

Community Fair Trade Organic

co-op news

Dec 2008

newsletter of the Dublin Food Co-op

Dear Food Co-op Members,

We have a lot of announcements in the newsletter, this time around, as a lot is happening just now so be sure and check them all out!

Christmas is just around the corner and we'd like to encourage members to do as much shopping as possible, here, in the Co-op. By doing so, you'll be supporting local producers of fruit, vegetables and cooked and uncooked foods, organic production methods and fair trade. To facilitate members, the Co-op will be open on Tuesday, December 23rd from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. and gift vouchers will be available for purchase from the Co-op tills.

We'd like to take this opportunity to wish all our members a happy holiday period and best wishes for the New Year.

Fionnuala Ward (Editor)

Extra Market Day

The Co-op will be open on Tues. December 23rd, from 2 - 8 pm.

Membership cards and 2% discount for members introduced!

Since the end of October, membership cards have been distributed at the welcome desk to paid-up members. On presentation of this card, you can get 2% discount on all purchases at the food co-op tills. Help rota members now get 12%. If you forget your card, just bring your card and receipt along the following week and the 2 % will be deducted from your bill!

Reini Bock (Co-op Administrator)

New Development in Co-op

The Co-op is hoping to develop the entrance area, to increase retail space. If you'd like to contribute to this initiative, please contact shop@dublinfood.coop or come along to our Saturday meetings at 3.30. Good quality, second-hand shop fittings would also be very welcome!

Dublin Food Co-op reopens

Sat 3rd Jan 2009

9.30am-4.30pm

Upcoming Events

NOV - DEC 2008 | ART EXHIBITION

Art exhibition by members of City Artsquad. Work includes paintings, photography mosaics and ceramics from the 20th of November until the 20th of December. All original work by artists Eddie Cahill, Sarah Delaney, Naomi Enright, David J Pierce, Ginni Mills, Ronan Tierney, Liz Walsh and Barbara Vasic.

SUN 21st DEC 2008 | DUBLIN FLEA MARKET

Dublin Flea Market is returning this December for a general jumble sale of old and new. Stalls will have bric-a-brac, records, art, hand made goods, organic goods, food, music, jewellery, clothing (vintage and second hand), furniture, and loads of bits of unwanted junk that may just be someone else's treasure. dublinflea@gmail.com

Co-op Walks

December Walk

Where: The hill of Howth. This is along the top of the Howth peninsula.

When: Sunday 28th December

Meet: Sutton Dart Station at 11am.

January Walk

Where: Seefin, Seefingan and Seahan mountains. These are 3 hills overlooking Tallaght. They have megalithic tombs on them.

When: Sunday 25th January

Meet: At the Old Mill pub in Oldbawn, Tallaght at 11am

For all walks bring comfortable footwear, warm and waterproof clothes and some food. For more info. or if you need a lift contact Larry Gordon at 2882957 (Home) or 087-6832827 (Mobile).

Gift Vouchers now available at Coop

This year, for the first time, the Co-op is trying out a gift voucher scheme. Vouchers will be in denominations of €10 and will be accepted anywhere throughout the Co-op. By purchasing Dublin Food Co-op gift certificates, you'll be encouraging more visitors to the Co-op and strengthening our position in tightened economic times!

Membership: Good News But Fees Increase

You may have heard by now that we are planning to refit the space next to our entrance as a permanent shop, which will allow us to increase our hours of opening and make better use of the premises as a whole. We also wish to create more value for members in other ways, by stocking wider ranges and getting more new products, as well as more events and activities.

We are looking to our members to help with this project, both as volunteers to help with the work of setting up, and also as part of the capital financing (making good, shelving, equipment, decorative costs etc).

The membership fees have stood at €20 since the introduction of the euro in January 2002 - seven years ago now. We have recently introduced a new membership management system - the membership cards are the first result of this (and there are costs involved).

Every member (with a card!) now gets a 2% discount. We hope to expand this new system to help us (the staff and CB) provide the basis for better communications with members.

Accordingly, the CB has decided, in the teeth of economic circumstances, that membership fees will have to increase to €25 annually and €40, instead of €30, for family memberships to help us continue our growth path. We have about 1000 members now, so this increase could yield about €5000, a very useful contribution to the development fund.

Our usual 50% discount on annual fees will of course still be applicable on production of proof of student, social welfare recipient or state pension status.

It might be worth reminding you now that our "Support Wall" - the market side of the top ramp - is available as a way of making a general donation to the Co-op effort. The usual contribution of €100 is acknowledged (unless anonymity is desired) by placing your name on this wall. You'll be in illustrious company and visible to all visitors for as long as the building stands.

To clarify which person is the member in a joint membership, the CB feel that if two (or more) members of a household wish to participate individually in Co-op activities, they should either get an individual membership or else take the opportunity of becoming family members. This entitles people living at the same address to get a second membership card (at a discount of €10), and enjoy joint attendance and two votes at Society meetings.

Another small change, which will be implemented from January, is that the membership 'year' will now be a rolling one. Fees will be due again a year after paying them last time around, and not, as is now, at the beginning of the calendar year.

One proposal in connection with membership was that the price of a news share should be increased from the present €1 (the nominal value) to a suggested €10 - the idea being, that the share price new members would pay would reflect its market value, which has increased due to the contribution of existing members, (approximately €53 per membership now). This proposal did not achieve consensus, but it will be looked at again.

Now would be a good time for members to give their opinions on this, or other aspects of membership administration directly to me (AOB) at a@dublinfood.coop (also for membership issues), on the wiki (<http://www.dublinfood.coop/wiki/>), to CB members or as a letter to our editor. Volunteers can contact info@dublinfood.coop.

Aodhagan O'Broin (Co-ordinating Body)

Invitation to FÁILTE for New Members

If you have joined the Food Co-op recently and haven't attended a **Fáilte** yet, we'd like to invite you to come along to our next scheduled introduction to the Dublin Food Co-operative. Due to the New Year's break, the next Failte will be on the third Saturday in January, (Jan 17th 2009), at 11 am. It will take place in our Members Meeting Room, 12 Newmarket, Dublin 8.

Failte explains how the co-op works and what being a member of the coop entails. For example, as a member, you now co-own the co-op together with your fellow members. Members of staff and producer members will be there to introduce themselves and answer your questions.

You will also be given information about benefits of membership:

- How the Help Rota works and the 12% discount you get if you join the Help Rota
- Bulk-Buy discounts for members who pre-order bulk food items.
- Any other benefits and services available

As we are always keen on improving our services, we would be happy to hear about your first impressions of the food co-op.

We're looking forward to meeting you on Saturday the 17th January 2009 at 11 am.

Co-operatively yours,

Pauric Cannon (Development Coordinator)

Reini Bock (Co-op Administrator)

Information about New Products / Promotions

Fancy a bottle of 'Vegan Stout'?

Make no mistake, this is real ale, matured by secondary fermentation in the bottle. For some of us it is nothing less than The Black Champagne of the Northern Clime. Obtained by mail order from The Hop Bank (Independent) Brewery in Salisbury whose packing and prompt delivery are first-class. As the moment the cost inc. delivery runs to €4 per bottle.

John McGrath (Co-op Member)

Simply Water

As you may know, Simply Water has been a producer member of the Dublin Food Co-op for many years. This month, Simply Water is celebrating its 20th birthday anniversary and as a reward for all the Dublin Food-Co-op members, we have 2 water filter systems to offer at a very special price:

SWS1 - our most popular undersink drinking water filtration system - normal price: € 249; our special offer: € 199.

SWSS - our latest product - the stainless steel undersink drinking water filtration system - normal price: € 499; our special offer: € 249.

Please note that this special offer is limited and available on a first come, first served basis.

The Mooncup

The Mooncup is a reusable menstrual cup around two inches long and made from soft silicone rubber. It is worn internally like a tampon but collects menstrual fluid rather than absorbing. Unlike tampons the Mooncup is not a disposable product, so you only need to buy one.

Olivia Griffin (Producer Member)

French Food Association: An On-line Local Food Market

Before becoming a new volunteer in the Dublin Food Co-op, I was a member of another Food Association, in Brittany, Northern France, in the county of Cotes d'Armor. Set up in April 2004, this French Association, called Les Voisins de Paniers, was founded by a group of friends, who wanted to offer an alternative way to sell and supply organic produce. The association promotes local agriculture in order to protect both animals and the environment. You're probably asking yourself what Les Voisins de Paniers means. I'm sorry but I can't give you a direct translation from French to English. But I think you will discover its true meaning by reading this article.

The structure of the French Association is quite similar to that of the Dublin Food Co-op. However, it offers another way to buy local and organic produce. Unlike the Dublin Food Co-op, Les Voisins de Paniers, doesn't hold a weekly market. It sells its products on its website: www.voisinsdepaniers.org. This website provides a lot of information about the association's producers. A products list is also on-line, from which you can choose your purchases. You simply fill in an order form and send it in by email before Tuesday of each week. The order is put in a shopping basket and dropped off to the store, closest to your home. The shopping baskets are delivered to the customers' designated stores every Friday evening or Saturday morning and there are approximately eleven of these stores in the area.

Les Voisins de Paniers originated when a group of friends decided to offer an alternative to the traditional supermarket method of supplying and selling food. Most of the group were already members of cultural or environmental associations and had a large network of friends. This gave them the confidence to set up their own association, Les Voisins de Paniers, and to involve more people from their locality. Les Voisins de Paniers has two hundred

members and seven hundred non-members have used its on-line facilities. People can purchase items from the on-line store three times without actually becoming a member. But you can only purchase further items by paying a membership fee of €25. The association has a Board of Management, made up of six members.

The association supports around thirty local producers and offers its members all sorts of products, which come from local farmers, such as fresh and seasonal fruits and vegetables as well as milk, eggs, pasta and meat. Home-made dishes cakes and desserts are also available - chocolate mousse, yogurts, jam etc

The association offers advice and encouragement to all its producers. The purpose of Les Voisins de Paniers is to source locally-produced food items, organic or non-organic. The association believes that the importation of organic products has a harmful effect on the environment. The association gives financial support to the producers every year, to the amount of 88% of its annual turnover (approximately €200 000 annually).

The association is keen to spread its message and staff are always on hand to answer questions and give information about developments and initiatives that have made Les Voisins de Paniers what it is today.

Linda le Metayer (Co-op Member)

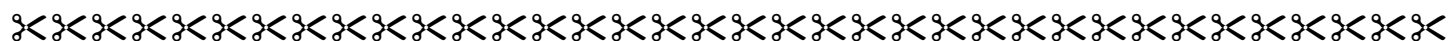
Co-op News Team

Fionnuala Ward (Editor), Anthony Dillon (layout). Any articles, letters, opinion pieces for inclusion in next newsheet should be forwarded to: info@dublinfood.coop (subject: newsletter).

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Help Rota Dates 2009

Write them in your diary and cut out this calender for your fridge door, highlighting your team!



dublin food co-op help rota 2009 needs you!											
A		29-31 Jan	5-7 March	9- 11 April	14-16 May	18-20 June	23-25 July	27-29 Aug	1-3 Oct	5-7 Nov	10-12 Dec
B	Sat 3 Jan	5-7 Feb	12-14 March	16-18 April	21-23 May	25-27 June	30 July-1 Aug	3-5 Sept	8-10 Oct	12-14 Nov	17-19 Dec
C	8-10 Jan	12-14 Feb	19-21 March	23-25 April	28-30 May	2-4 July	6-8 Aug	10-12 Sept	15-17 Oct	19-21 Nov	
D	15-17 Jan	19-21 Feb	26-28 March	30 April - 2 May	4-6 June	9-11 July	13-15 Aug	17-19 Sept	22-24 Oct	26-28 Nov	
E	22-24 Jan	26-28 Feb	2-4 April	7-9 May	11-13 June	16-18 July	20-22 Aug	24-26 Sept	29-31 Oct	3-5 Dec	

