

## Website for Cumbrian Organic Food

**GROWTH of the organic food sector could accelerate in Cumbria, thanks to a new website.**

For now producers can exchange advice and information on the Internet and traders and consumers have a directory of where to buy organic food.

The website ([www.cumbriaorganics.org](http://www.cumbriaorganics.org)) has been launched by Cumbria Organics, a network of about 60 people from across the county who are interested in organic production, including farmers, growers, processors, retailers and consumers.

The launch is particularly topical in view of Sir Don Curry's policy commission report on the future of farming that calls for a sustainable, competitive and diverse farming sector.

To contact an organic producer in the North Cumbria area phone:

The Watermill, Penrith, home of a working watermill, using English wheat to produce organic flour and an organic tearoom. (Tel Ana Jones on 01768 881523)

Whiteholme Farm in Carlisle, who provide an organic butchery service to other organic producers or processors (Tel Ken Porter on 016977 48058)

The Village Bakery, Melmerby, Cumbria, an organic bakery and restaurant which supplies specialist outlets and organic farm shops (Tel Andrew Whitely on 01768 881515)

The website has received a 50% grant of £975 from the

Cumbria Rural Development (RDP), which supports small local regeneration projects.

The need for the agricultural community to communicate on-line was made more urgent by foot and mouth disease, as movement restrictions prevented them from getting together. To help break the isolation and keep in touch with the latest on-line news on the outbreak, many farmers bought computers and got some basic IT training.

Kate Rogerson, Chairman of Cumbria Organics, explained: "Foot and mouth disease changed things. Many farmers are now very proficient at using the Internet and the website is a great way for our network to share knowledge, organise events and promote its products to the trade and to consumers.

"We are grateful to the Rural Development Programme for helping us to fund the website. It has made a big difference to the way we can operate."

Organically certified foods advertised for sale on the website include beef, lamb, pork and poultry, milk and other dairy products, eggs, flour, bakery products, fruit and vegetables. Breeding and store cattle, wool products, hay and crops such as barley, are also available.

Pat Allison, Senior Policy Officer (Rural Development), said: "The RDP Small Projects Fund provides grants of up to 50% for projects costing up to £2000. Subject to meeting criteria, there is still funding available and anyone interested should contact me on 01228

## Youth Topics

### The Cosmic Solway

By our special correspondent: Benjamin Allen McIntosh

Today in this area there is a mega big demand for mobiles, we won't settle for polystyrene cups and string anymore...!

#### TOP THREE MOBILES

No: 1

At the moment the Nokia 3210 take the biscuit, even though they're for sale no more

No: 2

For some reason 3330 drags behind at second place, but no doubt they will storm to No:1.

No: 3

A little too overpriced for Sillothians, we hope they just fade away – the Nokia 8210

#### Looking for the right mobile

How can you tell, well I always look for three S's, Small, Sassy, Sexy. Even though my mobiles two years old its considered ancient, but look for how your mobile will suit you.

Next month:

The text dictionary, plus facias, please send your letters saying what you want to know about to the address on page 2.

As the person who puts this paper together, people are always telling me what should be included, but this is not how the system works. My congratulations to Ben who 'phoned to say we needed something for the youth of the town – and could he give me an article. He may be younger than most of our readers but he understands what is meant by a community paper.

Are there more people with articles for the young? Can we fill a whole page with 'Youth Matters'? This is down to you.

Are there any other interests not covered? Don't tell me what they are – send me articles and I will do my best to include them, this is your paper.

McRobert

Peter

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