



Bringing Organisations & Network Development
to higher levels in the Farming sector in Europe

UK Study Tour Programme, April 2018

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Welcome

On behalf of the BOND Project, the Landworkers' Alliance welcomes you to the UK Study Tour from 23rd to 27th April, 2018. Please read through this information to help you prepare for the trip.

Travel details have been discussed with all participants. Please feel free to speak with Laurie or Jyoti at any point before or during the tour. If you have arranged to be reimbursed for any payments you are making toward your travel, please remember to keep your receipts. Each participant will be given £25, the equivalent of £5 per day, to spend as needed.

Our input is just as important to this tour as our observation. We ask all participants to come prepared to speak for five to ten minutes about your own farm, project, or business, and any networks or cooperatives that you work with. What are your own goals, and what are the challenges (and the benefits!) involved in your everyday work? **Please bring a small item with you to share with the group, something that symbolises your work.** We also encourage everyone to bring a camera, tape recorder, sketch pad, violin... whatever will help you best record, preserve, and express your experience during the week. AND help you remember and share afterwards.

Please bring appropriate coats and boots for walking across farmland in wet weather. A warm jumper's a good idea in the UK this time of year, too, especially if you're from someplace warmer. BOND is on twitter [@BOND_project_EU] and facebook [@bondprojecteurope] now, so you can join in the conversation with the rest of the 60-strong tour participant community. Oh, and our website has just launched: <https://www.bondproject.eu/>.

Overview

A goal of the BOND Project, as you know, is to gather and share information about different strategies for strengthening the position of farmers on the local, national, and European levels. The Landworkers' Alliance, tasked with organising the UK tour, has centred it on the themes of community, cooperation, and connection. We're particularly interested in strategies used to strengthen local networks in keeping with the challenges and needs of different environments (rural, urban, in-between) and on different scales of production. And we're choosing to focus mainly on projects and initiatives with agroecology and food sovereignty principles at heart.

We'll be looking at different formulations of farming and responses to practical necessities, adding value, shortening supply chains, and re-connecting producers and consumers. These will include communitysupported agriculture (CSA), a smallholders' cooperative, a nationwide producers' union, an rural/urban producers/consumers network, a marketing tool developed by producers to reframe the market for their product, and... oh, an M-road service station. We will take time every day to reflect on our experience together. And on the last night, we're throwing a little party.

Introductions

Our tour group includes ten European participants, two interpreters, three BOND representatives from Coventry University, the Project's filmmaker, and three from the LWA.

Iulian DUTU Romania

My name is Iulian, I'm 48 and in 2010, together with my family (wife and 2 kids), we decided to leave behind our city life in Bucharest and move to a tiny village near Retezat Mountains, somewhere 400 km away from the capital.

Here my wife teaches English to the kids in surrounding villages and I bake bread, take care of the garden, orchard, and the few sheep that we keep around the house. And occasionally I teach other people how to bake sourdough bread, pizza and pies at home.

I'm a member of Eco Ruralis, a small peasants grassroots association which promotes organic and traditional farming. Eco Ruralis is a member of the European Coordination Via Campesina and distributes traditional seeds to peasants through a very successful spring campaign which takes place every year. Eco Ruralis also promotes access to land and fights against land grabbing in Romania and is coordinating WWOOF activities in the country.

I wished to take part of the BOND study tour to learn more about other people's struggles and to share their solutions with my fellow colleagues in Eco Ruralis, to see how they deal with their problems and find out more about peasant life in Britain.

Dora FERNANDEZ CABALEIRO Spain

Ribeira do Navia is an associated work cooperative, constituted in 2011 in Negueira de Muñiz. The cooperative activity also includes commercial and catering activities. Ribeira do Navia opens its production through markets and fairs, and its articles can also be found in shops and associations of fair trade and organic products.

We would like to participate in the BOND project because both in our cooperative, as a personal project, and in the Sindicato Labrego Galego CCLL, we try to do the individual, the collective, so that all the people who participate in a project of these characteristics are in the obligation to transmit it to their partners. We have been promoting agroecology for more than 20 years, and we firmly believe in this way of life. Knowing other experiences, and other forms of collective work is very important, because it strengthens us as a collective. We consider that our personal project lines fit perfectly with the lines of work of the BOND project.

Project work lines:

- marketing in baskets and markets of fresh and processed products.
- Implementation of a Participatory Guarantee System.
- Revitalization and creation of new sales spaces - local markets.
- Transformation of fresh products: jams and juices.
- Bioconstruction, forestry works that helps keep forests alive.
- Project directed by women and always with a gender perspective.
- Community works in a community occupied more than 20 years ago - collaborative works.

Tomas FRANEK Czech Republic

I have permaculture farm. I care for 50 hectares of land. I grow fruits, vegetables, I keep a small number of animals. I run a handicraft and carpenter and I start food production. As a peak of permaculture design, I run a creative and conference center with accommodation and meals.

I wish to see small farms that are successful in natural farming incl. of its business model.

I wish to see the production of food from local farm raw materials.

I want to set an example in land and landscape care, to cooperate and present best land care practices.

I will present this care in my creative center.

Dorka HARAZIN Hungary

The aim of MEGY Egyesület (Mindenegyüttmegy Egyesület/Association) is to bring together people who are committed to build a new ecologically conscious life. Our main project is a festival, called Gyüttment Fesztivál, which is an annual meeting of farmers, villagers, craftsmen, experts, students and those two have just moved or want to move to the countryside from the city. We not only invite people who are willing to shape new means of country life, but also motivate them to catalyze their local communities.

I joined the main organiser two years ago and since then we set up our association with the fellow organisers.

My focus is on the programmes, I am responsible for the professional content of the Festival.

I hope to find inspiration in the successful networks and good examples of cooperation and collaboration among farmers or other stakeholders and implement them in our work to help people to succeed financially on their own.

Martin ROSENBAUM Czech Republic

A small scale sheep dairy farmer running family based farm LUKAVA in northern Czech Republic. His more than two decades' interest and experience with organic farming is now focused on promoting CSA, access to land issue, training new entrants in Czech context. He has been collaborating with AMPI and NGO Cooland since 2016 to promote peasant farming in Czech as well as trying to establish training program for new farmers. Farma Lukava is focusing on promoting modern horse-powered farming.

Mireia VIDAL GONZALEZ Spain

Mireia is a young producer who also makes jams and other canned vegetables. She is an active member of COAGCV, she participates in the Participatory Guarantee System in Valencia, has worked on the new Valencian regulation to produce and sell in short supply chains, works with the youth group of COAG at the state level, participated in ECVC's 7th conference in the Basque Country last year and has contact with LVC. After several years dedicated to production and dynamisation in my territory, participating in the BOND project is a very good opportunity to learn successful experiences from other places to try to extract the lessons that can benefit my organization.

Marcin Wojcik Poland

My name is Marcin Wójcik, I am from Poland. I live in the mountains in Małopolska (Lesser Poland). I have a passion for nature and agriculture allows me to be in constant contact with it nature. By education I am a forester and farmer, but ecology is my passion. I have been running an organic farm since 2004. Currently there are about 200 cattle, 30 pigs, 2 horses, 5 goats, and bees on the farm. The farm consists of 270 hectares of land: the majority of that is occupied by natural meadows, the rest is forest. Last year I started to introduce agroforestry systems onto my farm. I use existing trees I've also planted an orchard with old varieties of fruit trees. I'm also crazy about hedgerows with hawthorn. In the last five years, I have planted nearly 1200m of hedges.

I also run OIKOS Company that sells organic beef. Last year I started building a farmers' association, Lesser Poland Organic Beef Cluster. We would like to bring the best practice to our farms, organize supply chains as well as direct and indirect sales, build our local organic brand. and get a good position in the local market.

Julian Dragos IORDANESCU Romania

My name is Iordanescu Dragos Iulian and I came from Romania. Since I was a child I was very attracted by nature and everything that is natural. Maybe the reason is that I grew up in a village, with my grandparents, who did many traditional things. After a very active modern life, with schools, academy, engineering, etc., I took the decision to quit all of this and return to a traditional lifestyle. Ten years ago I started to study seriously natural medicine, healthy behaviors, intelligent agriculture, mushrooms, trees and medicinal plants. For 3 years I realized for me and my family a biological garden where I am growing about 100 species of vegetables and plants. I am also a traditional seeds protector and keeper.

In 2015 I joined Eco Ruralis, which is an organization where we can share a lot of experiences and help each other in different ways. Here I met a lot of complex people with very interesting lives. Our goals are to protect family agriculture and gardens, to stop intensive monoculture agriculture, to protect and keep traditional seeds and to fight for small farmers rights.

Ewa CZAP Poland

"Źródła" is an organization dealing with the education of children and adults in the field of ecology used in the life of the population, global education, training of ecological educators. EUL is an alternative university based on the Danish folk high school and Grundtvig's concept of teaching through collaboration. EUL educates young organic farmers.

I have graduated Ecological Folk University in Grzybów, in which I have been studying knowledge and skills related to organic farming for the last two years. The university is the next stage of my development in the field of ecological and global education. Currently, I am in the phase of creating a project, in a city with a social garden and a workshop room, focused on gardening and agriculture, permaculture, craft, city food production, on small areas, animal husbandry, teaching people ways of natural building, which I also deal with. Over the past year, I have gained experience in Slovakia working on farms and cooperating with farmers in mapping old native tree

varieties, spreading the idea of permaculture, working with the editor of the magazine *Doma v zahradě*- oriented on organic crops, native cultivation and seed exchange and associating people to work with earth, and soil. I would like very much to take part in the project. I allowed myself to pass the information on to our southern neighbors in the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

Lucy SAVILLE UK

OrganicLea is a community food project and workers cooperative based in the Lea Valley in north-east London. We produce and distribute food and plants locally and inspire and support others to do the same. At our heart, we are working to bring people together to take action towards a more just and sustainable society.

I primarily undertake OrganicLea's outreach work, working in the community to support people to grow their own food. I have recently become involved with OrganicLea's System Change activities so I am excited to be involved in the BOND project. I am looking forward to making new connections with like-minded organisations, to share in our experiences and to take my learnings back to OrganicLea.

Our Interpreters

Martina OByrne is a freelance translator and interpreter and translation studies researcher, with many years of professional and voluntary experience. Of Czech origin, she currently works and lives with her husband and two children in the South-East of Ireland.

Joel Lopez-Ferreiro is a freelance translator and interpreter who often works for social movements. Born and raised in London, he has family from Galicia in Northwest Spain.

Our Project Representatives

Coventry University Project Coordinator Angela Hilmi, Alex Franklin, Julia Wright
Filmmaker Gaetano Naccarato
Landworkers' Alliance Jyoti Fernandes, Laurie Walters, Mary Durling

Accommodation

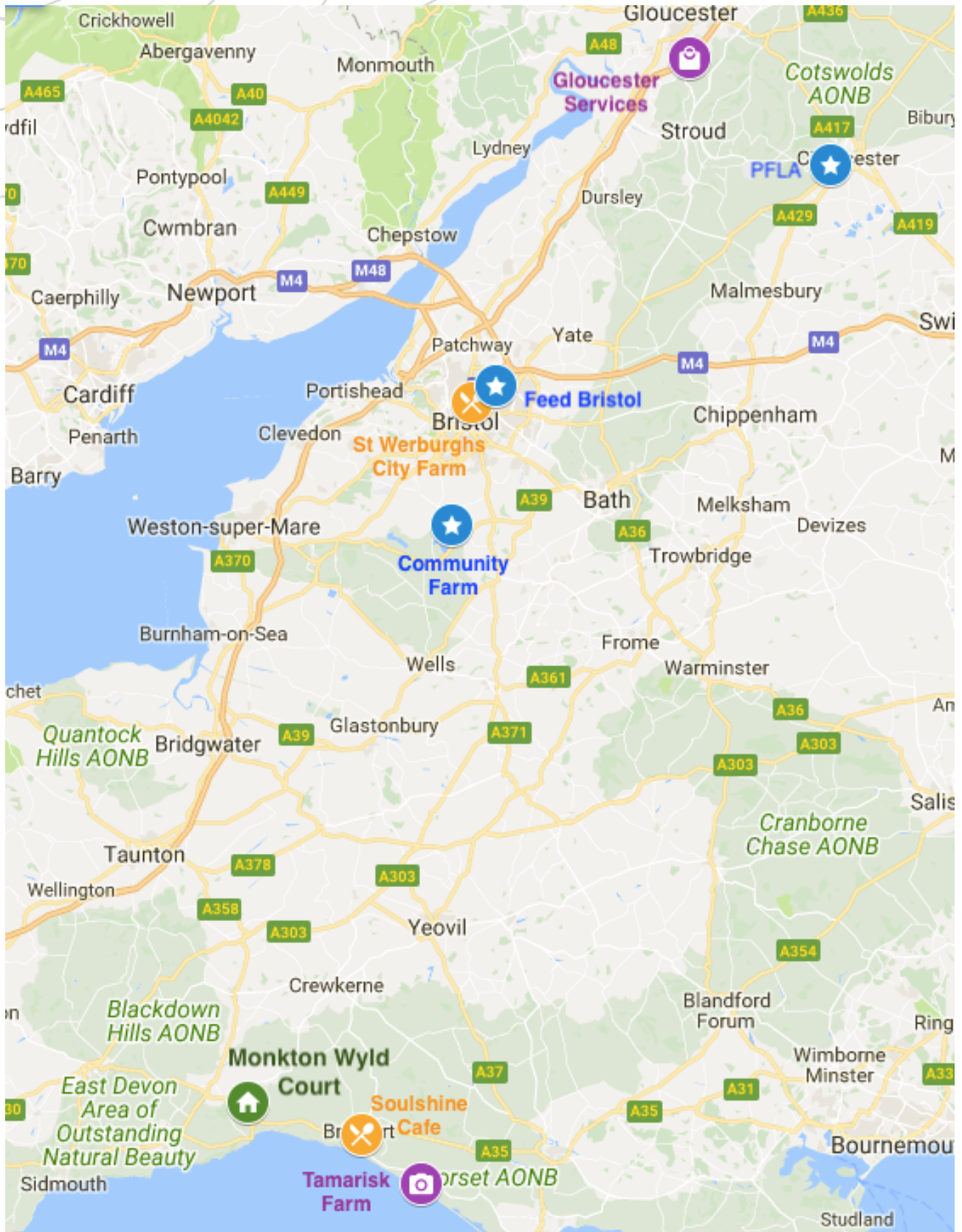
Your home for the week will be Monkton Wyld Court (MWC) near Lyme Regis, Dorset, DT6 6DQ.
<http://monktonwyldcourt.co.uk/>
+44 (0)1297 560342

This venue, at different times a rectory, a boarding school and (very briefly) a hotel, has for the past few decades been home to an intentional community with a commitment to promoting sustainable lifestyles. The accommodation is simple and homely, the setting is beautiful, and the vegetarian meals are prepared in part from the walled garden and small dairy herd on site. Rooms are dorm-style and toilet facilities are shared. Breakfast and dinner will be at MWC every day, with lunches at various restaurants committed to sourcing local produce.

Contacts

Laurie 07832 786427
Jyoti 07875 849754

Map



https://drive.google.com/open?id=1FRzEkIfEKqmMQ_OQO7HinLEkyyM7PTCk&usp=sharing

Schedule

These details are subject to change.

Monday, April 23rd

14:00 ~ 19:00 Participants arrive into Axminster Train Station
18:30 Tour of MWC (optional)
19:00 ~ Dinner at MWC
20:30-22:30 DISCUSSION: BOND and the UK Study Tour

Tuesday, April 24th

7:00 ~ Breakfast at MWC
8:30-10:30 DISCUSSION: Participant Introductions
10:30-11:00 TRAVEL
11:00-12:30 CASE STUDY: Landworkers' Alliance
(incl. Peasant Evolution Producers' Cooperative) at Fivepenny Farm
12:30-13:00 TRAVEL
13:00 Lunch at Soulshine Cafe
14:30-15:00 TRAVEL
15:00 VISIT: Tamarisk Farm
16:30-17:00 TRAVEL
17:00-19:00 DISCUSSION: Day 1 Review
19:00 Dinner at MWC
20:30-22:30 TALK: Ruth O'Brien of Steepholding, Ecological Land Coop

Wednesday, April 25th

6:30 Breakfast at MWC
7:00-9:00 TRAVEL
9:00 VISIT: The Community Farm CSA
10:30-11:00 TRAVEL
11:30 CASE STUDY: Bristol Food Network
12:30 VISIT: St Werburghs City Farm
13:30 Lunch at City Farm Cafe
14:30-15:00 TRAVEL
15:00 VISIT: Edible Futures of Feed Bristol
16:00 VISIT: Sims Hill Shared Harvest CSA
17:00-19:00 TRAVEL
19:00 Dinner at MWC
20:30-22:30 DISCUSSION: Day 2 Review

Thursday, April 26th

6:30 Breakfast at MWC
7:00-10:00 TRAVEL
10:00 CASE STUDY: Pasture Fed Livestock Association
11:00 VISIT: Whittington Lodge Farm (PFLA)
12:30 Lunch at Whittington Lodge Farm
13:50-14:30 TRAVEL
14:30 VISIT: Gloucester Services
15:00-17:30 TRAVEL
17:30-19:00 DISCUSSION: Day 3 Review
19:00 Dinner at MWC
20:30 DANCE PARTY with Whiskey Moon Face at MWC

Friday, April 27th

7:00 ~ Breakfast at MWC
Rides to Axminster Station to be arranged through the day
Countryside walk or beach visit optional for those with time in the morning

Timetable

	23.4 (Mon)	24.4 (Tues)	25.4 (Wed)	26.4 (Thurs)	27.4 (Fri)
			6:30 Breakfast	6:30 Breakfast	
7					
8		7:00 Breakfast			
			7:00 TRAVEL to Chew Valley		7:00 Breakfast
9		8:30-10:30 DISCUSSION Participant Introductions OLD LIBRARY	9:00-10:30 VISIT The Community Farm CSA	7:00 TRAVEL to Gloucester	
10		10:30 TRAVEL to Fivepenny Farm		10:00 CASE STUDY Russ from PFLA	
11		11-12:30 CASE STUDY Landworkers' Alliance, Fivepenny Farm (incl. Peasant Evolution Producers' Cooperative, South West Seed Saving Network)	10:30 TRAVEL to Bristol	11:00 VISIT Whittington Lodge Farm (Pasture Fed Livestock Association)	
12			11:30 CASE STUDY Bristol Food Network		
		12:30 TRAVEL to Bridport			
13			12:30 VISIT St Werburghs City Farm	12:30 LUNCH Whittington Lodge Farm	
14	Martin & Tomas arr.	13:00 LUNCH Soulshine Cafe	13:30 LUNCH City Farm Cafe	14:00 TRAVEL to Gloucester Services	TRAVEL Return travel through the day, with optional activities for those remaining
		14:30 TRAVEL to West Bexington	14:30 TRAVEL to Frenchay Park Rd	14:30-15:00 VISIT Gloucester Services	
15	Dorka & Milos arr.				
		15:00 VISIT Tamarisk Farm	15:00 VISIT Edible Futures		
16		16:30 TRAVEL back to MWC	16:00 VISIT Sims Hill CSA		
17				15:00-17:30 TRAVEL back to MWC	
18	Katarina, Dragos, Iulian, Joel arr.	17:00 DISCUSSION Review of the Day OLD LIBRARY	17:00 TRAVEL back to MWC	17:30 DISCUSSION Review of the Day OLD LIBRARY	
	18:30 Tour of MWC				
19	Marcin, Dora, Mireia, Angela arr.				
	19:00 Dinner	19:00 Dinner	19:00 Dinner	19:00 Dinner	
20					
21	20:30-22:30 DISCUSSION BOND and the UK Study Tour OLD LIBRARY	20:30-22:30 TALK Ruth from Steepholding (ELC) OLD LIBRARY	20:30-22:30 DISCUSSION Review of the Day OLD LIBRARY	20:30-22:00 DANCE PARTY Whiskey Moon Face PINE HALL	
	Julia & Alex arr. late				

Case Studies

The UK Study Tour case studies and visits illustrate variations on the BOND Project themes of networking, political advocacy, farmer-to-farmer mentoring, and other wider benefits through cooperation for the mutual benefit of farmers and consumers. They also speak to the four main areas of focus of the Landworkers' Alliance: social networks & solidarity, training & exchange, media & advocacy, and campaigning and lobbying.

They're big concepts, and we're definitely cramming in too many of them into too little time. We ask that everyone share in our commitment to following the timeline while at the same time creating a space for every participant to contribute equally.

1. The Landworkers' Alliance landworkersalliance.org.uk/

UK Study Tour host The Landworkers' Alliance (LWA) is a grassroots union of farmers, growers and land-based workers with a mission to improve the livelihoods of our members and create a better food system for everyone. The LWA grew out of the momentum and the spirit of the UK's first Food Sovereignty Conference in 2012. It is a member-led union of more than 900 producers, and is affiliated with La Via Campesina. The greatest concentration of LWA membership currently is here in the South West. The South West Seed Saving Initiative exemplifies the kind of projects that grow out of this network. LWA co-founder Jyoti Fernandes will speak about the organisation, and various other members will be popping up throughout the tour.

VISITS: Tamarisk Farm, Fivepenny Farm

2. Community Supported Agriculture UK communitysupportedagriculture.org.uk/

Launched in 2013, Community Supported Agriculture UK (The CSA Network) is a member-owned cooperative by and for CSA farms. It grew out of the success of a five-year Big Lottery funded Soil Association project called Making Local Food Work, which worked to introduce more farmers and consumers across the country to take an active part in reforming the food system. Two of our visits will be to CSA Network members, where we can learn more about the phenomenal rise in popularity of this approach to participatory small scale farming in recent years.

VISITS: The Community Farm, Sims Hill Shared Harvest

3. Bristol Food Network www.bristolfoodnetwork.org/

Bristol Food Network CIC works to support, inform and connect individuals, community projects, organisations and businesses who share a vision to transform Bristol into a sustainable food city. They've been around since 2009 as a voluntary organisation, taking CIC status in 2014. BFN is currently working to make Bristol a "gold" standard Sustainable Food City, a certification programme funded by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation [sustainablefoodcities.org]. They're also in the process of setting up the Bristol Good Food Alliance with nine founder organisations who share the objectives of the Bristol Good Food Charter & Plan. With its broad goals and guidelines, BFN serves a wide range of farming enterprises, including many we'll visit around Bristol. Jane Stevenson from BFN will be speaking to us in more detail about their work.

A useful introduction to the history of food organisations in Bristol in 2015:

www.bristolfoodnetwork.org/wpcontent/uploads/2017/07/17_bristol_method_how_to_become_a_more_sustainable_food_city.pdf. Later, the Bristol Food Producers [bristolfoodproducers.uk/] was funded through a grant awarded as part of the city's year as Green Capital of Europe. Many of the producers on our Wednesday itinerary are affiliated with this group as well.

*Link to Bristol Good Food Plan:

bristolfoodpolicycouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Bristol-Good-Food-Plan_lowres.pdf

VISITS: The Community Farm, Sims Hill, St Werburghs City Farm, Feed Bristol

4. The Pasture-Fed Livestock Association www.pastureforlife.org/

The Pasture-Fed Livestock Association brings together British farmers committed to producing high quality food in a more natural way. Their vision, that 'Pasture for Life' become a part of everyday language:

- An efficient, sustainable, profitable and rewarding system of livestock production for farmers,
- A wholesome food that delivers high standards of animal welfare and environmental stewardship for the public, and
- Respect for our finite resources and an efficient use of the food the earth provides, for future generations.

PFLA General Manager Russ Carrington will talk to us about the organisation before a tour and lunch at the farm of Ian and Cathy Boyd.

VISIT: Whittington Lodge Farm

VISITS

Fivepenny Farm is an off-grid organic smallholding in South West Dorset that has been farmed by two families for the past two decades. It's also the base of the Peasant Evolution Producers' Cooperative (PEPC), a network of small scale farms in the area working together to share resources, make higher-value products, and strengthen short supply chains in the local market. PEPC's processing barn at Fivepenny Farm will be one of the first stops on our tour. Jyoti founded PEPC and Laurie's been working for the past five years on various strategies to keep the cooperative's members and local consumers connected through direct sales (mobile shop, online shop through Open Food Network [www.openfoodnetwork.org.uk/]). Mary, our driver, is developing a sheeps' cheese enterprise just over the road.

www.PEPCrealfood.co.uk

As well as being one of the first farms registered with the Soil Association, Tamarisk Farm in West Bexington is also a model of cooperation with government and NGO environmental initiatives related to biodiversity and the coastal ecosystem. A three-generation family farm, Tamarisk also has experience to offer with regard to specialisation and the many roads to product development.

www.tamariskfarm.co.uk/farm/

Ruth O'Brien from Steepholding Off-Grid Farm at Greenham Reach will join us on Tuesday evening to talk about their project in itself and as part of the Ecological Land Cooperative, whose mission is 'to provide affordable opportunities for ecological land based opportunities in England and Wales'.

www.steepholding.co.uk/ecologicaland.coop/

Our visit to Bristol, as mentioned above, will include a tour of The Community Farm with Ped and refreshments from India. We'll also stop at St Werburghs City Farm, where Isabel has arranged for Bill to show us around and share some of the history of the project. Humphrey will introduce us to the Edible Futures project of Feed Bristol, and Chloe and James will talk to us about Sims Hill Shared Harvest.

www.thecommunityfarm.co.uk/

www.swcityfarm.co.uk/explore/whats-here/

simshill.co.uk/

www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/feedbristol

We're taking a little break on our drive back from Gloucester on Thursday with a stop at Gloucester Services, the most famous highway services in the land for people who like to know where their food comes from. Unlike most highway service stations, made up of fast food chains and national brand shops, Gloucester is committed to sourcing from smaller scale, more ethical producers for their take away and packaged food options. Clare Skivington from Gloucester Services will speak to us briefly about their vision and their guidelines in sourcing food for the captive car audience, leaving those interested a little bit of time for shopping as well.

www.gloucesterservices.com/our-story

Vocabulary

This space is for making a note of any terms that you might want to remember, if only because we keep saying them. We've included a few that we'll discuss together. Please keep adding to the lists!

BOND

Case Study		
Training of Trainers		

Agriculture

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)		
Heirloom Varieties		
Pasture-Fed		
Soil Association		

Theory/Politics

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)		
Workers' Cooperative		