

Brighton & Hove Food Partnership News

FEBRUARY 2004 No 1

BRIGHTON & HOVE FOOD PARTNERSHIP - c/o FOOD MATTERS - 39-41 SURREY STREET - BRIGHTON - BN1 3PB
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Hello, and welcome to the first edition of the newsletter of the Brighton & Hove Food Partnership - to be known for the time being as Brighton & Hove Food Partnership News (**suggestions on a postcard for a permanent name**). The Partnership is in its infancy and is currently supported by the City Primary Care Trust and the Council's Sustainability Commission, but eventually is aiming for independent status.

There are many organisations, community groups, projects, commercial ventures and individuals across the city committed to improving how we grow, process, transport, buy and eat food. The Partnership was set up early last year as a result of 'Spade to Spoon' - a conference bringing together individuals and organisations from all sectors involved in food to discuss how to develop integrated work around food. The Partnership aims to strengthen the growth and development of a localised food system benefiting the whole community.

Specific issues of concern to the Food Partnership are: using more locally-grown foods; improving nutritional quality of school and work-place food; improving access to affordable, healthy food for all; more cook and eat opportunities in local communities; training for community chefs/cooks; increased food growing in gardens, allotments and community projects; development of local markets and more recycling and composting.

The Partnership hopes to address these and other issues through a variety of activities including setting up Action Groups. So far there is a School Food Action Group and a Farmers' Market Development Group. We are also intending to employ a Food Development Worker to get out and about meeting and supporting people and helping to start up new ventures across some of the different sectors.

We are currently developing a Food Strategy and Action Plan in order to inform the Partnership's work for the next 3 years. This is being prepared by talking to communities, statutory organisations, restaurants, hotels, environmental projects, public sector caterers, schools, etc. to find out what they are doing now, what they want to see happening over the next few years, and how the strategy can help make that happen (see page 2).

A key aim of the Food Partnership is to encourage networking and exchange of information and support. We will be producing this newsletter regularly, where you can find out about Partnership networking events, educational activities, projects and funding opportunities, as well as information about food issues in general. Background information about the Food Partnership is available on the B&H City Council's website (www.brighton-hove.gov.uk)

B&HFP News is for you - the Partnership's members - so let us have your thoughts, comments, and suggestions. Send us your news by 8 April for the next edition. And if you aren't a member yet, please fill in the enclosed form and join us.

Joy Dillon
**B&H Food Partnership Organising
Committee Chair**

BRIGHTON & HOVE FOOD PARTNERSHIP
*works across the community to
strengthen the growth and develop-
ment of a localised food system which
promotes social equity, economic pros-
perity, environmental sustainability,
global fairtrade and the health and
well-being of all residents.*

Action Group Updates

An Organising Committee oversees the general work and strategy of the Partnership, while specific projects and issue related work is carried out by sub-groups. Currently the Partnership has two of these action groups - but it is hoped that more will follow, one looking at food and health, another at public procurement and a growers and producers group. Another area of current work is the development of a Food Strategy for City.

School Food Action Group

The School Food Action Group (SFAG) includes representatives from Health Promotion, the Healthy School Team, the City Council, schools, health workers and local community organisations. SFAG works to help facilitate the take-up of a range of healthy eating initiatives available to schools and to share information, ideas and resources. SFAG will be producing a termly newsletter providing information on all initiatives available for schools plus advice on sources of funding and other news. *Contact Joy Dillon on 01273 296552 or Chris Sculthorpe, PSHE Advisory Team on 01273 293530*

Farmers' Market Development Group

Establishing a Farmers Market for Brighton and Hove is a key aim of the Partnership, in order to make locally produced food regularly available to residents and visitors to the City. The Farmers Market Development Group has met several times since it was set up in May 2003, and is currently short listing several possible sites for a market and talking to potential organisers. *Contact Francesca Iliffe, Sustainability Team, 01273 292 246 or francesca.iliffe@brighton-hove.gov.uk*

A Food Strategy and Action Plan for Brighton and Hove

The Partnership is currently developing a Food Strategy and Action Plan for the City, which acknowledges the links between food, health, economic development and sustainability. The Strategy will develop the vision and aims of the Partnership for the next three years 2004-2007.

Potential issues covered may include: increasing public procurement of locally produced food, identifying action to support community food projects, encouraging schools to adopt nutrition policies, reducing waste created by the City's food system, improving access to fresh produce for all residents, and harnessing the potential of the local food economy to enhance tourism and economic prosperity.

The Strategy is currently being drafted after a period of talking to interested parties across the City. Its success will depend on shared ownership by everybody working on food and related issues across the City, as well as the wider community. *If you would like to receive a copy of the draft strategy to comment on contact Food Matters on 01273 766675*

Get Involved!

The Whitehawk Community Food Project meets every Sunday from 11am through to dusk. There is space for kids to play and seasonal fruit and vegetables for volunteers. *For more information contact thefoodproject@yahoo.co.uk Simon 626660 or Jacob 07751 076395.*

The **Moulsecoomb Forest Garden and Wildlife Project** regular workdays include, Tuesdays 10am to dusk, Fridays 11am till 3pm and Sundays 1pm to 5pm. Volunteers always welcome, no experience necessary. *Contact Warren on 01273 624471 or email mfgwp@yahoo.co.uk*

Love Peppers? Can you cook a delicious vegan meal for 40 people? Brighton Unemployed Centre Families Project is looking for enthusiastic volunteers - a free lunch and access to a variety of courses in return. *Contact Ellie on 01273 671213.*

And, a message from the Mayor's Office Charities are being offered the use of the Mayor's Parlour for fundraising events. Voluntary, community and youth groups, as well as schools and other groups are welcome to use it for special occasions, particularly if they are finding it difficult to find a suitable venue. *Contact Pat Dines in the Mayor's Office for more details 01273 291223.*

Stay in touch! If you don't normally receive this newsletter and would like to, please send your details to the **Food Partnership, c/o Food Matters, 39-41 Surrey Street, Brighton, BN1 3PB**
bhfoodpartnership@foodmatters.org

New initiative to combat obesity

Shape-Up is a group open to overweight adults who are motivated to manage their weight. Topics discussed each week include: Steps to Healthy Eating, Shopping and Cooking on a Budget (including a cooking demonstration), eating out and choosing from menus, physical activity and keeping weight off in the long term. Techniques will be incorporated throughout to help people make lifestyle changes by addressing underlying triggers for overeating. This is a twelve-week rolling programme and will be run at Moulsecomb Leisure Centre every Tuesday morning at 11.30.

Contact Lynn Smyth 01273 291691 or email lynn.smyth@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Seedy Sunday

Brighton & Hove residents, community food projects, local and national organisations got together to celebrate the wonder of locally grown produce and importance of seed diversity and heritage at the second annual community seed swap event. On Sunday 1st February, the Old Market in Hove was overflowing with people, seeds and enthusiasm. There was much talk of the benefits of protecting locally distinct seeds, the wonder of growing and eating local produce and how to get more people doing it. The Food Partnership had a stall and gained 18 new members.



For more details visit www.seedysunday.org or if you would like to get involved contact 01273 381686 or seedysundaybrighton@yahoo.co.uk

Stanmer Organics is celebrating!

After many months the waiting is nearly over - B & H City Council have committed to renewing the lease for a further seven years on the 16 acres at Stanmer Park, tirelessly cultivated by Stanmer Organics since 1997.

Through a range of projects and resources, Stanmer Organics - a not-for-profit consortium made up of 16 groups - aims to be a living model of earth repair and sustainability. Based on the principles of Local Agenda 21, the emphasis is on providing locally produced food, open dialogue and offers

practical experience of the natural world to the local community.

Since hearing about the extended lease agreement, Stanmer Organics has been awarded substantial funds to develop the project. A grant from the New Opportunities Fund SEED programme and the Richard Baxendale Trust will enable the development of the educational facility. Fifteen local schools regularly visit over the year, with workshops ranging from gardening basics to identifying wildlife, to willow weaving and more.

For more information visit www.stanmerorganics.org.uk

Healthy Living at Brighton Schools

Brilliant Futures and The Kitchen Academy have teamed up with The Childrens' University to deliver a series of healthy living workshops in schools across Brighton and Hove. Practical, fun activities help children find motivating reasons to adopt healthy habits, and discover fun and exciting ways to be healthy. They learn how to make healthy snacks and design and create their own snack box to take healthy snacks in to school every day.

If your school would like to host a workshop contact Sarah Clarke on 0870 005 6215.

Want to join the Food Partnership? Want to get involved?

If you are interested in knowing more about our work, or have any news, views, photos, events, comments for the next B&HFP News (deadline 8 April) please call 01273 766 675 or foodpartnership@foodmatters.org

Events calendar

25TH FEB: FRESH IDEAS COMMUNITY FOOD TRAINING

For community groups and workers interested in developing or supporting community food initiatives, this training will facilitate participants to understand how community food work can help address issues of food poverty and poor food access. One-day training costs £25 (some bursaries are available). *Contact Clare Millett 01273 403 523 or Lynn Smyth 01273 291691.*

SATURDAY 28TH FEB, 11.00-5.00: FAIRTRADE FAIR AND FARMERS' MARKET, FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE, BRIGHTON

The 10th annual Fairtrade Fortnight will be taking place between 1 and 14 March 2004. Events will be happening across the UK. Brighton will be celebrating with a Fairtrade Fair and Farmers' Market at the Friends Meeting House on Saturday 28 February. *Contact Barbara Wilson on 01273 675 778 or email kippwilson@aol.com*

FRIDAY 12 MARCH: SUSSEX FARMERS' MARKETS INTO THE FUTURE, ADASTRA HALL, HASOCK

This event is aimed at market organisers, policy makers, local producers and anyone interested in rural Sussex and access to good food via farmers' markets. Cost £10 includes local produce/organic lunch. *Contact Claire Reynolds on 01273 473422 or claire.reynolds@ruralsussex.org.uk*

MONDAY 29TH MARCH: 'A TASTE OF SUSSEX' FOOD AND DRINK TRADE SHOW, BRIGHTON RACECOURSE

An opportunity for local producers and suppliers to meet trade buyers including retailers and restaurants. There will also be two seminars - 'Using Local Produce' and 'Sussex Seasons'. *Contact Deborah Jarrett on 01435 830116 or e-mail djj@tinyworld.co.uk*

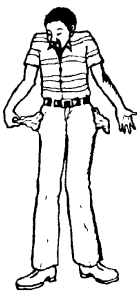
19-22 APRIL: SUSTAINING PUBLIC HEALTH IN A CHANGING WORLD - VISION TO ACTION, THE BRIGHTON CENTRE

The 12th Annual Public Health Forum organised with the World Federation of Public Health Associations and 40 international public health groups. Themes include inequalities and community participation. Visit www.ukpha.org.uk for more information. Brighton & Hove City Primary Care Trust and Adult Services are hoping to use this event to showcase innovative services, projects and initiatives across the city addressing poor health. *Contact Angela Flood to find out how to get involved 01273 295086.*

11TH MAY: FACE 2 FACE, HOVE TOWN HALL

The place to meet funders - a community & voluntary sector funding fair. *Call 01273 291110 or visit www.workingtogetherproject.org.uk*

Funding - What's out there to help



Local

The New Global Grants Programme

This funding stream, held by B & H City Council, is aimed at activities that encourage people to learn new skills and gain confidence, which may help individuals move towards employment, next deadline for applications is 30 April. *Contact Helen Pennington on 01273 296 821.*

B&H City Council Discretionary Grants 2004-2005

There are seven discretionary grants schemes open to community and voluntary not-for-profit organisations. Grants on offer range from 'Grants to smaller organisations' to 'Environmental sustainability' The next application deadline is 9 April. *Contact The Voluntary Sector Unit on 01273 291112.*

National

Esmee Fairbairn Foundation is seeking applications for projects promoting local/organic produce, including developing consumer demand and retail

opportunities and to increase the skills and capacity of local/organic producers. There are no application deadlines. *Contact Tim Keenan on 020 7297 4726 or visit www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk*

The **Gulbenkian Foundation's Social Welfare programme** gives grants to community groups working to regenerate their local area, including improving service delivery. Written applications to be with the Foundation 10 weeks before Trustees' meeting at the beginning of July. *For more information contact 020 7636 5313 or visit www.gulbenkian.org.uk*

The National Heart Research Fund's Healthy Lifestyle Grants

offer grants to community organisations and community researchers between £1,000 and £10,000. Priority areas are lifestyle interventions, including physical activity and healthy eating programmes that will help prevent or reduce the risk factors of heart disease. Next deadline is 31 July, applicants will hear by November. *Contact Heart Research 0113 234 7474.*

