



**Monthly Update**

from

**Berkshire,**

**Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes**

**and Oxfordshire**

**(BBO) Food Group Community Interest Company (CIC)**

**July 2009**

**NUMBER 25**

**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 posted on the News page of our website [www.local-food.net](http://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

Received it [info@local-food.net](mailto:info@local-food.net)

**Children's Food Festival**

Glorious sunshine, the stunning Northmoor Trust location and the promise of a huge variety of gastronomic treats brought over 14,000 people flocking to the 2009 Children's Food Festival on June 27 and 28. More than 20 top chefs and cookery writers – including Patrons Raymond Blanc and Sophie Grigson – gave talks and hands-on demos.

Members from the BBO Food Group formed a flourishing farmers market under the Local Flavours banner selling their first-rate local produce. Members were also very apparent throughout the festival from the Field to Fork educational activity area, to the Farm Field showing their livestock and produce. The BBO Food Group had a huge presence. So thank you to all those who took part in this extremely successful weekend.

Festival Director Eka Morgan said, "We have been overwhelmed with highly positive feedback from happy parents. Our hope was that whichever way you looked in the Festival fields there would be something compelling to do – and that really was how it turned out."

Zita from Oxford was one of the many who have already expressed their enthusiasm to the Northmoor Trust: "The food festival was more than fabulous. Amazing!"

**Congratulations Mary!**

Mary Berry, BBO Food Group member and keen supporter of local produce has been a celebrated cookery writer for more than 40 years. In June she received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Guild of Food Writers.

Mary, who lives in Buckinghamshire, received her award from Guild President Jane Sutherland at the Awards dinner The Great Hall, Lincoln's Inn, London. Mary joins the pantheon of the Guild's Life Members including Egon Ronay, Marguerite Patten and Katie Stewart.

Look out for Mary's new book, to be published this autumn. Recipes in the BBC's **Baking Bible** will include every cake, bun, biscuit you'll ever need for every occasion.

[www.maryberry.co.uk](http://www.maryberry.co.uk)

### **Website Check**

Please can all members check their details on the website at [www.local-food.net](http://www.local-food.net) and update any changes or alternatively let us know so that we can do it for you by emailing [membership@local-food.net](mailto:membership@local-food.net) or telephoning 01865 484116 and leaving a message. This will ensure all website users are getting your correct details.

### **Oxfordshire 2009 Show**

There are a few places left at the Oxfordshire (Thame) Show on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September, where the food group will be organising its exclusive area under the *Local Flavours* Farmers Market banner. The BBO Food Group is subsidising the cost of stands at this show to full members.

Full members £85 (plus VAT) = £97.75  
Assoc members £100 (plus VAT) = £115.00

If you have not already booked your place and wish to do so or require any further information please contact us at 01865 484116 or email [membership@local-food.net](mailto:membership@local-food.net)

There are also still places available at **Ascot Racecourse 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Food Fair** on **Saturday 10th October** For details and cost please phone Tamara on 01865 484116 or email [info@local-food.net](mailto:info@local-food.net)

### **Local Flavours Festival Feature**

The BBO Food Group and the National Trust are delighted to invite all members to attend one of the press launches for the Local Flavours Festival. Please choose which ever event is most convenient for you to attend:

Hughenden Manor, High Wycombe on 21<sup>st</sup> July 11.30am to 1.30pm

Basildon Park, Berks on 27<sup>th</sup> July 11.30am to 1.30pm

The Vaults and Garden Cafe, Oxford on 31<sup>st</sup> July 1pm to 3pm

At the launch reporters and photographers from local press, radio and television will meet members and it will be an ideal opportunity to promote delicious tasty local produce and the festival in September. Email invitations will be sent to all members very soon. Please RSVP to give us an idea of numbers.

### **Producer of the Month- Coleshill Organics**

Coleshill Organics was started on a farm at Watchfield in 1995. From an initial two acres Sonia Oliver now has about thirty acres in total. The box scheme operates from the walled garden in Coleshill.

'The business grew out of our passion to provide local people with the highest quality fresh produce - our enthusiasm and joy for truly flavoursome, real food is reinforced every evening when

we cook what we have grown and taste the difference.'

The box scheme has been running for over 10 years now and has proved a very economical and green way of buying organic vegetables, not least because they, the producer, sell direct to the consumer. Coleshill Organics deliver to approximately 50 collection points within a 25 mile radius, either on a Wednesday or Thursday.



In 2004 Coleshill Organics won 'Box Scheme of the Year' and 'Horticultural Producer of the Year'. The judges, which included Raymond Blanc and Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall said

*'The freshness, quantity, colour and variety of produce in the box were what marked it as a winner; from the rainbow chard to the beef steak tomatoes.'*

The Coleshill Organics shop is situated in the heart of their walled garden and is open Wednesday to Saturday during both the Summer and Winter months. Customers are very welcome to wander around the garden and see the vegetables growing. Each year The Olivers have thousands of visitors, mostly school groups who pick and eat their way around the garden and develop, what we hope, will be a lasting desire to know where their food originates from.



### **Local Food Programme Suspends to New Applications**

The Local Food programme, managed by the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (RSWT) and funded by a £50 million grant from the Big Lottery Fund has seen unprecedented interest from projects that aim to make local food more accessible and affordable to communities.

Due to the high level of demand, it has been decided to suspend acceptance of new first stage applications For more information, visit.

[www.localfoodgrants.org/home](http://www.localfoodgrants.org/home)

### Publications

A new 'Guide to Organic Certification: Food Processing' is available for those involved or in considering an involvement in organic food production.

Please contact Steven Jacobs, Research & Development Officer, Organic Farmers & Growers Ltd.

Tel 01939 291800/ 0845 330 5122

Mob 07773 538359

[www.organicfarmers.org.uk](http://www.organicfarmers.org.uk)

### Trade Development

#### **"Local to London" Champion:**

£20K is available during 2009/10 to a grower from within the SE region who is developing (or will develop) a supply of farm produce into London and is prepared to share his/her experience of this with other interested parties. Applicants need to note the priorities identified in the London Food Strategy [www.lfa.gov.uk](http://www.lfa.gov.uk) and seek to reflect them in this project.

For further details or to apply contact Shaun Leavey  
[battlegreen@waitrose.com](mailto:battlegreen@waitrose.com)

### **Meet the Buyer Events**

**Budgens Stores** in Faringdon (Oxon) and Ascot (Berks) are looking for local suppliers for all types of food products. If you are interested in this Meet the Buyer event (date to be announced) please contact Tamara on 01865 484116.

**"Supplying to Asda"** A new project for those producers who are interested. Products they are looking for through their Luton Hoo hub: Bakery, Ready Meals, Pre-packed Pies, Cheese, Dairy, Biscuits, Confectionery and frozen lines. Store focus on: Biggleswade, High Wycombe, Wheatly. If anyone is interested they should contact Tamara immediately on 01865 484116 or email [info@local-food.net](mailto:info@local-food.net)

### Events

Remember to check the Events Page on our website at [www.local-food.net](http://www.local-food.net) for all the opportunities for sales in 2009.

**Oxfordshire (Thame) Show Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September** at The Thame Showground, Kingsey Road, Thame, OX9 3JL  
Full members £85 (plus VAT) = £97.75  
Assoc members £100 (plus VAT) = £115.00  
Contact [info@local-food.net](mailto:info@local-food.net) or phone 01865 484116 for details

### **2009 Wiltshire and Berkshire Food Festival 7-8 August** at

Cobbs Farm Shop, Hungerford. For full details, costs of stands, availability and further information please see the Events Page on our website at [www.local-food.net](http://www.local-food.net) or contact Hannah on

01488 686211 or email her at [Hannah@cobbsfarmshop.co.uk](mailto:Hannah@cobbsfarmshop.co.uk)

**Thame Food Festival Saturday 26 September** based in and around the Town Hall. The aim is to support local food producers, pubs and restaurants to provide a different platform to promote their business. There will be stalls outside the Town Hall with demonstrations inside.

Cost for a stall: £20. If you would like to book a pitch then please contact Alison Isherwood, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Thame Project Officer e-mail [ai@21<sup>st</sup>centurythame.org.uk](mailto:ai@21stcenturythame.org.uk) tel: 01844 215215, mob: 07944 175633

**Local Food Court at Kop Hill Climb 26/ 27th September**

For more info see <http://www.kophillclimb.org.uk>

Members are invited to take part in the **Local Food Court**

1 day £40 / 2 days £75.

You can download an application form from the Trade section of our web-site or contact Bob Woodman 01442 823077 or email [sponsors@kophillclimb.org.uk](mailto:sponsors@kophillclimb.org.uk)

**Ascot Racecourse 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Food Fair on Saturday 10th October**

For full details and cost please contact Tamara on 01865 484116 or at [info@local-food.net](mailto:info@local-food.net)

**Training**

**'Reduce your costs by using more sustainable cuts of meat'**

Training Day at Rushall Manor, Bradfield, Berks from 10am to 3pm on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2009.

Full details and booking form can be found in events section on [www.local-food.net](http://www.local-food.net)

**Staff 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](http://www.local-food.net) covering the period from now until May 2010.



**Contact Us**

BBO Food Group CIC

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[www.local-food.net](http://www.local-food.net)

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