



# Slow Food® UK

## **Slow Food Bedford convivium leader takes the Slow Food Bedford Orchard Campaign national.**

What started as a local, Bedford-based project to help our school children engage with their immediate environment and learn about a local heritage orchard is about to go national when Sue Miller (Slow Food Bedford convivium leader and UK Director) launches the project at The BBC Good Food Show in London 14th November.

On a national level, the project aims to create awareness of the UK's heritage and community orchards and their fruit. Slow Food UK plans to bring communities together by creating a series of maps plotting where you can find your nearest convivium, orchard and school to ensure that the knowledge of our heritage fruit is passed on to the next generation.

By recording where heritage trees exist it's possible to identify where there is a need to re-establish forgotten varieties that are native to a particular region. So the first stage of the project is an invitation to visit the Slow Food UK website ([www.slowfood.org.uk](http://www.slowfood.org.uk)) to record what you already know about your area. Once this information is gathered, Slow Food UK will work to protect existing heritage orchards and trees to ensure sustainability. They will work towards reintroducing local varieties to an area through a community orchard, school or garden which could result in the creation of new orchards to plant native varieties that may have been lost to a particular area.

*Says Sue Miller, "It is important to create awareness through education. Engaging the community, and especially children, is the key to bringing the importance of our food heritage to our homes. Through working with schools and young people we can reach families and connect them with our convivia and their local food heritage. Jamie Oliver has proved through his Ministry of Food initiative that there is a need to "pass it on" within the community and this has never been more poignant in the protection of our food heritage. "*

**Notes for Editors:**

- The Orchard Project will be launched from the Slow Food UK stand (Gallery level SL9) at London's BBC Good Food Show, Olympia, 4pm Friday 14 November 2008
- The new Slow Food UK website will be launched 14 November 2008
- Photo's of orchard events run in the pilot scheme through Slow Food Bedford can be obtained through [slowfoodbedford@ntlworld.com](mailto:slowfoodbedford@ntlworld.com) or by calling Sue Miller at the number listed below.
- Slow Food International website is [www.slowfood.com](http://www.slowfood.com)

**About Slow Food UK**

Slow Food UK is a non-profit, voluntary educational and campaigning organisation - the national arm of the international Slow Food movement, with a dedicated office in Ludlow, Shropshire - that protects British food, preserves biodiversity and promotes food and taste education. The movement is growing fast in the UK, as more and more people discover how Slow Food can help to protect Britain's food culture and traditions. Up and down the country our members gather together with their local convivia to organise events such as producer visits, taste workshops, local markets, seminars and dinners. Each convivium is different, but all have the aim of celebrating and protecting the traditional foods of their region, giving visibility to small-scale farmers, fishermen, growers and artisan producers.

For more information contact Sue Miller, Slow Food Bedford Convivium Leader and UK Director. Tel: 07753780607 or email: [slowfoodbedford@ntlworld.com](mailto:slowfoodbedford@ntlworld.com)