

Transition Bath

Notes of the Food Group meeting held on Monday 12th December 2011

Present: Ailsa, Afrel, Lyn, Virginia, Jim, Iva, Sue, Kathy and Catherine.

(apologies from Monica, Simi, Cristina and Mark)

Item	Action
<p>1. Discussion about the format of the meeting We decided that we need to keep the 'on-going business' part of the meeting brief, to allow full discussion on new items. If there's enough notice, Virginia will send any new people a copy of the last set of notes before the meeting. The next 3 meeting dates will be included on the webpage, with a link from the forthcoming meeting date to the notes of the previous meeting.</p>	<p>Virginia Iva</p>
<p>2. Apple pruning workshop. Jim is waiting to hear from Rob (NT) whether the NT will cover Les Davis's fee (£200), or whether NT is going to pay for its own volunteers to attend. At the moment, 5 people already booked at £20 per head. Jim will arrange another course at the private orchard at Batheaston.</p>	<p>Jim</p>
<p>3. Apple juicing equipment Jim will order another press, to replace the one which has been damaged through wear and tear. He is looking for a volunteer to help him run the hiring system; Afrel will mention it at The HUB and Jim will write a piece for Iva to include in the newsletter/the webpage. Virginia to send Iva some photos of juicing</p>	<p>Jim Afrel Iva Virginia</p>
<p>4. FareShare Becki is now working 2 days a week. The Abbey have donated £1,000 and may make further donations annually.</p>	
<p>5. VegVan The group who visited Exeter are keen to pursue a similar idea for Bath, but a lot more work needs to be done to identify how the van could be used and funded. DHI and Somer are both interested but doubt whether they would get funding. There are potential links with the PCT, on healthy eating projects. There could be multi-use, e.g. used by different organisations on different days of the week. Ideas and possible directions will evolve!</p>	<p>Ailsa All</p>
<p>6. Nuttery The NT have agreed to 4th March as the date for planting the quince, medlar and mulberry, and some fruit bushes. We'll organise a camp fire with food and drink and invite local residents to attend. We'll ask Rob what the NT's reaction would be to having bee hives.</p>	<p>Virginia</p>
<p>7. Guerrilla Gardening Lyn will organise a work-day on Gravel Walk to prepare it for the new growing season and Iva will make up a sign to publicise it. Two more plots have been offered by residents on Gravel Walk; there's a lot of rubbish to be removed from one (Lyn will ask Steve for some builders sacks). Sue will be planting 4 fruit trees this week on Donkey Lane: 3 apples and 1 pear. Catherine volunteered to help Iva to run Vegmead; they'll work alternate Sundays.</p>	<p>Iva Catherine Lyn</p>
<p>8. Webpage revamp Iva is still awaiting thumbnail pictures from Virginia to brighten up the food page. Virginia also needs to provide copy for a new page about food and climate change. Iva suggested a link from the text about apple</p>	<p>Virginia Iva</p>

juicing to a new page describing the hiring process, cost, etc.	Jim
<p>9. Food Policy Discussion evolved into an agreement that food policy would be the main focus for 2012. The main points were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virginia to design a database, to record information about all the local growers, food suppliers, producers, retailers, restaurants, etc. • Ailsa and Catherine volunteered to help • We will hold a workshop for all these contacts, plus Council officers (and anyone else relevant) in late April or in May • To keep the costs down, we'll ask the Council to provide the venue and we'll work innovatively to keep publicity, refreshments and other costs down, seeking sponsorship/donations where necessary. • The purpose of the workshop will be to exchange information, collect participants' views, establish links, and use this to start creating a road map towards a food policy • We'll invite Vic Borrill, head of Brighton & Hove Food Partnership to be the keynote speaker • The breadth of possible components towards building a food policy means that there are likely to be many different ways in which people can get involved • Experience from other cities suggests the importance of involving the politicians. We will propose that B&NES Council has a Local Food Champion. • Ailsa will arrange to meet Mark Thurstain-Godwin (Geofutures, Food Mapper). <p>Other points related to food policy: Central government (DCLG) has stated that local authorities will have the power under the Localism Act to provide, e.g. rate relief to shops selling local food. A planning application to Mid-Devon Council provides an example of a sustainable, self-sufficient community development project (11/02007/MFUL). The developer would be bound by an S106 agreement to fulfil the requirements of a management plan. Ailsa knows of a similar development in Wales.</p>	ALL
<p>10. Miscellanea</p> <p>There is a general need for basic 'growing' courses. A private gardening school operates from the Minerva Temple. No course has been organised at BOG recently. Cathy says that the City Farm has a gardening course called 'Veg without tears' (Virginia to find out more about this).</p> <p>A customer has created a raised bed veg plot at the Moorland Inn in Third Avenue. Though not much is growing at the moment, he has created a market stall. We will collect information about all the places (except supermarkets) in Bath which sell fresh fruit and vegetables and do an article for the newsletter.</p> <p>We agreed to nominate Eades in Julian Road for a B&NES Chairman's sustainable local business award.</p> <p>Mikron Theatre Company is taking a play about allotments around the country by canal barge. At the moment, they are inundated with requests, but have put Bath (Virginia's name) on the list for consideration!</p>	

The public is being encouraged to organise local Big Jubilee Lunches on Sunday, 3rd June, as part of the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee. We discussed having a **Big Local Food Picnic** in one of the parks. To be decided.

Virginia has organised a **coach trip to Pennard Plants**, Pennard Wines and Charles Dowding’s No-Dig garden on Saturday, 7th April.

Marshfield has organised a potato day, supplied by Pennard Plants, on 28th January

Charles Dowding will be giving a talk on Winter Vegetables at the Widcombe Association Garden Club on Monday, 26th March.

Virginia has written to Aradhana to ask her if she would run a **workshop on using the dehydrator**.

We will organise a **workshop on making rocket stoves** (once the weather gets warmer).

11. Date of Next Meeting –Next meeting will be: Thursday 9th February at 7.30 pm at 8 Lansdown Crescent