Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon

SUSTAINABLE FOOD AND DRINK GROUP (SFADG)

Update – November 2026

Contents:

1. **'Growing for Our Future' - CFBoA monthly meeting Monday 16th November 7.30pm**
   Join us to hear from our inspirational local growers, who will be updating us on their exciting developments, and also the challenges; and Caroline Le Quesne, will share our discussions to date on potential application for large scale funding for the area from Climate Action Fund - Food Systems | The National Lottery Community Fund
2. **Building Food Security and Resilience locally** (SFADG meeting produced lots of ideas)
3. **The Narrative is Changing – CCC on mixed farming**

Read more:

1. **'Growing for Our Future'** - CFBoA monthly meeting **Monday 16th November 7.30pm** at the Quaker Meeting House. For more information see entry on front page of newsletter and CFB website here.
   There is no food security without sustainable soil management.
   Our local, agroecological growers are passionate about climate change mitigation, food security and resilience, producing high quality, nutritious food for local consumption, education around growing food in healthy soils, working with nature, well-being and involving the local community.
   We will be hearing short presentations on recent projects and planned developments from:
   - **Jonathan Francis**, Avonleigh Orchards (for weekly order list email veggrower@yahoo.co.uk or look up avonleighorchards on social media)
   - **Kate Collyns**, Grown Green @ Hartley Farm (see here) Twitter: @KateCollyns Insta: @growngreenkate
   - **Tania Pascoe**, Pear Tree Community Farm (see here)
   - **Anna Glasbrook** or **Alan Bell**, The Cowshed Project – Community Teaching Garden
   - **David Robinson**, Woolley Grange Hotel Walled Garden.

   Caroline Le Quesne, Engagement and Partnership Lead, Wiltshire Council, will talk about our discussions to date regarding potential application for £2.5 - £7m for the area from Climate Action Fund - Food Systems | The National Lottery Community Fund
   All welcome.

2. **Building Food Security and Resilience locally**
   This was the topic of the last SFADG meeting on 19th October. The meeting was led by Rachel Berger and plenty of constructive ideas were put forward. Meeting notes not yet circulated due to tech problems, now corrected by Openreach. If you wish to receive the notes and be on the SFADG circulation list (if not already signed up), please contact Ros Edwards at climatechampions@gmail.com

3. **The Narrative is Changing - CFBoA 20th Anniversary**: some SFADG display posters information:

EAT WELL FOR HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Enjoy good food and make well-produced food a priority in the household budget. There is no need to exclude any food types from your dietary intake.

"The future of farming has to be sustainable, or there isn't one" Lord Deben, former chair of the Climate Change Committee (CCC)

95% of our food is produced from the soil.

A third of agricultural soils globally are degraded according to the UN, including in the UK. This year many crop yields are markedly reduced.

THE NARRATIVE IS CHANGING

From 'A Well-Adapted UK' (CCC 2026):

Mixed farming (with crops and livestock) and a reduction in monocultures across a whole farm or landscape can reduce losses from climate and weather shocks… farmers are likely to have greater resilience through avoiding catastrophic losses in a single year… Increased diversity can improve habitat and food production resilience, for example, creating multi-species grasslands to increase resilience to drought.

Modelling showed there can be significant co-benefits from wider eco-system services such as soil improvement, carbon storage, and biodiversity for many adaptation actions. This is particularly true for alley cropping for cereals, planting trees for hens, and soil holding measures for cereals. Most measures could be deployed relatively rapidly, but other actions (for example, agroforestry or silvopasture measures) require longer lead in times until they become effective.

Resilient soil and water management practices… help buffer against drought and erosion from heavy rainfall.

The CCC's 7th Carbon Budget gives this link here to the NHS guidelines on meat consumption. The amount of red meat is consistent with reports on how much can be produced in an agroecological farming system.

PLENTY OF PLANT FOODS ARE IMPORTANT, WHATEVER YOUR DIETARY PREFERENCE. However, how they are produced matters. Many are grown in intensive, agrichemical-dependent monocultures.

Consider where your food comes from and how it is produced.

ENJOY GOOD FOOD AND DRINK

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