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

1. **EARTH, AIR AND WATER (Farming for the Future) – 4th June 7-8.30pm online** CFBoA webinar with expert speakers – see entry on front page of newsletter. You will need to register to secure a place. For more details see **here.**
2. **GREEN MAN FESTIVAL - 10Th May** Come and see us on the CFBoA SFADG stand in Church St and chat to our local growers. See more in main newsletter.

3. **CORRESPONDENCE WITH BRIAN MATHEW, MP – update** (last reported on in January newsletter). **The** food, farming and the environment questions put to Brian on 12th October 2024 are **here**; the reply from Mr Daniel Zeichner, Minister of State at DEFRA, in January 2025 is **here**. The response to this sent to Brian Mathew is **here.** On 1st April, Brian wrote:

   Thank you for your response – it is clearly the product of a lot of effort and careful consideration. As a result of these, I have submitted the following Written Parliamentary Questions:

   To ask the Secretary of State for DEFRA whether he will consider including the Consortium of Labelling for the Environment, Animal Welfare and Regenerative Farming [CLEAR] in discussions pertaining to carbon emissions to ensure stakeholders involved in all aspects of food production are considered in these discussions?

   To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, to consider a more holistic approach to addressing emissions beyond carbon output to ensure there is not a drive to production intensification?

   To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether there are plans to ensure the terminology used for genetic engineering research, processes, products to be a) standardised and transparent to the public and b) included on label of food from GE crops?

   The reply from Mr Daniel Zeichner, MP, dated 16th April, to the first of these questions can be found at - https://members.parliament.uk/member/5214/writtenquestions#expand-1791337

   The recent report into Eco labels by Herts University and CLEAR's key takeaways can be seen at clearfoodlabeluk.org/ecolabelreview.

4. **ARTICLES FROM THE Sustainable Food Trust**
   What do you think?

   - A new perspective on healthy eating (04.03.2025) Joanna Blythman **here**
   - Are environmentalists barking up the wrong tree when it comes to land use? (04.02.2025) Patrick Holden **here**

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

6. **OUR LOCAL PUBS** At the beginning of the year, we became aware that the future of two of our lovely, very local pubs was in jeopardy. So, we were delighted to hear and read in the Iford Manor newsletter on 11th April:

In February, we found ourselves with an unexpected opportunity to purchase the freeholds of the Cross Guns at Avoncliff, and the Inn at Freshford, two exceptional pubs which deserve a long-term stable outlook. So what did we do? Well... our bids have been accepted and we have already completed on the Cross Guns!

Then at the end of March we won "Best Newcomer" in the Trencherman's 2025 Awards for the restaurant - we are just so proud, and especially of our amazing team in the kitchen led by Executive Chef Matt Briddon.

Cross Guns, Avoncliff - an update

We were over the moon to be given the opportunity to purchase the Cross Guns at Avoncliff, a deal which completed early last week. We are now giving the place a rapid spruce, with the aim of getting it trading as quickly as possible through the summer. We will then close again for renovations in winter 2025/26, to bring new life to this absolutely epic gem of a riverside pub.

It is going to take a year or two to bring this iconic pub back to its former glories, but with the support and patience of the community we shall get there as quickly as we can, and crucially set it on a long term sustainable footing.

Thank you to everyone that has been so generous in supporting our takeover of this great spot - we'll keep you in the loop as things progress, and share a pint soon together in the meantime.

For Iford Manor café and restaurant (seasonal, local. home-made) – see **here**

ENJOY GOOD FOOD AND DRINK

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