

NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2012

Day manager contact details – change of email address

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Yeo Valley event

There's been an enthusiastic response to the possibility of a food festival in partnership with Yeo Valley. On the basis of replies received, we're going for the Bank Holiday, Monday 26 August. This choice should avoid clashes with other big local events. Louise will email more admin details after Christmas.

Burnham Food and Drink Festival

Some of you had pitches at the first Burnham Food Festival and gave very positive feedback. Next year there will be two events (Saturday 25 May and Saturday 28 September 2013), both with two indoor venues and a large outdoor market. We've agreed with the organisers that SFM will promote the festivals where possible. In return, we get some advertising opportunities and SFM members can book a stall at either festival for a reduced rate of £25 until 31 March 2013. See www.burnhamonseafestival.org for more details and booking form.

Day manager review

The Board has completed a review of the role and recruitment of day managers. Day managers will now be responsible, amongst other things, for checking public and product liability insurance (so please carry your documents with you) and that electrical equipment has been PAT tested (needs to have a sticker confirming that the equipment is OK and giving name of tester and date of testing). Day managers also have the final say on whether or not a market is to be cancelled (usually in severe weather conditions).

Advertising the markets

As many of you will have seen, as well as the overall SFM trifold leaflet we now have postcards for each of the 11 markets giving the dates for that market for 2013. We're hoping that these will prove popular with customers, and especially with the majority who mainly use only one of our markets. Would be good if you could pass on any feedback you get.

Greenpeace and Glastonbury Festival

Last year Greenpeace extended their activities at the Glastonbury Festival to include a small farmers' market. It was apparently a great success and they want to expand it next year. They're looking for traders to be organic (where possible) and it's a vegetarian affair (though they might consider sustainable fish products). They also create a large sitting out area so aren't looking for anything that needs cooking by customers themselves. Glastonbury is a five day festival attended by some 180,000 people. If you're interested, please contact Kate Duffy [mailto:Katy.Duffy@greenpeace.org].

Joining SFM

At its first meeting of 2013, the Board will be looking at the paperwork and procedures that we use for recruiting and supporting new members including the criteria for attendance. The criteria are on the SFM website if you want to refresh your memory. Please could you let us have any comments or suggestions.

Comings and goings

The last few months have seen the following producers begin trading with us: the Dorset Shellfish Company, the Chillees/Bumbles, the Hill Bakery, the Unusual Pork Pie Company and Worley's Cider.

We are very sad to say goodbye to Dorset Down Mushrooms who have traded with Somerset Farmers' Markets for many long years and been a mainstay at Wells, Frome, Crewkerne and Wincanton. Their last market will be Sunday 23 December at Frome. Nic and George – we'll all miss you and hope that you'll enjoy your well-earned retirement.