

NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2014

Invoicing

We emailed you at the end of January to say that, in future, all invoices would be sent by email. And everybody who replied was positive about the change! So the new system will begin from March onwards - invoices for the March markets will be emailed to you at the beginning of March, with payment by the end of the month to qualify for the 'pay-by-invoice' discount. To try and help with traders' cash flow, invoices will be issued monthly rather than quarterly.

Frome Super Market

The Frome Super Market will restart in March as The Frome Independent with the strapline 'More than a market'. It will take place on the first Sunday of the month until December (now 10am-3pm) and SFM will continue to have a 24 pitch farmers' market section. The stalls will be slightly more expensive at £35 (and £40 if also selling some hot food on the day). Smaller producers may have the option of stall sharing. Although we are currently full, please get in touch with Louise if you are interested.

Market fees

We've held the market charges constant for the last seven years or so, but costs have been rising steadily. Market fees will therefore go up by £1 with effect from April. The only market we're still unsure about is Wells as we're currently negotiating with Mendip District Council. The worst that can happen though for Wells is an increase of £1.50 rather than £1.

Bridgwater College

We've been asked to pass on the message below:

There is training funding available via LANTRA that we think might be of interest to your members.

Details are on our website here:

<http://www.bridgwater.ac.uk/course.php?sector=6&subject=34&course=1956>

Bradford on Avon trade show

See <http://www.boafood.co.uk/a-local-larder/> for details of a trade show of food and drink producers offering their own locally grown, reared or processed produce.

Canopy hire

We've recently patched up most of our canopies and they look very smart. We're willing to rent out the Zapp canopies for £5 an outing (plus normally the costs of putting up). Members wanting a single canopy though can collect and return it to a market provided it can be fitted into the market schedule. Please contact Louise for further information.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

This year's AGM is scheduled for the evening of Monday 12 May at the Bath & West Showground. Before the meeting you will receive a form asking you if you would like to stand for election to the Board. All you have to do is to find two SFM traders - one to propose you and the other to second you.

The Board is drawn from SFM traders and is responsible for all aspects of our markets. Please do consider standing for the Board. You can contact Steph Keeble or any other Board member via this email address if you would like more information or have any queries. In any case, please put the AGM in your diary - it's also a good social event!