

Rachel Millson

Rachel spoke about BFM's We Dig No Dig project (WDND) which has been going since spring. She described the opening with Dr Compost, Nicky Scott, who showed locals how to build the pallet compost structures, and the first raised bed with the Cowshed allotment on the path to the medical centre. Rachel referenced the inspiration of Pam Warhurst founder of Incredible Edible, Todmorden. This is a whole town with food growing in public places and Rachel recommended listening to Pam's TED talk. WDND have a Facebook page.

Joseph Davies-Coates

Joseph highlighted two projects he is running.

1. The Bridport Food Cooperative is a bulk food purchasing group. Information on BFM Resources page <https://www.bridportfoodmatters.net/community-initiatives/>
2. MMMM – Monday Movie Meal & Mingling. Every other Monday

Joseph can be found on josef@uniteddiversity.coop

Jon Scott

Jon described his work in the two Edible Gardens of St. Mary's and Bridport Primary schools – part of the Initio Learning Trust. Also the HOME Community Allotment in the Skilling estate. He emphasised the issue of Food Security must start with education and children. He recalled how kids love jumping into big holes made for plant a tree or staring at a piece of flint they had found. Jon quoted **Thomas Morton** (c. 1579–1647) an early colonist in North America from [Devon](#), England who said there was no place until 'community is present'.

Jon also said the "Council is a bit of alright".

Jon appealed for volunteers at the two schools for gardening and/or working with children. Contact Sarahwilberfore@gmail.com if you would like to see school(s)

Dave Dixon – Community Projects Manager BTC

He had 4 projects to report on:

1. Bridport Learning Hub. Transitioning to the Future – will include Food Security. Information can be found on the BTC website
2. BTC's Climate and Ecological Action Plan. It has changed its emphasis with respect to helping strengthen community-led groups. He calls it 'Think and Do'
3. The Bridport Food Security Plan event. Presentation by Ele Saltmarsh. Thursday 5th October at 7pm. WI Hall.
4. Wessex Community Assets talking about growing hemp and the problems of processing. Wednesday 4th October at 7pm, WI hall

Steve Meeks

Recently retired, he has taken over the Orchard Community Allotment and from February next year he is hoping to start teaching how to grow food throughout the season, starting with germination.

Nigel Crawley

Nigel, a Botanical Alchemist, described his interest in herbs, both for culinary and medicinal use. He is interested in working with others.

A connection was made with Mary-Clare Buckle, part of Bridport Health Alliance.

Marie-Clare Buckle

Marie-Clare has a self-sufficient food and herb garden in Abbotsbury. There are 3 of them. They run day courses. Also, they are part of the Bridport Health Alliance which has a social media handle and will soon have a website. Presently raising money to run more course. And to go into schools.

A connection with Nigel Crawley.

Chit Chong & Lucy Sommers

They spoke of their recently acquired land Cock Crowing farm just outside Bridport, and their plans to make a Food Forest which was important for localism. They also are studying how climate change means that it is possible to grow different trees and bushes, such as pecan nuts, persimmon and stone fruit. They are still in planning stage, but are planting trees this autumn and creating a deer proof fence. Agroforestry is needed due to weaker food security. They need volunteers.

A connection with Sue Belgrave over advising on planting nut trees.

Sue Belgrave.

Sue has a large garden and runs a growing project. It is called West Lodge project and is near Piddlehinton. She is interested in people who might volunteer there and bring children to garden.

Peter Wilson

Peter is the chair of Bridport Local Food group which runs the Food Festival in June each year. There is a relatively new committee, and they are keen to involve more people on the steering Group. AGM in November.

He would like many of the groups represented here tonight to use the Festival as a shop window for what they are doing; ideally this could be as part of Bridport Food Matters' marquee.

Sue Beckers

Sue is a retired GP who is in conversation with Dorset NHS about pre-diabetes via nutrition and working with children about their health. In particular she is compiling educational materials for teaching children how to distinguish healthy food and ultra-processed food. She has been working with the friendly food club.

A connection: Sue is meeting with the Edible Gardens teams very soon

Ines Ford

Ines runs the children marquee at the Food Festival, with Debbie Smith, every year. She has a catering truck which needs a new home. It is fully functional with water/electric hitch ups. Presently housed at the Discover Farming centre at Washingpool Farm. It is ready to be used but can no longer be driven. She is looking for another project to take it on; the farm will deliver it to a local destination. **A connection:** discussion with Chit and Lucy about possibility of locating the Food Truck on their land.

Sarah Wilberforce 15/09/23