

Food Coop Newsletter No. 2 and a half

still June 07

www.ipswichripplefoodcooperative.co.uk

www.myspace.com/ipswichripplefoodcoop

Update from Meeting last Tuesday

Food Coop volunteer meetings, for new people to get involved and to keep everything running smoothly; to keep our bellies lined with homemade cake and gullets wetted with free sample coffee, will be held bi-monthly at either the Emperor pub or the Sally Ann hall. Next: 7pm for 7:30 start 26th July.

As before, members valiantly offered their services for tasks as diverse as admin, membership card and product tag design and sealing potential cracks in the container with environmental polyfilla!

Can you lend a hand on Food Coop stalls, or know events we could hold one at? Confirmed dates include Indian Mela Sunday 8th July - can you give up an hour that afternoon?

One of our aims is to provide recipes and basic product info; which is currently not on display. The mechanism for this happening is YOU! Yes you, yourselves, the members of the Food Coop. Each session we have a Product of the Month display which anybody can research and put together - if everybody does this for their fave food and then turns it into a product fact sheet we'll have it all covered in no time.

People down on the volunteer rota are going to be singled out for spreadsheet torture so as to learn how to make Orders. Until now, the process has been haphazard, but a system has been put in place, and as with everything Food Coop related, it is magical. A technically-minded member has devised a macro-majig which can make Order-ers lives bliss, so look out! You might find yourself strapped in front of a laptop staring at an Excel file next week!

Fresh Produce

So far there has been a variety of sellers outside the walls of the Sally Ann hall - with rhubarb jelly, potted herbs and veg seedlings and dried medicinal herbs and tinctures available.

Whilst this is exactly what we want to encourage, we've been looking for a more consistent supply of fresh veg.

The coop has been negotiating with fellow social enterprise Growing Places to become a collection point for their veg box scheme. Growing Places is an (uncertified) organic small holding in Claydon which acts as a vocational training centre for those with learning difficulties.

Because they deliver into Ipswich on Fridays, they can drop boxes off to us

whilst we're receiving other deliveries, for members to pick up when we're open the next day.

If you want a box of locally produced, seasonal veg, place an order next time you come to a session - it will be payment in advance, not on collection. If you want home delivery instead ring 01473 831 224 or email growingplaces@socserv.suffolkcc.gov.uk - small boxes are £6 and family boxes (8 items) are £8.

Alternatively, if you want to be more involved in your veg sourcing, or need more growing space, coop member Rona is seeking partners to help set-up a cooperative organic farm project in the area. Contact her: rona@greenfootsteps.com / 328910

Launch of Cooperatives EAST & Building Communities Fund

Several of us went to the launch of new regional coop support body; Coops EAST last Wednesday at the Coop Education centre. Since it was free to join, the food coop is now a member. We participated in some workshops facilitated by local worker's coop 1st Question, and found out about the Building Communities fund, which has £3m to give away to coop / community groups in the next 2 years to purchase their own building or facility. Ring Cooperative and Community Finance, who are the administrators for this fund, or come to a meeting of local groups and individuals who want to work together to pull this money into Ipswich on 24th July, 3:30pm at the Coop Education Centre, Foundation St.

Give us more accurate Figures

Our fortnightly spend on goods has

varied from £400 to £700, and the figure for sales has been around £500-£600 each time; we're just about getting the outgoings and income synchronised. We have 101 members, averaging 10 join-ups each opening. We have around 100 products in stock, though we experiment with new things each time - the latest and most popular being Chocolate Rice Cakes. Once receipts for to-date purchases are submitted, a further £1500 from Big Boost will be granted (for marketing and training). Our bank balance stands at around the same sum, having paid back both members' start-up loans.

Random NewsBites

* Suma's catalogue gets updated to www.suma.co.uk/downloadlinks - go there to check out new products, price changes and the interesting editorial pages. There's also a PDF cookbook and fact sheets for various products.

*We now have customized ramps into the building at the back, to allow sack-barrow access to the container where we store the produce. Back-strain begone! Plus we are now key-holders of the hall, making it even easier for us to operate.

*A student at UEA in Norwich contacted the coop as she is making a database of local food projects in the area. Once completed the directory will be found here: www.norwichfoodweb.org.uk/

*A PhD student at Coventry Uni grilled Gemma about our coop a few weeks ago, her research is funded by the Soil Association for their new campaign Action Organic, which seeks to catalogue 'buying groups' across the country.

*Norfolk based Eostre Organics' project officer rang too, to find out more about us and ask whether they could help with veg sourcing!
www.eostreorganics.co.uk



Projects Members want Now!

- **Packing down** certain products to make buying them quicker
- **Gathering** local wild food in season to bring to the coop
- **Herbs workshop** delivered by our in-house herbalist :-)
- **Womens Environmental Network workshop** - make your own eco-friendly toiletries and house-hold cleaners

If you can help, are interested in any of these ideas or have your own ideas for the coop - use the contact details below!

How did the Food Coop get its funds?

'Ipswich Ripple CIC', 119 Jovian Way, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP1 5AW

ipswichripplecic@googlemail.com

For Ordering, Membership and Admin stuff;

Gemma: 07816 146 567 or

sayersgemma@googlemail.com

Helen: 07759 068 391 or h_milne14@yahoo.co.uk

For Website stuff;

admin@ipswichripplefoodcooperative.co.uk

To speak with other members go to the Food Coop forum through the link on our website and come to the bi-monthly meetings

To organise liftshares;

Rona - lives in Tattingstone, rona@greenfootsteps.com or 328 910

Marilyn & John - live at St Leonards Rd, Racecourse, violetonions@hotmail.co.uk or 721 952

Eileen - lives at Reading Rd, nr the hospital, eileen.spellbound@hotmail.co.uk / 425 649

There are clusters of members in Stow/ Needham Market, Martlesham Heath, the Shotley peninsula, California, Chantry, Swiland/Hemingstone. If you can offer transport or don't mind being a contact for any of these areas, tell Gemma.

We have been financially supported by Suffolk ACRE, who gave us £720 in Community Development Grant, as well as offering us Money Management training and signposting us to other funders. They are going to do a piece on us in their quarterly magazine, Suffolk Scene. Thankyou Cynthia Shears, their Social Enterprise Project manager.
www.suffolkacre.org.uk

The bulk of our money came through the Big Boost Fund, a Lottery programme aimed at 'yoof', which Gemma managed to be eligible for. They gave us just over £3000 to use as working capital and for training and marketing - yay!

www.thebigboost.org.uk

External funding wasn't the be-all-and-end-all though, because it was actually 2 members who offered bridging loans totalling £1600 that physically kick-started us on 21st April. This is in addition to the £632 contributed in membership fees, proving it truly was a collective effort!

Members of the coop are involved in...

Ipswich & Gipping Valley LETS myspace.com/ipswichlets, **Random Camel Housing Coop** myspace.com/ipswichhousingcoop, **Greenpeace** ipswichgreenpeace.tripod.com/campaigns.htm, **a community allotment project at Maidenhall, the Hollies allotment, Green Drinks** biothinking.com/greendrinks/index.php?country=UK&city=Ipswich, **Organic Gardeners group** greenlivingcentre.org.uk/about.htm, **Town & Bridge project, the East Anglian Social Forum** easf.org.uk, **Centre for Alternative Technology** cat.org.uk, **Ipswich Womens History Group, Ipswich Anarchists, Ipswich Community Radio** icrfm.co.uk, **Suffolk Singer Songwriters...**