

## BFM Food Gathering at Watercleaves

3 April 2025



Over 35 people came together over a delicious meal to celebrate Bridport Food Matters' recent registration as a Community Benefit Society. We were also celebrating the collective hard work and achievements of so many for so long, which have contributed to Bridport's Food Security Plan and to being recognised once again as a Sustainable Food Place, joining a UK network of food thinkers.



Young and old participated from across the food and farming system – agro-ecological producers, caterers and restaurateurs, landworkers, gardeners, community composters and activists, new economy advocates, cookery educators, nutritionists and retired GPs working on food in primary schools, policy-makers, food festival and glut stall organisers, and more.

The 'open mic' session brought rapturous applause every time as many people shared their project information, and young people brought inspiration and shared experience from other towns.





We sat at long tables, and not next to our existing friends.

New connections were made and there was a fantastic sense of community spirit and shared endeavour.

Comments on the night include:

*This was great... It was a really brilliant chance to meet with other people who are doing different*

*projects around the community .... lovely to be able to hear What's Going On and get some dates in the diary because there's so many exciting things happening at the moment which you wouldn't hear about necessarily, so a really good way to connect with people.*



*Thank you so much for arranging this event it was absolutely marvellous. I have always been involved in growing sharing nurturing things, and this is so promising, what we have just spoken about. There was so much information to take in, and so many emails exchange and I'm really looking forward to this. I'm going to be sharing all my excess allotment produce, and just helping out with things whatever needs to be done. I'd love to fund it and support it.*

*Bridport is addressing the challenges surrounding sustainable food, production and healthy food system with a tenacity and motivation of someone much larger with many more resources. I think that's because all the people involved are so driven and so motivated and just really resourceful and incredible and it's meetings like this that help make that happen. It's been great fun.*



*It's been such a wonderful evening, from the flowers on the table to the company and the wonderful spread of food. Above all, the cross fertilisation of ideas with people talking about everything from bio-regionalism to compost, wooden play to political marches. Everyone was mixing ideas and it's just led to a wonderful spirit with Community.*





*I'm inspired by the words grow- cook-eat-share because I think that brings together so many of us, and the initiatives that are running.*

*I think the amazing thing about Bridport Food Matters is that it is bringing people and things together, acting like a hub, getting these ideas to link up, and it's making community. And because of those interconnections, something really exciting and positive is going to happen.*

*I found it incredibly inspiring to be here tonight, so other proactive creatively thinking people who were all wanting to do something really constructive around the theme of food and sustainable ways of supporting the community locally. I felt it was so worth my while coming tonight.*

*We have just started Cock Crowing farm which will produce climate resilient food and as well as agro-forestry systems. We've come to this event with Bridport Food Matters and we have met a lot of people who we feel will be able to help us take us to the next stage of our farm so we can grow lots of wonderful food for people who have restaurants and people want to eat really interesting food that will increase the climate resilience of Bridport.*



Among other things, for BFM, the event led to increased community involvement in our plans for Nourish (our food hub), particularly by a couple of young people; a donation of a professional Coffee machine; a new volunteer to help with our forthcoming Plant Swap in May; and a key volunteer to help fundraise for the Bridport Food Festival.