



**BRIDPORT LOCAL FOOD SECURITY**

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**A newsletter from Seeding our Future...  
Issue Two - June 2020**

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Dear friend,

Our June 10 online seminar felt like a big step in creating a more active local conversation about food security, involving a wide range of organisations and individuals. You'll find more info about potential next steps in this newsletter. We'd welcome your active involvement and ideas: you can contact us at [futurescanningprojects@gmail.com](mailto:futurescanningprojects@gmail.com). To see our research report on food security in the local community, click [here](#). If you haven't yet joined our mailing list for future updates, please do so [here](#).

With best wishes

The Seeding our Future Team: Alan, Candida, David, Raja & Rosalind

## **Highlights of June 10 Seminar**

The webinar was very well attended, with over fifty participants. We began with a PowerPoint presentation of highlights from the research. People appreciated the concise and yet informative way the research report was presented. For some it was enough to feel fully briefed about the findings; for others, it drew them to wanting to read the report in full. After the presentation a wide range of topics was raised by participants: some of the main issues raised included:

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- encouraging more residents to engage with the climate challenge, as buyers, cooks and growers in gardens and allotments;
- how to support the farming community, existing and forthcoming, with access to land, secure markets, and guidance on the most appropriate ways to produce food;
- the need to involve the younger generation of citizens, as they will bear the main consequences of how well we all respond now; and
- to note that food security means sustainable healthy food available to all, particularly those with limited income, and not set up as an ideal that is out of reach.

There were some short exchanges on these topics. Participants appreciated the wide range of people and opinions present at the webinar, the inclusive participation, and the freedom of discussion, in spite of the constraints of technology and online platforms. As well as reviewing the research, the webinar became a place to open related subjects, while not yet reaching any conclusions. Rather it set the agenda for continuing information exchange and discussion via the newsletter, on-line, and possibly a further webinar at a future date.

### **Pilot Initiatives: updates**

In response to discussion and suggestions in the June 10 seminar, here is an expanded list of the areas which the Seeding our Future team will be exploring for possible pilot work, mostly in collaboration with other organisations.

1. Allotment holders: See separate item about ambassador allotments.
2. Local growers: we aim to work with several growers to see how consumers can support them with climate adaptive crops and methods.
3. Arable crops: several of the changes advised by the research are around diversifying grain crops, and processing more of them locally for human use. We are creating a briefing document for farmers, and hope to work with several of them on climate adaptation.
4. Land Worker's Alliance: Jyoti Fernandes and LWA colleagues hope to set up a small teaching farm near Bridport with adaptive crops and processing. We'd like to help her with the support and funding to make this happen.
5. Dorset Diet: We'd like to explore adapting the Fife Diet from Scotland, showing how 80% of our food and drink could be produced within our local area.
6. Consumer briefing: we aim to produce a short leaflet on produce choices which are local and sustainable.
7. Local processing/storage: we intend to research pilot opportunities in this area, and clarify costs etc.
8. Community co-operative: there was some interest in this idea in the seminar, as it could enable larger-scale local initiatives. We will do further research on existing role models.

### **Trailblazing Allotments**

#### **Sharing your experience of growing veg at home and on allotments**

We're looking for allotments that could be 'Ambassadors' for climate-smart growing – i.e. are

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willing to use appropriate methods and experiment with different crops. We'll share your experience and tips through our periodic newsletter and a leaflet which highlights some things we can do at home and on allotments to adapt to climate change. Please get in touch even if it just to share a few nuggets of how and what you are growing in this climate, with Candida on [candida@dunfordwood.com](mailto:candida@dunfordwood.com). This will help us gather expertise which can be useful in our community.



### **Early-adopter Ambassador Allotment**

If you are curious about climate-wise ways of producing fruit and veg, you can head down to Edible Garden Project team at St Mary's Primary School to meet the gardeners and see how they have been going about it. They will be happy to show you around, by arrangement, on Wednesdays. Contact Sarah on [sarahwilberforce@gmail.com](mailto:sarahwilberforce@gmail.com) to sort out a visit. Also, if you are interested in setting up a school allotment, Tia Perrella at the Edible Garden Project will be happy to share their experience. With fewer children in school, during the COVID-19 pandemic, they are taking their surplus healthy fresh produce to the Cupboard Love food bank, based at St. Mary's Church.

### **Updates from Bridport Local Food Group**

This month's Seeding Our Future webinar has started an important exploration of how our local food system can adapt to the coming challenges of climate change, just as the recent

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pressures of Covid-19 are revealing how adeptly the Bridport area's independent food and drink producers and suppliers can innovate during exceptional times.

Short supply chains are crucial to the food security issues described by Elise Wach's Growing Through Climate Change report and have always been essential to these enterprises – never more so than during lockdown as bespoke box schemes and delivery systems were established by food shops like Washingpool and Fruits of the Earth, while cafes and pubs like The Red Brick and The Ilchester Arms offered takeaways and deliveries. This extraordinary period has deepened our gratitude for people working with food – they have become valued as key workers as well as farmers or cooks or shopkeepers. Tapping into this appreciation and the expansion of buying direct could give scope for enlisting support for a future specialist box scheme of climate adaptive produce. Read more on this from Bridport Local Food Group [here](#).



## Local Growing Projects

### Agroecological Growing Experiments



Haypenny Market Garden is finally back at Bridport market. They have just harvested the results of their first of this season's three experimental crops. Lally explains "what with a lack of inside space, and our English summers seeming to get nothing but hotter and drier on the whole, I thought that perhaps observing this stark trend, foretold for decades now, we could, as growers on a heating planet, try a small experiment in growing with it, in utilising it, in adapting. A bed of Padron Peppers outside, but with the protection and heat of a low-tech low tunnel."



To see more about their market garden in action, there's a short film:

<https://www.facebook.com/justinowenfilms/videos/519651672210970>

### **Other events**

**Setting up and running cooperative sales & purchasing models for farmers and food systems: 24 June, 19.00 – 20.30 hrs**

How can different farms work together to enjoy the benefits of cooperative systems?

This event is run by the Landworkers Alliance. Speakers: Helen Woodcock (Kindling Trust) Danny Fisher, (Better Food Shed), Alex Lawrie, (Somerset Cooperative Services CIC) [More info and booking](#)

**Community food growing post lockdown: Wednesday 1 July 10.30am-12pm**

A webinar organised by Sustainable Food Places and Sustain for Capital Growth and Good to Grow gardens and food growing networks to stay connected, share latest updates and developments, how gardens and networks are responding and adapting to the gradual lifting of social distancing and to identify areas for support and collaboration.

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[More info and booking](#)

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