Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon

SUSTAINABLE FOOD AND DRINK GROUP (SFADG)

Update – July 2026

Contents:

1. **Join us to explore the potential for major funding application to Climate Action Fund at the SFADG meeting 12th August 6-7.30pm**
2. **2nd Community Farmer Day 2026 at Avonleigh Orchards this Sunday 19 July, 9:30am – 4pm**
3. **High Court Finds Government Failed to Properly Assess Gene-Editing Deregulation**
4. **Benefits of local food systems (Sustain)**
5. **Local news – fruit and veg**

1. Next SFADG meeting - Wednesday 12th August 6-7.30pm

Join us to explore the potential for working with partners to apply for major funding for the Bradford on Avon Community Area:

The Climate Action Fund says:

We want to fund projects that strengthen our food system and reduce food insecurity for people and communities.

We want to support ways of producing enough healthy, affordable food without harming the planet.

We will do this by supporting work that:

- works with nature to create resilient, sustainable and equitable food systems (this is called agroecology)
- addresses the root cause of long-term problems, not just the symptoms (this is called systems change)
  [Read the detail here Climate Action Fund - Food Systems | The National Lottery Community Fund]

Caroline Le Quesne, Engagement and Partnership Lead, Wiltshire Council, suggested this funding opportunity and will join us to consider the possibilities and how it could work.

How could you use, or engage with, such an opportunity? It will be helpful if you can start to raise ideas in advance of the meeting - email Ros Edwards at climatechampions@gmail.com

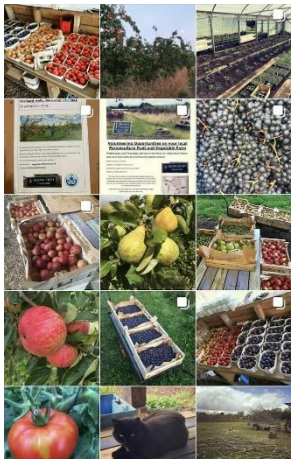
Venue: Quaker Meeting House

Time: 6-7.30pm (We'll aim to start promptly at 6pm)

Please bring £1 to contribute to room hire.

All welcome. Please spread the word.

2. 2nd Community Farmer Day 2026 at Avonleigh Orchards this Sunday 19 July, 9:30am – 4pm



A fun-filled day tending the crops and feasting on the farm! Celebrate local fruit and vegetable farming!

Find out more and book a place for this free event here: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/2nd-community-farmer-day-2026-tickets-1989614303942?aff=oddtdtcreator
Funded by Bradford on Avon Area Board and supported by Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon.

3. High Court Finds Government Failed to Properly Assess Gene-Editing Deregulation

Personally, I welcome the High Court ruling in early June regarding gene-editing deregulation, and feel this is a really important ruling. Read more at https://beyond-gm.org/.

'The High Court ruled in favour of a judicial review challenging regulations that remove labelling and traceability from so-called 'precision bred' organisms. The judicial review was led by Beyond GM, with Patrick Holden, CEO of the Sustainable Food Trust, and two others standing as co-claimants. Here Patrick reflects on why he chose to speak out and on the importance of the case.' https://sustainablefoodtrust.org/news-views/looking-back-looking-forward-new-gmos-and-old-lessons/

The *Farmers Weekly* (4th July) reports on a debate on the topic at the Groundswell Conference with two different views - see https://www.fwi.co.uk/arable/why-gene-editing-could-help-growers-practicing-regen-ag and on another Groundswell debate (10th July issue) entitled *Precision Breeding: targeted traits or patented problems*? with four panellists, including Pat Thomas, Director of Beyond GM. She 'suggested the most critical requirement for farmers was access to accurate, complete and honest information.' She said "That seems like a ridiculously modest proposal… My question is if the farming minister can't get accurate information, what chance do farmers have?"

'A survey conducted by Beyond GM found that eight out of every 10 agroecological farmers – the majority of which were techno-minimalists – felt that gene-edited crops were "not for them". That figure is important as when the Food Standards Agency surveyed consumers, they found the same thing," Pat said. "Consumers really want these things labelled so they have a choice."'

Whatever your perspective, do write to your MP to let them know your view. We're told that MPs take much more notice if they receive messages from a number of constituents on any matter.

4. Benefits of local food systems

Taken from Sustain's July newsletter:
'Barely a week goes by without food prices making headline news, as the vulnerabilities of our food system to inflation and disruption are increasingly revealed.

It also points to how critical regional food supply chains and the enterprises within them are. A new review of evidence from Sustain has highlighted that whilst local food is of course not immune, local food systems can be more resilient to inflation and disruption than industrial systems. They offer us that chance to stabilize prices in the medium to long term, whilst growing wealth and wellbeing within local areas.'

5. Local news

Congratulations to our local agroecological growers, who are continuing to develop and also to deliver on plans described in item 1 of the March newsletter – see https://climatefriendlybradfordonavon.co.uk/sfadg-march-2026-update/ .

- Our two established growers, Jonathan Francis, Avonleigh Orchards, and Kate Collyns, Grown Green @ Hartley Farm, are now jointly providing fresh veg boxes for Food Bank clients on the 5-month pilot scheme, funded by the Area Board. Jonathan says he is really enjoying doing this and understands that the produce is being well-received.
- Jonathan is looking forward to his second Community Farmer Day this Sunday – see details above.
- Anna Glasbrook has now set up a CIC (Community Interest Company) to take forward the development of the Community Teaching Garden at the Cowshed. Anna also says "we have been awarded funding from Wessex Water Environment Fund now too, to create a rainwater harvesting system so that we can be independent of mains water for the project. We've also become a CIC now too. So that's exciting."

ENJOY GOOD FOOD AND DRINK

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