with a presentation from Tim Betts (SALSA Auditor) about the **SALSA** (Safe and Local Supplier Approval) accreditation scheme at **Bucks County Council** in Aylesbury. Those of you who would like to attend and haven't yet booked your place please email Wendy at membership@local-food.net

Members News

Newly opened **Stanlake Park Cellar Shop** in Twyford, Berkshire – **Stanlake Park** is Berkshire's largest winery. The shop stocks around 15 different wines and liqueurs that are made at Stanlake plus a range of other local produce. Gift boxes and hampers for Christmas. Open every day. Full details on the website www.StanlakePark.com

After their summer break **The Old Farmhouse Bakery** is back open again for business. Full details of opening times, news and products available can be found on their website at www.theoldfarmhousebakery.co.uk

Members **The Cake Makers** are keen to promote their range of unique Christmas cakes from miniature to family size. Full details can be found on their website at www.thecakemakers.co.uk

Awards

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

Events

British Food Fortnight runs until 5th Oct. To see what's happening for the last week of this annual celebration visit www.britishfoodfortnight.co.uk

The NFU 1908 to 2008: The Museum of English Rural Life (MERL) in Reading, Berkshire will host an exhibition to celebrate the centenary the National Farmers' Union. The exhibition features artefacts from the NFU's national archives, which are in its care, and it is open from October 7 until December 23. The Museum's website has directions and more information – see www.reading.ac.uk/merl

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

Passionate Cooks Wanted! Are you a talented cook who is

looking for that big break? Are you fiercely proud of your county and want to see it go all the way? Do you want to learn from some of the country's finest chefs? If the answer to these three questions is yes – then read on!

ITV Productions is looking for contestants to take part in a brand new, day-time cookery series called **Taste the Nation**. If you have a passion for food and want to represent your county in a national cookery knock-out, then this is the show for you. You will be mentored and master classed by one of the Nation's finest celebrity chefs and your cookery skills will be pushed to their max. You will also be judged by some of the country's fiercest critics so this show is not for the faint hearted! You can be an amateur or professional – but have one thing in common your talents in the kitchen could impress a celebrity chef. The series will be filmed from November 2008 to February 2009. Please register your details on the phone line 09011 986 986 or email tastethenation@itv.com *clearly* stating your name, county and daytime contact number.

Christmas Market The Oracle Shopping Centre in Reading is organising a Christmas market, and would like to invite food group members to participate, as the theme is regional, small producers (both food and non-food).

There will be wooden log cabins (to create a Christmas atmosphere) in which 'stall holders' can present their products. These log cabins will be constructed alongside the river that runs through the shopping centre site i.e. it is an outdoor site, and the area will be festively decorated and supported with carol singers.

- Dates: November 27th to December 21st 2008 (participants can attend for all or only part of this time) – Thursday to Sunday of each of these weeks
- Location: the Riverside (outdoor) at The Oracle, Reading
- Event: Christmas Market
- Theme: Regional, small producer products (food and non-food)
- Layout: Log cabins (lockable) along the river front
- Equipment: the log cabins will be decorated outside but not inside – power will be laid to each cabin if required
- Environment: Christmas trees, lights, carol singing, vin chaud (TBC) etc
- Support: advertising in local press and radio
- Opening hours: 12 - 9pm
- Consumer audience: most wealthy catchment area in UK - over 1 million customers over Christmas period receptive to premium products
- Log cabins available for rent by the week (a week being Thursday to Sunday inclusive)
- instead of the normal fee of £500, food group members are being offered a special rate per log cabin per week (Thursday to Sunday) of £200.

If this is of interest contact Harriet Fidler at The Oracle - 01189 659 097 to reserve a log cabin/for further enquiries.

Training

Full details of courses and booking forms for the open Training Programme at Vale Training are available to see on the food

	group website www.local-food.net covering the period from now until May 2009.
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