



## Monthly Update

from

**Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes and Oxfordshire (BBO)**

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

July 2010

**NUMBER 37**

### Dear Food Group Members:

This is the monthly update from your Local Food Group. Click on the links below to skip to:

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



### **LOOKING AHEAD...**

... to the Season of Abundance, many producers will want to take advantage of the national food weeks this autumn to promote your products.

Organic Food Fortnight 2 to 17 September  
British Food Fortnight 18 September to 3 October  
British Cheese Festival 25 September to 3 October  
National Chocolate Week 11 to 17 October  
National Baking Week 18 to 24 October  
National Apple Day 21 October  
British Sausage Week 1 to 7 November.

Food writers and journalists are already looking for stories around these national food events. If you have a new product, are running special events, competitions, farm walks or mini-food festivals linked to these events please send your information to BBO Food Group [info@local-food.net](mailto:info@local-food.net) so that we can promote it with press releases to local and national media and we can put it on the BBO Food Group website too.

Many national magazine journalists are writing articles about Christmas food and drink now! If you have a special Christmas product to promote, then let us know and we'll do what we can to get you more publicity.

### **TRADE OPPORTUNITIES**

#### **Oxford Castle Food & Wine Festival 17-18-19 September**

**Note the change in dates!** This new three-day Festival is set out to become a popular annual event with Oxford's tourists, locals and businesses. Best-selling cookery writer, chef, and television celebrity, Sophie Grigson, will open the Festival this year. We hope that visitors will enjoy the rich mix of live cooking demonstrations and discussions, children's cooking activities, food samples and restaurants, as well as a food and wine market offering a wide range of tasty, high-quality produce. Application packs are in the post for all our Members. Please do not miss the deadline of 17 August. With any questions or suggestions email us [info@local-food.net](mailto:info@local-food.net)

#### **Develop your Business with Midcounties Co-op**

Midcounties Co-operative have set a new target of £6M in their "local foods" turnover and this is a big leap from their previous £1.8M. Patrice Garrigue, Ethical Trade Manager is looking for suppliers within 40 miles radius for their shops in Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Wiltshire. Producers of **beer, spirits, wines, biscuits, cereal, poultry, chutneys, pickles, mustards, cordials, fruit juice, cheese, butter, ice cream** are encouraged to get in touch. We will be organising a Meet the Buyer Event or work directly with producers for our target of having the

products on shops shelves by end of October 2010. Please contact Patrice at [patrice.garrigues@midcounties.coop](mailto:patrice.garrigues@midcounties.coop)

### **Oxfordshire County and Thame Show, 31 July**

The new marquee **Local Flavours** at this year's Show is now full. Thank you all those who have signed up. Information packs with your tickets and maps are in the post. We are looking forward to making this new marquee a long-term success and will be seeking Local Authorities' support to run it in the future. The **Local Flavours** marquee is sponsored by the Oxfordshire County Council [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk)

The Food Group will also host the **Local Flavours** Reception in the President's Tent this year, to celebrate local food & drink producers, to thank our supporters and to launch two newly produced "Local Food Trails" in the Cotswold and Cherwell, sponsored by the Cherwell District Council [www.cherwell.gov.uk](http://www.cherwell.gov.uk)

### **GOOD NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS**

**Congratulations!** to our Members who won 1-2-3 stars at this year's Great Taste Awards:

Two Hoots Cheese – for Barkham Blue

The Good Chutney Company –for Mostarda De Frutta and for Red Onion Marmalade  
Copas Traditional Turkeys - for Free Range Bronze Turkeys

Doves Farm Food – for White Spelt Flour

Gorvett & Stone – for Rum & Raising Truffle, Dark Chocolate Cinder Toffee, and Milk Chocolate Cinder Toffee

Chocolate Blush – for Lemon Truffle

Susie's Preserves - for Mango Chutney

F W P Matthews – for Cotswolds Eight Grain and Cotswold Crunch

Foxbury Farm – for Foxbury Gloucester Old Spot Loin of Pork

P E Mead & Son – for Children Cold Pressed Rapeseed Oil

For details and information on other winners, please visit

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

The **Colne Valley Food** stall has been spotted at many of the events and attractions in the Colne Valley in the past few months and has been very well received.

Customers are pleased to see a good display of local food and are often surprised at the variety that is available. The stall carries a wide range of produce from local suppliers which includes virgin pressed Rape Seed Oil, Buffalo meat, locally made jam, eggs and vegetables that are in season, often picked that same morning.

The plans for a boxed scheme are progressing well and this will be available for home delivery in designated areas or for collection from a stall or the CVF offices.

Debbie Valman would be happy to hear from more suppliers and producers who would like to get involved. Please contact her directly on: 01895 839859

Dates and venues for the next few Colne Valley Food stalls:

Sunday 25th July - Langley Park Launch

Friday 6th August - Lamas Park, Staines

Sunday 15th August - Colne Valley Park Visitors Centre

### **Welcome to our New Members**

#### **Chadlington Quality Foods**

Winners of the 2010 Countryside Alliance Awards as "Best Village Shop/Post Office", Chadlington Quality Foods Ltd is a fine food retailer in the West Oxfordshire village of Chadlington, specialising in home cooked products, delicatessen and cheese, and all manner of gastronomic delights. The business was saved from closure in 2001 by a group of local residents and has become a notable success story in the "local food"

community and a case study for both the [Plunkett Foundation](#) (previously ViRSA) and the [Oxfordshire Rural Community Council](#).

Chadlington Quality Foods Ltd was formed in 2001. Following a sale of shares to raise the necessary funds, the committee purchased the shop on behalf of the village. Since that time a great deal of hard work by the operating committee and shop staff has transformed the business into a very successful operation that continues to provide services and employment to local people from the Village and beyond.  
[www.chadlington.com](http://www.chadlington.com)

### **Chocolate Blush**

We can never have too many chocolate producers! Handmade chocolates and biscuits personalised and offered in bespoke options. Chocolate Blush are proud winners of 2010 Great Taste Awards for their Lemon Truffle.  
[www.chocolateblush.co.uk](http://www.chocolateblush.co.uk)

### **£1 million of grants**

#### **for farmers and rural businesses**

LEADER supported over 20 projects in 2009/10 and still has over £1 million of funding available to eligible businesses in West Berkshire, Southern Oxfordshire, Chilterns, Aylesbury Vale and rural Milton Keynes (AVMK) areas. We are actively seeking to support businesses in Tourism, Farm Diversification, Local Foods and other small rural businesses. If you might benefit from an influx of funding or know someone who could then contact us:

Southern Oxfordshire – Kate Forrest 01491823176  
Chilterns – Mike Furness – 01844 210422  
Aylesbury Vale & Milton Keynes – Sue Reynders – 01844 210407  
North Wessex Downs – Corinna Woodall – 01488 685440

### **EVENTS**

**(in calendar order)**

#### **11 August BBO TSE Networking Event**

The next networking event is at the lovely Chiltern Open Air Museum in Chalfont St Giles. All the buildings have been saved from being demolished and rebuilt in their original period. There are some lovely buildings to see. We will get a tour and as usual a light supper will also be served. If you would like to come then please e mail Jeanette Howse [jhowse@tourismse.com](mailto:jhowse@tourismse.com)

#### **21 August, Elder Stubbs Festival, 12 noon – 5pm at Elder Stubbs Allotment**

You are invited to take part in this year's Elder Stubbs Festival, organised by the charity RESTORE. The festival promotes community involvement and positive images of mental health. You are welcome to run a food/drinks stall. Please contact Liz Boden, Elder Stubbs Festival Organiser 2010 at 0787 6763 670 or by email [liz.boden@restore.org.uk](mailto:liz.boden@restore.org.uk)

#### **26 August, Buckinghamshire County Show**

The Bucks County Show to be held at Weedon Park, near Aylesbury will have a new format for the Food Hall. In the past Bucks County Council have organized this but sadly they will be unable to continue with this. Contact Alison at The Old Barn,

Wingbury Courtyard Business Village, Leighton Rd, Wingrave, Bucks, HP22 4LW, [alison@buckscountyshow.co.uk](mailto:alison@buckscountyshow.co.uk) or by phone 01296 680400

### **17-18-19 September "Food and Drink Festival" at Oxford Castle in Oxford**

**Note the change in dates!** This new Festival is set to become a popular annual event with Oxford's locals, tourists and businesses. There will be live cooking demonstrations by celebrity chefs, live music, as well as a Food & Drink Market offering a wide range of high-quality produce. Cost is £60 for 3 days.

For an Application Form please email the Food Group at [info@local-food.net](mailto:info@local-food.net) or call Tamara at 07795 334474

### **11 September Family Fun Day at the Springs Hotel and Golf Club, nr Wallingford**

Organisers are inviting local food and drink producers to run their stalls. Please contact Karen Spiers for details [karen.spiers@thespringshotel.com](mailto:karen.spiers@thespringshotel.com) or call 01491 836 687

### **25 September Thame Food Festival**

They still have stallholder space at the Food Festival if you would like to remind yourselves of the event, [www.thamefoodfestival.org.uk](http://www.thamefoodfestival.org.uk).

This year's Thame Food Festival offers excellent opportunities for local food and drink businesses to celebrate, enjoy and spread the word about all the wonderful local food and drink that Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire has to offer.

If you are interested in having a market stall, an application form and details are available to download from the Thame Food Festival website [www.thamefoodfestival.org.uk](http://www.thamefoodfestival.org.uk).

For further details, please contact Alison Isherwood [alison.isherwood@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:alison.isherwood@southoxon.gov.uk) or visit the Thame Food Festival website [www.thamefoodfestival.org.uk](http://www.thamefoodfestival.org.uk).

### **26 September Colne Valley Food Festival**

The Colne Valley Food Festival will take place on Sunday 26th September between 12pm and 4pm. It will be a celebration of local food with all local producers welcome to take part. As well as the producer's stalls there will be professional cookery demonstrations using local food, entertainment for the children, sampling sessions, competitions and goodie bags. Please contact Debbie Valman on 01895 839859 if you would like to be involved in any way. There is still room for a few more stalls or if you cannot attend Colne Valley Food may be able to sell some of your produce on the day or you can send us some leaflets or samples if appropriate for inclusion in the "goodie bags" or prize hamper. However if you would like to get involved we can guarantee that there will be a food loving audience. Nearly 1,000 people attended last year and we aim to increase attendance this year. **Contact:** Nina Thornhill, 01895 832662, [nina.thornhill@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:nina.thornhill@groundwork.org.uk), Stewart Pomeroy, 01895 839857 [spomeroy@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:spomeroy@groundwork.org.uk)

### **ENJOY BRITISH FOOD FORTNIGHT IN BBO REGION**

Running from **18<sup>th</sup> September to 3<sup>rd</sup> October** and now in its ninth year, **British Food Fortnight** is the biggest national celebration of the diverse and delicious range of food that Britain produces. Many shops, pubs and restaurants in our three counties will be taking part this year with special menus and promotions as will National Trust properties, tourism attractions, hotels, youth hostels and many more. Very excitingly, in 2012 the dates of British Food Fortnight will change, for one year only, to run at the same time as the London Olympics. For information on what is happening during the event, what you can do during British Food Fortnight, for ideas on taking part in the Olympics and for advice on what is in season during British Food Fortnight go to [www.lovebritishfood.co.uk](http://www.lovebritishfood.co.uk)

**Join** the national Love Food Hate Waste campaign by taking part in the LFHW Roadshows during British Food Fortnight. The Roadshow is organised by Paul Mcroft of Oxfordshire Waste Partnership together with the Chef from the Pudding Pie. Producers are invited to donate some of their produce to be used in the Roadshow cook-offs. Details to follow.

**Waterperry Gardens Christmas Weekend Event November 27th and 28th 2010**  
**10.30am and 4pm**

Food stalls are offered to producers at £55 for the weekend. The space used for this event is covered and 1 trestle table per producer is provided. Power is also available as long booked in advance. Due to the relatively small area only one of each type of producer is allowed. Contact Susie Hunt on 01844 337264

[events@waterperrygardens.co.uk](mailto:events@waterperrygardens.co.uk) for a booking form and further information.

If you'd like to know more, please visit the website at [www.waterperrygardens.co.uk](http://www.waterperrygardens.co.uk)

**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 2010.**

**TRAINING**

The **SEFGP Training Course Programme** for agri-businesses can be downloaded from [www.southeastenglandfoodanddrink.co.uk/trainingprogram](http://www.southeastenglandfoodanddrink.co.uk/trainingprogram)

RDPE grant subsidy training is being delivered under the title LandSkills South East. There are a few training providers delivering farming, forestry, business & Marketing and Health & Safety courses. These courses carry between 40% and 70% funding – the funding is given to the training provider to subsidise courses rather than the individual trainees. The nearest training provider is Vale Training Services based in Aylesbury. For details of available courses contact Kate Mason on 01296 612201 or visit: <http://www.valetraining.co.uk/>

**The Vale Training Services** near Aylesbury have announced their courses for August and September. Courses cover areas such as Food Hygiene, Farm Equipment maintenance, First Aid at work, etc. For the full schedule and to book your place, contact Kate Mason at Vale Training 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) WEB [www.valetraining.co.uk](http://www.valetraining.co.uk)

**Contact Us**

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