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

1. **COME AND JOIN US FOR THE NEXT SFADG MEETING**
   Venue: SWEETPEA KITCHEN, Lamb Yard, BoA
   Date and Time: Monday 29th September at 7-9pm



Helen, Clive and Ed, of **SWEETPEA KITCHEN** at the **WEAVING SHED**, took a decision to put sustainability at the heart of their family business – energy efficiency, reducing waste and packaging, and the provenance of their food and drink.
We are delighted that they have agreed to talk to us about this and, also, invite some of their producers/ suppliers to talk as well. They are kindly hosting this meeting. Tea, coffee and bar drinks will be on sale. **All are welcome**.
Check **here** beforehand for any further information.
We are very fortunate that in this area we have many businesses that are really focussed on environmental sustainability.
Our meeting is scheduled to fall within **Fairtrade Fortnight** (22nd Sept-5th Oct).

2. **CABINET RESHUFFLE**
   This has been a difficult year for farming. Extreme weather conditions have resulted generally in significantly lower crop yields. Meanwhile, grain prices are rock bottom, due to global trade prices. Poor grass growth is likely to lead to marked shortages and high prices of winter fodder for animals. Inheritance tax changes continue to be a major worry for many family farms, as well as the continuing uncertainty about the incentives for nature friendly farming. There seems to be some concern about the new Sec of Sate for Efra's commitment to these.

3. The Wiltshire Marque

Wiltshire Marque launches affiliate scheme 'We're launching an affiliate scheme to help support Wiltshire Marque members and other food and drink businesses within the county.

Behind the scenes of every business, there's plenty going on – it's not all making delicious food and drink, in the case of our members! From getting your taxes sorted

to finding the right packaging for your products, there's a lot more to consider than production.
That's why we're launching an affiliate scheme this summer. We're encouraging businesses who support food and drink companies within the county to sign up. This includes organisations such as:

- Accountants
- Solicitors
- Packaging manufacturers
- IT providers
- Training providers
- Photographers
- Videographers
- Creative agencies
- … and more!'

4. **NATURAL SOLUTIONS FOR HORSECHESTNUT TREE LEAF MINER BEETLE - DO IT WITH DUCKS!**



An account from a friend at Upton Noble – click **here** to read more and see the transformation.

Interesting articles:

5. **BUCKWHEAT AND LENTILS: MEET THE NEXT GENERATION OF FOOD ALLERGENS** (Footprint 29th August, 2025) – see **here**
6. **CAN MEAT REALLY PROTECT AGAINST CANCER-RELATED DEATHS, AS A NEW STUDY INDICATES?** The Conversation report (September 2, 2025) – **here** - concludes
'… a variety of protein sources, plenty of vegetables and fruits, and minimally processed foods, remains the most evidence-based path to optimal health.
While this latest study adds a new dimension to the meat debate, it's unlikely to be the final word. As nutrition science continues to evolve, the most prudent approach remains the least dramatic: moderation, variety and balance in all things.' [This aligns with the UN/Food Climate Research Network 2016 dietary recommendations adopted by CFBoA, see **here**.]
7. **SHEEP WARS: WHY IT'S TIME TO RESET THE UPLANDS GRAZING DEBATE** (30.07.2025) Robert Barbour SFT **here**.

8. **COMPLEX, CONNECTED AND ALIVE: THE LIVESTOCK FARMS THAT TELL A DEEPER STORY** (01.07.2025) by Victoria Halliday **here**, includes an interesting short video of Richard Gantlett at Yatesbury House Farm, near Avebury (visited by Wiltshire Climate Alliance in 2022).
9. **THE GREAT DUST BOWL** (from Sustainable Food Trust News Digest 28/08/2025)
   The Dust Bowl, 90 Years Later
   According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, "Although erosion have slowed since the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) began estimating rates them in the 1980s, soil loss from the nation's farms is still unsustainable. Every year, U.S. croplands lose at least twice as much soil to erosion as the Great Plains are estimated to have lost annually during the peak of the Dust Bowl." See **here**.
10. **AFRICA'S GREAT GREEN WALL**
    INSIDE AFRICA'S FOOD FOREST MEGA-PROJECT
    Really interesting and heartening update on this on YouTube **here**.
11. **Our webinar - EARTH, AIR AND WATER (Farming for the Future).**
    It was good to hear that this has been posted as a highly recommended watch through Wiltshire Council's online staff noticeboard. Liz Stephens, former chair of the CFBoA biodiversity Group, also fed back that it was fascinating and inspiring. (By the way, Liz is now in her new home in Northumberland and seems to be settling well into life up there.)
    Watch the recording on YouTube **here**
    You can read the speaker biographies, feedback and find an alternative link to watch the recording (through Zoom) **here**.

ENJOY GOOD FOOD AND DRINK

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