CFBoA SUSTAINABLE FOOD AND DRINK GROUP (SFADG) Update – January 2025

1. NEXT SFADG MEETINGS

Monday 20th Jan 6-7pm at the Quaker Meeting House.

We will review progress with last year's Action Plan (see here) and discuss a plan for 2025. We'll be joined by some representatives of the Fairtrade Group to discuss how we coordinate our outreach to businesses. Do come along with your ideas. All welcome.

Tuesday 18th Feb 6-7pm at the Quaker Meeting House when we will be continuing our review of local growing.

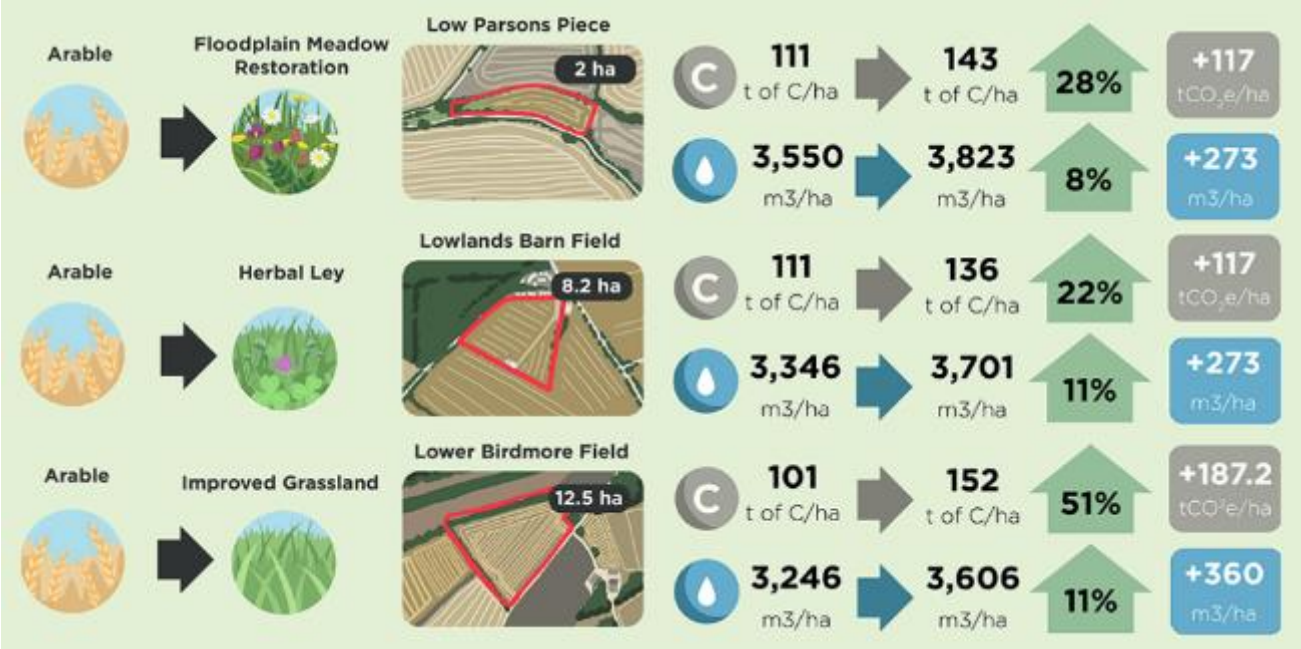
2. **BRIAN MATHEW, MP,** has kindly forwarded a response to the food, farming and the environment questions put to him on 12th October. He says "Please find attached a response from the government on the matter of sustainability in food production. I am pleased to see that the government is taking in advice on these matters. Please let me know your thoughts on this matter." The questions are **here**; the reply from Mr Daniel Zeichner, Minister of State at Defra, is **here.** Before responding to Brian, it would be helpful to hear as many of your views as possible on this government response – please let me know by sending a message to climatechampions@gmail.com by 31st January.

3. **THE WILTSHIRE MARQUE AND LOCAL FOOD WEBSITE AND DIRECTORY** is **here**. I have just sent an email to those food and drink businesses in the BoA Community Area, for which we have an email address, to encourage them to sign up. Please do help spread the word. See the Wiltshire Marque flyer **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.

4. RESEARCHING THE LINK BETWEEN SOIL CARBON AND WATER RETENTION (from the Environment Agency)

The Soil Carbon and Water Resilience Project analysed soil data from different soil types and land uses across farms in the north east Cotswolds, and modelled the impact of the carbon stored in soil on flooding and drought.

This project was designed to help farmers, businesses and policymakers better understand the critical role of soil carbon and landscape-scale management in water resilience and landscape recovery.
The research showed that by improving soil carbon through the way land is managed, we can enhance water retention and support better flood and drought management.
Find out more about the project and see the findings of the research **here**. The project was delivered by partners at the North East Cotswolds Farmer Cluster, Carbon Quester, Atkins, and Rothamsted Research.



5. **SLOW COOKERS and PRESSURE COOKERS can save energy and cut bills. Air Fryers** are also popular. See **here** for details of the short-term loan scheme, set up by the TC and CFB. 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.

ENJOY GOOD FOOD AND DRINK

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