CFBoA SUSTAINABLE FOOD AND DRINK GROUP (SFADG)
Update – December 2024

1. **A REALLY BIG THANK YOU to our FARMERS and GROWERS and all who work in our food chain** for the wonderful food and drink that you provide. We know that this year has been particularly challenging for many. Prolonged spells of wet weather, with the land flooded or saturated in some parts of the country, have led to some crops not being planted in the spring and difficulties with the harvest. It has been the second worst grain harvest on record. Root crop harvesting, such as potatoes, has been very problematic and the British wine industry has also been badly affected. Although a dry spell last month enabled winter planting to proceed, the recent torrential conditions will have washed out, or damaged some crops, which will then necessitate replanting. For an insight into pulses - see **here**. Here's hoping for better conditions next year.
2. **CHANGES to INHERITANCE TAX for farms** have been much in the news and you might be interested to read a considered perspective (**here**) by Kate Collyns, one of our wonderful local growers.
3. **METHANE REDUCING FEED ADDITIVE** – another issue which has been in the news. Patrick Holden, Founder and CEO of the Sustainable Food Trust, questions the wisdom of this – see **here**. For the last 37 years, we have been grateful to have organic milk delivered to our door in glass bottles. Milk & More says that the farms they source from are not involved in the trials using methane-suppressant additives "With Milk & More, what's in your glass is simple: British milk. Nothing more, nothing less." However, "… we are not able to track the sources of ingredients and production processes used by third party manufacturers of [products that we sell but do not make] so please contact them directly with your questions."
4. **NEXT SFADG MEETING Monday 20th Jan** 6-7pm at the Quaker Meeting House. We'll be joined by some representatives of the Fairtrade Group to discuss how we coordinate our outreach to businesses. All welcome.

   The following meeting will be on Tuesday 18th Feb when we will be continuing our review of local growing.

5. **THE WILTSHIRE MARQUE AND LOCAL FOOD WEBSITE AND DIRECTORY** is **here**. Let's get BoA fully represented on the map and make it a useful resource for shoppers, diners, visitors and businesses. It also has an events section.
6. **WHATEVER YOUR DIETARY CHOICE,** Bradford on Avon and surrounding villages have many wonderful outlets for well-produced food: food which has been produced to high environmental and ethical standards.

7. **LOCALLY RAISED, FREE-RANGE POULTRY AND MEAT** are available from Woolley Park Farm (poultry), Hartley Farm Shop, Meat in the Shambles and the Thoroughly Wild Meat Company (Thursday morning market in the Library carpark).
8. **'THE SOIL UNDER OUR FEET'** A Talk by Leila Froud (Soil Association) Freshford Village Memorial Hall BA2 7UR Wednesday, 8th January 2025, 7.30pm Learn to look after your soil and treat it with the respect it deserves, and your garden will thrive. Horticultural Society members free. Others £3.00. Everyone welcome. Bar. Freshford and District Horticultural Society with Nature Chain.
9. **SLOW COOKERS and PRESSURE COOKERS can save energy and cut bills. AIR FRYERS** are also popular. Thinking of buying one for Christmas? See **here** for details of the short-term loan scheme, set up by the TC and CFB. Click the link if you would like to add your name to the list. We're delighted to hear that the scheme is successful in enabling people to make an informed decision as to which cooking appliance might best suit their needs.
10. **THANKS TO LIZ STEPHENS,** who as Chair of the Biodiversity Group has co-worked with the SFADG over many years on so many displays at events, speaker events and Farm and Nature Walks and Talks. She has been/ is a great source of knowledge and I will greatly miss her and wish her well.

HOPING THAT YOU ALL HAVE A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS

ENJOY GOOD FOOD AND DRINK

If you wish to be on the SFADG circulation list, please contact Ros Edwards at climatechampions@gmail.com