

Plunkett Foundation News

17th February 2012



MAKING LOCAL FOOD OUR FUTURE

SOLD OUT

Tuesday 20th March
The Mermaid Conference
& Events Centre, London

Join us to debate the
future for community food

Thanks to an overwhelming response from the community food enterprise sector, we are pleased to announce that Making Local Food Our Future has now reached capacity and we are no longer accepting bookings.

Delegates from across the spectrum will be in attendance, from students and academics to practitioners, beneficiaries and support organizations – and anyone with an interest in the future of the community food enterprise sector.

Attending the event will be Professor Tim Lang, the UK's leading expert on Food Policy, who will join experts at the landmark conference where 500 people will debate and discuss the future of the community food movement.

He joins Peter Couchman, Chief Executive of Plunkett Foundation, Ed Mayo, Secretary General of Co-operatives UK and Peter Wanless, Big Lottery Fund's Chief Executive at what will be a must-attend event for anyone interested in the future of community food.

Peter Couchman, Plunkett Foundation's Chief Executive and Director of Making Local Food Work, said: "There is a challenging but exciting future for local food. This event will bring together a range of leading individuals, organizations and community food enterprises who want to be part of an enterprising future and want to have a role in shaping its direction, and we are delighted with the response we have received."

Although the conference has now sold out, we do have a waiting list for anyone wishing to add their name in case of cancellations, which can be found at <http://www.mlfwaitinglist.eventbrite.co.uk>

PLUNKETT ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER

Plunkett Foundation on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Plunkett-Foundation/146827248663874?ref=ts>

Plunkett Foundation on Twitter: @PeterCouchman, @Mike_Plunkett, @HarrietPlunkett, @Kat_Plunkett, @MrsM_Plunkett, @James_Plunkett, @Jon_Plunkett.

New Media Trust site launched to encourage community reporting

The Media Trust has now launched their 'Newsnet' site, which aims to be a 'UK-wide hub of community reporters, citizen reporters, citizen journalists and local storytellers, providing them with the tools and skills to get more from their local news, as well as learning from the experience of others.'



Newsnet, funded by the Big Lottery Fund, includes fantastic how-to guides on a range of topics, from creating videos and blogs to what makes 'news' and using social media. It also includes inspirational examples and a members area. The tools on Newsnet are a fantastic resource for community enterprises to help them effectively tell their own stories, engage and gain support from a wide audience and inform their own community of developments with their enterprise, be it launching a campaign to save a

threatened pub or letting people know about a proposed extension to a community shop. The tools can be accessed at <http://newsnet.mediatrust.org/>, and those attending the Village SOS national conference on 27th February (a few free places still available from <http://www.villagesos.org.uk>) will be able to speak directly with Media Trust who will be sharing their expertise.

Community energy challenge launched

The Centre for Sustainable Energy has launched the Co-operative Community Energy Challenge, a new initiative with The Co-operative as part of its Clean Energy Revolution campaign. The Community Energy Challenge will provide 12-18 months of enterprise development, mentoring, technical advice and community facilitation for six to eight communities to start co-operative renewable energy projects. The deadline for expressions of interest is 29th February 2012 – more information can be found at <http://www.cse.org.uk/projects/view/1178>.

Guide to soil organic matter from Farmers Weekly

Farmers Weekly has published a guide on what soil organic matter is, and how to manage it more effectively through agronomic practices and soil amendments, such as compost, farm yard manure and bio-solids.

Organic matter is of fundamental importance to soil structure and ultimately to crop production. But research shows that in many soils levels are dropping, thanks to climate, land use change and inappropriate management. The guide is available online at <http://www.fwi.co.uk/arable/soil-organic-matter/>.

Last chance to book for Village SOS national conference

With the Village SOS national conference just over a week away, there are only a few tickets left for people to attend what will be a landmark event for rural community enterprises.

Featuring experts from across the sector, practitioners, specialist workshops, debates and even an appearance from TV personality Matt Baker, the conference will be a significant event for the rural community enterprise sector. Last minute bookings are being accepted at <http://www.villagesos.org.uk>.