



Slow Food® Bedford

Bringing people together

Welcome to the first Slow Food Bedford newsletter. The committee aims to produce a 10 newsletters a year to inform members about the activities of Slow Food Bedford.

A lot has happened since the AGM at the start of the summer. Slow Food Bedford was represented at Biddenham's fête. There was a very successful trip to a local chillie farm (see report below.) Bedford's *Times & Citizen* had a picture of Sue Miller and Valerie Walter (landlady of the Devonshire Arms) on 5 October at the Bedford Beer Festival. The only negative news is that the proposed trip to the British Cheese Festival in Oxfordshire was called off due to lack of interest.

Representatives of the convivia of the eastern region of Slow Food UK met for the first time. This event gave everyone a chance to share ideas, concerns and plans. There were also speakers from the Ludlow HQ explaining national activities. Bedford was represented by Sue and some of the Committee.

The next newsletter will be produced in December. One regular feature will be information about the local farmers markets. If you have any news or snippets of information that you feel would be of interest to the group, please send them to me.

Keep it Slow!

Hilary (hfsfb@googlemail.com)

Newsletter Editor

National Apple Day, 14 October

Bromham Mill hosted a celebration of the British Apple. The event was very popular (aided by sunny weather). Lots of people were keen to talk to the East of England Apples & Orchards Project's stall (shown here). As well as the other apple-themed attractions, local producers such as Homebaked Desserts and Franklins of Thorncote were represented. There are new plans for the Mill. One proposal is that it will host a Farmers' Market.



Slow Food Bedford photos?

Do you have any photos of SFB events? We are starting an online photo album. If you would like to add your photos to the collection, email them to hfsfb@googlemail.com.

Chill Farm Mex Event

On Saturday, 1 September, Filippo and Rena Genovese and their family welcomed SFB members to their Blunham farm. They started growing cucumbers and peppers in 1972. In 1998, they expanded to become the first commercial producers of chillies in the UK. Today, the 4.5 acre site has over 60,000 plants, pollinated by 500,000 bees.

The SFB visitors were given a fantastic tour of the greenhouses where they learnt about hydroponic cultivation and how this niche business supplies its quality product to famous supermarket chains. The chillies were a dazzling sight—fresh and abundant. The tour group enjoyed tasting exotic tomatoes and sun-warmed grapes.

The group and family then ate a five-course, alfresco meal prepared by Sue and her team. Genovese-grown chillies and other produce featured in every dish, from the starter (sopa de la cal) to a Mexican coffee finish.

Calendar dates

15 November

Bedford Borough Schools Market Stall

Bringing together the next generation.

22 December

Bangers & Beer, Devonshire Arms

A barbecue to coincide with the pub's beer festival (20-23 December) and raise funds for the Parkwood Community Orchard project..

New website

To complement the *Newsletter*, Slow Food Bedford now has its own website, slowfoodbedford.wordpress.com. The website includes information about upcoming events and Slow Food Bedford's ongoing projects. It also has a 'Comments' feature so you can leave your feedback about events.

The website is still underdevelopment. New pages and features will be added over the coming months.

Committee news

Slow Food Bedford's committee has now expanded. The committee meets once a month to discuss events and the local and national projects.

- Convivium leader: Sue Miller
- Treasurer: Paul Wright
- Produce co-ordinator: Paul Miller
- Schools co-ordinator: Ann Hepher
- Newsletter & web editor: Hilary Johnson

If you would like to find out more, you would be very welcome to sit in on a committee meeting. Or you could get directly involved. The committee is looking for: an **Association co-ordinator** to liaise with local groups and allotment groups; a **College & Council co-ordinator** to work with Sue and Ann on local projects; a **Markets representative** to visit local farmers' markets and, finally, a **Secretary**.

Contact details

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