

BRIDPORT FOOD MATTERS



Simon Holland, Washingpool Farm & Shop | Photo by Robert Golden

Many experts believe the main problem from climate change for Britain in coming years will be food supply shortages, and food price increases due to crop failures in various countries.

The Bridport community has a real chance to improve the security of its food supplies, prepare for further impacts from climate change, and strengthen the local economy and provision for those needing food support in these times of uncertainty. **Seeding our Future** is a non profit local project which is partnering with **Bridport Local Food Group** and **Transition Town Bridport** to help our community's food security.

The good news for Dorset is that we can grow more of the food we need. This requires new cultivation methods and crops, to handle both heavy rain and longer droughts. When consumers are willing to increase what we buy from local farmers and local retailers, our producers can adapt and expand production. The **Growing through Climate Change** research report shows how this can be done.

Community Cooking Kit / Photo: Ines Cavill



TO FIND OUT MORE

For our **Growing Through Climate Change** research, and other **Seeding Our Future** reports on Bridport food security and climate change work so far, see futurescanning.org/local-communitie/

For latest local food news and resources including a list of suppliers and retailers, and recipes using affordable, local seasonal food, and also how to use the Community Cooking Kit (pictured below) for events, visit The **Bridport Local Food Group's** website: www.bridportfoodfestival.co.uk

For information about the Edible Garden Project and other local climate change initiatives, visit **Transition Town Bridport's** website: www.transitiontownbridport.co.uk

Subscribe to our newsletter for updates and to find out more about affordable cookery classes and other future events, via: futurescanning.org/local-communities

This leaflet was produced in November 2020 by Seeding our Future in partnership with Bridport Local Food Group and Transition Town Bridport.



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Buying healthy seasonal food from local outlets is a simple way to:

- ✓ Help yourself
- ✓ Help the local economy
- ✓ Help fight climate change

WHAT'S ALREADY HAPPENING

Farmers and growers are starting to offer new products. For example:

- o Tamarisk Farm can supply polished or pearl barley as a local alternative to rice.
- o Springtail Farm market garden stall on Saturday market includes new crops to adapt to climate change.
- o Fruits of the Earth and Waste Not Want Not are selling locally-made non-dairy milk.



Springtail Farm / Photo: Justin Owen

Making food more affordable

More families are short of money due to the pandemic. There are now several projects in Bridport helping with food poverty, including workshops on cooking from scratch, and a glut stall.

Growing your own

The pandemic has led to a big rise in home growing. Bridport has a Garden Glut and a Grow Your Own Facebook Group, and also now has an Ambassador Allotment scheme, where some experienced home growers share their tips, including how to cope with climate change.



Allotment Ambassadors / Photo: Candida Dunford Wood

WHAT'S BEING PLANNED?

A Bridport Local Food Hub?

This could include several activities using existing premises to start with. For example:

- o Affordable cooking classes and socials
- o Information resource and networking space
- o Kitchen to produce preserves etc. for sale
- o New expanded website and more use of social media. This would develop from the current Bridport Local Food Group site, with more information on suppliers, food poverty projects, affordable recipes etc.



Schoolchildren making Pesto / Photo: Robert Golden

Dorset Diet

Why not aim for 80% of the food you consume to be produced within 25 miles of where you live?

Plans are underway to publicise what produce is available locally, including new products.

Land and support for new producers

Current local fruit and veg suppliers have limited capacity. Land and startup funds would enable new growers and small farmers to set up. The Landworkers Alliance (Jyoti Fernandes and others) are leading on this: see landworkersalliance.org.uk/supporting-new-entrants

The emerging Bridport Growers Cooperative is seeking land close to Bridport for members to grow food.



Bridport Basket / Photo: Ines Cavill

HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED

Buy from local independent retailers and growers where possible. Many of them offer online ordering and home delivery.

www.bridportfoodfestival.co.uk/2020/latest-news/food-and-drink-delivery-services

Grow your own! Lots of resources available: see www.bridportallotmentsociety.co.uk or Facebook **Bridport Grow Your Own** groups etc.

Support food poverty initiatives by donations of food or money to the **Community Fridge** and **Cupboard Love**, and to the Thursday morning **Glut Stall** at St. Swithun's Church.

Volunteer and help us: you could support our work with cookery classes, information-sharing and lots more. Contact us at bridportfoodclimate@gmail.com.

Share your skills. We welcome help from experienced gardeners, cooks, educators, creative event organisers and more.

Sign up for a periodic newsletter to keep informed: futurescanning.org/local-communities



Bridport Food Festival / Photo: Neil Barnes