



**Monthly Update**  
from  
**Berkshire,**  
**Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes**  
and **Oxfordshire**  
**(BBO) Food Group Community Interest Company (CIC)**  
**NUMBER 29**

**November 2009**

**Dear Food Group Members:**

This is the monthly update from your Local Food Group.

Click on the links below to skip to:

[Christmas Networking Event Invitation](#)

[New Membership Category](#)

[Leader Funding](#)

[Website Link Reminder](#)

[Awards](#)

[Events and Training](#)

[Contact Us](#)

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



You are invited to the BBO Food Group CIC



## Christmas Networking Event

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2009

at Common Hall Café, County Hall, Oxford (map below)

6 to 8pm

To include: meeting, socialising and networking with other food group members; talk from Jeanette Howse TSE and Food Group member - Well Preserved. Festive drinks and nibbles.

Please email your reply to Wendy at [membership@local-food.net](mailto:membership@local-food.net)

### **New Chair**

We would like to welcome Chris Rawson from Buckinghamshire County Council as the BBO Food Group CIC Chair for 2009 – 2010. Chris acts as ..... at the Bucks CC and has been involved in the Food group for over two years now, providing tremendous support in organising the Bucks County Show Food Marquee, the annual Food Guide, and securing support funding from the County Council.

We would also like to say a big thank you to Susie Ohlenschlager from Oxfordshire County Council who has chaired the Food Group since 2004. Susie will continue to sit on the Board, as Observer, and will be instrumental in securing future funding for the Food Group.

### **New Membership Category**

The BBO Food Group CIC is going to launch a new membership category –

Hospitality - for small hotels, B&Bs, pubs, restaurants, caterers, cookery schools and demonstrators for whom the associate and full membership categories may not be so appropriate.

We hope that this will be a great benefit for existing members who may find new hospitality customers to supply their produce to.

We would like to ask producer members to send us contact details of any local restaurants, pubs etc. that you already supply. As a thank you for providing us with this information we will give you £10 BBO Food Group credit which may be used against any future service (including membership) that we charge for.

Please let Wendy know by contacting [membership@local-food.net](mailto:membership@local-food.net). Full details and terms of Hospitality Membership will be published shortly on the website along with updated Associate and Full membership benefits of BBO Food Group CIC for 2010.

### Leader Funding

Leader Funding (up to £50,000) is still available to rural food producers in the Chilterns, Aylesbury Vale, West Berkshire & Southern Oxon areas.

For full details see or ring

Nick Phillips, Chilterns & AVMK 01844 201 447, email: [nick.phillips@leader-programme.org.uk](mailto:nick.phillips@leader-programme.org.uk), [www.leader-programme.org.uk](http://www.leader-programme.org.uk)

Kate Forrest, Southern Oxfordshire 01491 823176, email: [info@southernoxfordshireleader.org.uk](mailto:info@southernoxfordshireleader.org.uk), [www.southernoxfordshireleader.org.uk](http://www.southernoxfordshireleader.org.uk)

John Tabor, West Berkshire, 01488 685440, email [johntabor@northwessexdowns.org.uk](mailto:johntabor@northwessexdowns.org.uk), [www.northwessexdowns.org.uk](http://www.northwessexdowns.org.uk)

Make your project happen!

### Website Links

The annual membership survey has showed again that our website [www.local-food.net](http://www.local-food.net) is a great benefit to members and one of the main reasons for businesses to join the Food Group. In order to increase the traffic, we will be undertaking a set of measures, but we need your help too. One easy way of increase traffic is to enlarge the network of links going to and from our website. The current website [www.local-food.net](http://www.local-food.net) already has links to ALL members' websites, but only 10% of members have linked it back. We would like to remind you to check your website and ensure you have a link back to the BBO Food Group. This is usually put in Links. Should you not have a Links page, you can just state on your Home page "Proud Members of BBO Food Group" with a link to the website. We are also happy to let you use our logo (above) as a link; just send us an email to request it. If you are unsure about all this, ask your webmaster or email us with any queries. Thank you for your cooperation.

### Awards

Congratulations to members **Lin and Lucy Blackwell** from **Challow Hill Meats** who were runners up in Oxfordshire Trading Standards Oxfordshire Livestock Farmer of the Year Awards to celebrate good farming practice and promote the work of animal

health and farming standards. **Challow Hill Meats** were congratulated for demonstrating high standards in welfare and traceability of their livestock.

### **Local Flavours Festival Feedback**

Many thanks to all those who sent their Festival Feedback Questionnaires back. We are in the process of summarising the entire experience of this years first Festival and will be producing a report for our next Board meeting in January 2010. The Board will then make a decision about the future of the Festival and will give early notice to all members for any future events. You are still welcome to send your feedback. You can find the Feedback Questionnaire on [www.local-flavours.net](http://www.local-flavours.net) or ask us for a copy by email.

### **The Future of the Food Group**

In our last Board meeting on 26 October Directors discussed potential options for the Food Group beyond March 2010. As you may know, the current SEEDA support package (£150,000 for 2007-2010) will end in March. Directors are now faced with the challenge of securing sufficient funding for the Food Group to continue. Some of the options include securing revenue funding from local authorities, downsizing the current staff to part-time, managing membership fees by standing order only. If you would like to know more, please contact Tamara at [info@local-food.net](mailto:info@local-food.net) for an update. The Minutes of the Board meeting will be posted shortly on our website [www.local-food.net](http://www.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.

### **The Oxfordshire Big Climate Event Saturday November 7<sup>th</sup>, 9.30am – 6pm, Oxford Town Hall**

BBO Food Group will be running a workshop at this event organized by the Community Action Group Project and Climate Xchange.

For full details please see the events section on our website [www.local-food.net](http://www.local-food.net)

Cost: £5 and includes locally sourced lunch and refreshments (subsidised places are available on request).

To book contact Simon Kenton | CAG Project Manager **resourcefutures** c/o Waste Management Group| Oxfordshire County Council Speedwell House Oxford OX1 1NE Mob 07793 647190|Tel +44 (0)1865 815871| Fax +44 (0)1865 815787| [www.cagoxfordshire.org.uk](http://www.cagoxfordshire.org.uk)

### **The Rise of Real Bread: Changing Britain's Daily Loaf Conference St Anne's College Oxford 14 November 2009 10am-5pm.**

This one day conference brings together growers, bakers, millers, consumers and campaigners to discuss how to substitute mass-produced bread with locally produced all-natural bread - better for our communities and our palates.

For full details of speakers attending the events page on our website [www.local-](http://www.local-)

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

To register go to [www.landshare.org/events](http://www.landshare.org/events)

Cost £38 including lunch, tea and coffee. There will be an evening event at Freud café for those who want to pursue 'bread matters'.

**Foxbury Pre-Christmas Shopping Day, Music & Cookery Demonstrations Sat 14<sup>th</sup> & Sun 15<sup>th</sup> Nov**

10am to 4pm both days

Foxbury Farm Butchers and Farm Shop, Burford Road, Brize Norton, Oxfordshire, OX18 3NX

Tel: 01993 844141 [www.foxburyfarm.co.uk](http://www.foxburyfarm.co.uk)

**Fresh Ideas Network Event Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November 10 am to 4pm 15 Hatfields London Southbank**

Aimed at community food projects across the south-east. For full details and registration please see events page at [www.local-food.net](http://www.local-food.net)

**3rd BRAG Annual Conference Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 10am to 1pm**

Buckinghamshire Rural Affairs Group Annual conference at Mentmore Golf Club, Leighton Buzzard, Bucks (registration from 9:30am).

The theme will focus on the rural economy. Full details and invitation to event on our website [www.local-food.net](http://www.local-food.net)

**Christmas Lights Event, Broad Street Oxford 27<sup>th</sup> November 5.30pm to 9pm**

Food Group members are invited to take stalls at this event at the price of £75/stall.

Hot food suppliers are encouraged to contact organisers **NOW** if they want to sell their hot food and drinks, as the caterers have not been contracted yet.

They expect between 5 - 7 K people. For full info and to sign up please contact Robert McCafferty at 07531187791 or email [site@inevents.org](mailto:site@inevents.org) asap.

**Tourism South East (BBO Group) Networking Event Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 12-2pm Heythrop House, nr Chipping Norton**

TSE would like to invite BBO Food Group members to this Christmas networking event. It is particularly aimed at B&B's and smaller attractions.

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

**Meet the Buyer Event Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2010**

For the public sector in the South East at Government Office for the South East, Guildford, - to include workshops to help buyers break down barriers to more sustainable local procurement and help for suppliers to tackle the public sector

market.

Registration details and more information will be available on the website from [www.southeastenglandfoodanddrink.co.uk](http://www.southeastenglandfoodanddrink.co.uk)

### **COUNTRYSIDE 2010 29<sup>th</sup> May to 13<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

Funded by SEEDA this is a campaign showcase of country-based activities which demonstrates the very many different ways in which everyone can enjoy the countryside. It will offer producers an opportunity for individual promotion, within the context of countryside recreation, and another means of alerting audiences to excellent regional and national Local Food festivals and events.

For full details see the events for producers section of our website [www.local-food.net](http://www.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)

### **New Training Opportunities**

After months of waiting our umbrella partnership SEFGP have finally been given the go ahead to run a training courses programme across the region for farmers and producers who make their living from agriculture. We as a food group are also entitled to run specific courses in conjunction with SEFGP. Please let us know asap at [info@local-food.net](mailto:info@local-food.net) on the courses that you have a particular interest from below:

*Butchery and Retail costing*

*HACCP for Meat producers*

*Meat presentation, Packaging and Labelling*

*Success with a Farm Shop*

*Food Safety, Level 2, Level 3*

*HACCP*

*Supply Chain Efficiency*

*Food Retailing*

*Improving Promotional Materials*

*Legal Labelling*

*Marketing Your Produce*

We aim to have all details together by mid November so we can print a promotional flyer for distribution. The courses will be delivered from January 2010 onwards.

**Free courses for dairy farmers and staff:** These are funded by SEEDA under the Rural Development Programme through Livestock Health South East. The workshops run from 10.30 am to 3.15pm and include lunch and a practical session on farm. Book your place on 01458 851 555 or call Livestock Health South East on 07549 843 380.

**Managing Mastitis**, Tue 24 Nov Henley on Thames OXFORDSHIRE and Wed 6 Jan Bracknell BERKSHIRE - Develop a practical and profitable herd health strategy for your farm. Examine the prevention of mastitis infections and understand sub clinical mastitis. Improve milking hygiene and identify which cows are carrying infections.

**Feeding For Profit, Tue 9 Feb Reading BERKSHIRE** - This course helps you bridge the gap between theoretical nutrition and the many practical management issues of getting cow feeding right on a day to day basis. Optimise feeding to improve your profit. Details of training and conferences at **Leatherhead Food Research Offices** for November and December 2009 are available at the training page at [www.local-food.net](http://www.local-food.net)

Places are still available on the following course at **Valetraining**

First Aid 13th November  
Basic Food Hygiene 17th November  
Brush Cutters 19th November  
Small Engine Maintenance 20th November  
Safe use of sheep-dip 23rd November  
Health and Safety for Employers 26th November  
Bacon Curing 28th November

Course out lines, cost and details are all available on the website [www.valetrainingservices.co.uk](http://www.valetrainingservices.co.uk) or contact

Kate Mason Valetraining Services Ltd  
Marsh Hill Farm  
Marsh  
Aylesbury  
Bucks HP17 8ST

Tel/FAX 01296 612201  
E Mail [kate.mason@valetraining.co.uk](mailto:kate.mason@valetraining.co.uk)

#### Contact Us

BBO Food Group CIC

Tamara Schiopu, Executive Director

Wendy Hole, Membership Co-ordinator

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For previous newsletter please visit [www.local-food.net](http://www.local-food.net)

