

NEWSLETTER - JUNE 2014

Invoicing arrangements

As you probably know from past newsletters, the Board has been looking closely at the financial systems that we use and has taken advice from our new accountant. To help with traders' cash flow, we reduced the invoice in advance period from quarterly to monthly, but retained the prompt payment discount. Over the past four months we've found that a number of traders for one reason or another cannot pay their invoices on time, but are still getting the discount. It's taking us time (and money) to chase folk for payment and would take yet more time (and money) to put systems in place to clawback the discount and/or to move only selected folk to pay on the day. And there's more fruitful ways to spend your money! The Board has therefore agreed to move towards a pay on the day system for the majority of traders. We'll get in touch with you individually as soon as possible.

Day manager contact details

Change of email address for Frome and new day manager job share for Wells:

Frome	07515 02984	maryrustell@btinternet.com	(Mary Rustell)
Wells	07802 566410	(early morning set up only)	(Garry Matthews)
Wells	07854 783733	donna@ellisfarm.co.uk (everything else)	(Donna Lucking)

Taste of the West

We've had a Silver Award for Crewkerne in the Taste of the West Hospitality & Retail Awards 2014 and a Gold for Wells. Congratulations Chris, Steve and Janet – and all the producers!

Chippenham Food and Drink Festival 19th July

We received the email reproduced below – please get in touch with Sue direct if you're interested.

Name: Sue Thomson Email: s.thomson197@gmail.com

I'm organising Chippenham Food & Drink Festival for Sunday 13th July, 10.00-3.30 - I wonder if you mind letting any traders know if you think they might be interested, the ones who aren't committed to that Sunday. We are already fully booked for cakes, preserves and cider but room for all other products and food to go.

and ... Tri Border Food Show 26th and 27th July

Name: Alistair Duncan Bain Email: triborderfoodshow@hotmail.co.uk

Hello Somerset Farmers Market traders We here at the Tri Border Food Show are offering 50% off all trading fees to everyone at Somerset Farmer's Markets. We would love it if you could come to our show, We have producers/exhibitors who work in & around the three counties, Dorset, Somerset & Wiltshire coming to show off that is why we want you to come. Website for all info: www.triborderfoodshow.co.uk. Please call me 07912732489 to discuss if you want to come or not. Thank you, Alistair

“Cheap loans for farmers”

A member spotted an article in the Frome Standard about a European Investment Bank Fund providing reduced interest rate loans to farmers and other small businesses. The arrangement is through the Agricultural Mortgage Corporation – local agent, Chris Eden of Cooper & Tanner. (We're passing on the information but not recommending).

Heart of the South West Business Support

An advisory service (“free to businesses in predominantly rural areas of Devon and Somerset”) to help businesses grow and develop. It’s funded by Defra, Devon County Council and Department for Transport. You can register an interest at www.business-supportsw.com

WiRE

We received the following from Sue Padfield who hired our canopies for her Open Farm event.

Dear Louise,

I wonder if your lady traders or yourself would be interested in a local network www.wireuk.org?

WiRE has 60 local networks run by volunteers, these are friendly business groups full of inspirational women, sharing experience, skills and connections who meet once a month. Fosse Farm has become the home of Somerset WiRE and I've been asked to be network leader. Our next meeting is next Tuesday July 1st at 7.30pm and any women from your market stalls or other connections would be most welcome to attend. Fosse farm can be found in South Street, Stratton on the Fosse, Radstock BA3 4RA I'd be very grateful if you could promote the event amongst your stall holders, please ask them to pop in for a coffee and chat on the evening or to contact me should they have my further questions.

Many thanks

Kind regards Sue

Sue Padfield 07792 520902 01761 232303

RUN FOR THE LEVELS

The stallholders at Wells donated produce for three hampers which were among the prizes in the raffle at a show held by the Somerset Community Foundation to raise funds for the Somerset Levels – and were applauded for supporting, “the most breath-taking flood relief fundraiser.”