

# Boost for good food events across London

This spring and summer will see a wave of sustainable food events being held throughout London. The events, which are being run as part of the Mayor's food strategy, range from small community fêtes to large meet-the-producer expositions hosted by some of the capital's food businesses.

The events have been funded through a small grants scheme being managed by London Food Link on behalf of the London Development Agency. Ben Reynolds of London Food Link said:

"We are really pleased to be supporting these innovative and exciting events. We hope that, through these grants, the messages around sustainable food will reach thousands of Londoners and visitors to the city. We had to choose between over 90 applications which, on the whole, were of a very high standard, which made our jobs very difficult. This shows how much interest there is in sustainable food at the moment."

All of the events will be showcased on an online food events calendar, hosted by London Food Link, which features regular sustainable food events in London such as weekly farmers' markets, as well as highlighting special one-off events such as those funded by the small grants scheme.

Increasingly, people recognise that food has a huge impact - socially, economically, and environmentally - and the events focus on how food is grown, cooked and celebrated, as well as how it is packaged and, too often, wasted.

Cathy Maund of the Camden Green Fair, one of the organisations to have benefited from this competitive fund, believes that their grant will really help them to make a difference.

"The grant will help fund a sustainable food area at the Green Fair, including an edible tube map, a chicken 'fashion' show, and a Mad Hatter's Sustainable Tea Party, reaching up to 25,000 people at our event."

The 17 events supported through round one of the small grant scheme are detailed online. Round two of the scheme is now open for bids, closing on 30th May. ■

[www.londonfoodlink.org](http://www.londonfoodlink.org)  
[smallgrants@sustainweb.org](mailto:smallgrants@sustainweb.org)  
020 7837 1228

## Continuous Picnic

During the London Festival of Architecture (LFA), Bohn & Viljoen Architects are planning to host a large public picnic in central London celebrating local and sustainable food. The picnic will promote organic urban agriculture as a way to reduce environmental impact, improve public health and enhance food security. The event is open to the public, July 2008, for information updates visit: [www.lfa2008.org](http://www.lfa2008.org)

## Konstam Food Photography Award

The Konstam Food Photography Award aims to use photography to promote sustainable, locally sourced food from within and around London. An award evening at Konstam at the Prince Albert and an exhibition at Calumet photo gallery will be the result of this exciting London-wide competition, which will be launched at the end of April. [www.konstam.co.uk](http://www.konstam.co.uk)

## Camden Green Fair

Now in its 17th year, the Camden Green Fair is the UK's largest free eco-event, attracting 30,000 visitors last year. Sustainable Food and Farming will be highlighted this year, and their LDA grant will fund a new area, including loads of activities for kids (of all ages!) including a Mad Hatter's Sustainable Tea Party, a 'crazy chicken fashion show', and an edible London tube map. Visit the website to find out more: [www.camdengreenfair.org.uk](http://www.camdengreenfair.org.uk) or, better still, go to the event on Sunday 1st June 2008, Regent's Park.

## Roof gardens

During the spring term, a group of year six pupils from Kentish Town Primary School will be involved in an 8-day food growing and training programme on a roof garden in the Kings Cross area. This initiative is led by Global Generation in partnership with CEEN (Camden Environmental Education Network) and supported by a team of 17 year old "Generators" (youth mentors). [www.globalgeneration.org.uk](http://www.globalgeneration.org.uk)

## What if: Projects

What if: Projects Ltd, with Groundwork East London, plans to use its grant to extend their Grow Bag project to four new locations. Disused builders' bags will be transformed by local communities into allotment gardens promoting the possibility of growing fresh, sustainable food in the heart of the city. The gardens will be showcased at their public open day in June during the London Festival of Architecture. [www.lfa2008.org](http://www.lfa2008.org)

## Brockwell Park Community Greenhouse

A series of events celebrating the Latin American heritage of many foods and plants in London, and a sharing of techniques for growing these plants, will be organised between April and August. These events will also raise awareness of sustainable food in the Latin American community in South London. [www.urban75.org/brixton/features/community-greenhouses.html](http://www.urban75.org/brixton/features/community-greenhouses.html)

