Meeting of the Food Group

The Geldart
18 November 2009
Minutes

1. Present: Jason (Chair), Rowan, Ivan, Pippa, Jackie, Martin, Jerry (Secretary), Dave Fox, Liz, Ceri, Nicola, Lindsey O'Donnell

   Apologies: Kim, Lindsey Berends

2. Previous Minutes

   The minutes of the previous meeting were approved subject to the following correction which Nicola will please make.

   Seed Swap: Replace A4 version by A3 version

3. Matters Arising

   Pippa will contact Ali about his ongoing involvement.

4. Report from Transition East Meeting

   18 Transition groups met up at the Transition East meeting at Diss. Nicola, Pippa and Ivan attended from our group.
   Communications with councillors were discussed. It was noted that councillors varied widely in their outlook: some considering Transition members “eco-fascists”, while others were very supportive.
   James Lockley from Diss took notes on the “Food and Abundance” discussion, which he’s going to send to Pippa. These can then be discussed at our next meeting.
   Nicola is to look at the Transition East website with a view to possibly improving it.

5. Radio 209 Nature’s Voice Slot

   Jackie has five minutes on “Christmas food from an environmentally sensitive perspective” on the 25th November. She suggested providing links to waste food recipes on the web. Various suggestions were made as to what should be included. Useful “soundbites” included “Buy local, buy seasonal, avoid waste” and “Quality not quantity”. The possible future content of the slot was also discussed. Dave suggested the bulletin could be read if nothing more worthwhile was forthcoming for any particular slot. Rowan is to talk to Malcolm from Radio 209.
6. **Mill Road Winter Fair**

The possible displays were discussed. It was decided to use the “Fruit Tree Map”. Dave volunteered to provide medlars and parsnips. Jackie agreed to investigate the possibility of getting fruit from Girton College. It was suggested we should ask people to write down their recipes for waste Christmas food. It was also suggested that a list of “low-impact” presents should be drawn up, such as theatre tickets, “Oxfam unwrapped” (or equivalent from another charity), or personalised vouchers offering services. Please e-mail Martin with ideas for presents.

Rowan is to bring the display boards, while Martin is to bring a lap-top if it can be secured in place. A dropping-off time needs to be given to the event organisers (half hour slots between 8am and 10am).

Provisional Rota:
- Morning: Ivan, Rowan, Martin, Pippa (from 10.30am)
- Midday: Ivan, Pippa, Kim
- Afternoon: Ivan, Jason, Liz.

ps. Remember hat competition (silly and recyclable?)

7. **Grow Your Own (Plans for Next Year)**

Liz offered help on part of her allotment at Stourbridge Grove (off Coldham’s Lane). She also suggested Mark Peckham from Hill’s Road as a possible gardener to help with the course. Possible formats and likely numbers for next year were discussed.

8. **Funding for land registry searches for community growing spaces**

Two possible sites were mentioned, one behind a pub off Histon Road and another near Milton road. A request has been made for us to fund a land registry search for the former site. The cost would be £20 if a definite postcode is known, £37 without. It was decided in principle we would pay half the cost of such searches.

9. **EERA response to plans to 2031**

The East of England Regional Assembly (EERA) consultation on its plans to 2031 ends on the 24th November. It was decided that a response was needed that would include more on food and peak oil. Nicola offered to put a draft response on the forum, ask for suggested amendments and then send off a final response by the deadline.
10. **Storage Area / Succession Planning**

An area is needed to store the display boards, since Dave and Kim will be moving away. The boards actually belong to Trumpington Allotment Society. The United Reformed Church on Cherry Hinton road may be able to store them. Martin is to ask if the Allotment Society still want to store them.

11. **Cambridge Matters**

The next deadline is the 5th February

12. **Seedy Sunday Publicity (Seed Swap 17th January)**

Ceri to produce flyers and posters, then give to someone else to bring to the next meeting. Pippa can produce an A3 poster. Distribution: Rowan Mill Road, Jackie Central Cambridge, Jerry Cherry Hinton.

13. **Sustain**

Dave gave an introduction to the Sustain organisation. Copies of their “Rhubarb” magazine were circulated. It was agreed we should join. Martin will organise payment of the £20 subscription, Ceri to receive Magazine.

14. **Garden Share Update**

Some possible matches are being progressed. Nicola agreed to look at streamlining the procedures and form. It was decided not to proceed with Age Concern for the time being.

15. **Local Food Book**

Ivan has this - it will be circulated around the group.

16. **AOB**

It was suggested we might have a film night, watching DVDs in someone’s home.

Also on the subject of Films, Ivan brought our attention to a new film on the food industry, “Food Inc.”, which the Soil Association are planning to screen in the UK. Ivan’s going to contact them.

Ivan suggested we have a fundraising breadmaking event, along with talks etc.

Ceri noted that Steve from Cutlacks had offered help in wine-making.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday 2nd December, Martin to chair, Nicola to take minutes.