

# Action in rural Sussex

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## Young photographers focus on a Sussex food feast Action in rural Sussex puts healthy eating in the frame

Young Sussex photographers hope to inspire school friends to eat healthy meals, with powerful pictures promoting the work of local food producers.

Shots taken by GCSE photography students from Lewes Priory School will go on show for the first time, in an exhibition at the Needlemakers Café, in Lewes, from September 18<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>.

Then they will be displayed in the school dining room as part of a pilot project initiated by Action in rural Sussex, with funding from Sussex Downs and Weald Primary Care Trust and the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Action in rural Sussex (**AirS**) organised workshops on local food and sustainability for the pupils, combined with tips on camerawork from professional photographer Anne Purkiss. Ten keen students then visited five local farms during July to build their portfolio.

Scheme organiser Anne-Marie Bur, co-ordinator of local produce projects for **AirS** explained: "We designed the project to help educate young people around the important issues of healthy eating and sustainable food production, using photography as the medium.

"Through the scheme, the students learned a great deal about food and farming and how food production fits into global issues such as climate change.

"They hope that, when their pictures go on show in the school dining room, it will also give their school friends food for thought."

The project links into the Government's Food in Schools programme, launched earlier this year to help boost food education and healthy eating. There are plans to extend it to more Sussex schools next year.

Some of the photo's will feature in the new edition of the Sussex Food Finder, the local produce directory, co-produced by Action in rural Sussex in collaboration with A Taste of Sussex.

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#### **Notes to Editors:**

**You would be welcome to send a photographer and writer to the opening event for the exhibition, at 4.30pm on Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006, at the Needlemakers Café, West Street, Lewes.**

**A selection of the photographs, with captions, is attached.**

**Local producers visited by the students:**

##### **Organic vegetables**

Colette Pavledis and Peter Hayne, Ashurst Organics, The Orchard, Ashurst Farm, **Plumpton.**

##### **Free range eggs and chickens**

Robin and Marilyn Hanbury, Heath Farm, South Road, **Plumpton Green,**

##### **Free range pork, beef and lamb**

Maria Naylor, Brook House Farm, Brook House Lane, Cranfield nr. **Uckfield**

##### **Fruit (berries, currants, cherries, apples)**

Philip Greenland, Oast Farm, Lephems Bridge, **Buxted**

##### **Organic cheese from sheep and cow's milk**

Mark and Sarah Hardy, High Weald Dairy, Tremains Farm, Tremains Rd, **Horsted Keynes**

**AirS** began life in 1931 as Sussex Rural Community Council, a registered charity, and has served rural communities ever since. It changed its name in 2002

The role of Action in rural Sussex is to identify problems and to respond to the needs of rural communities - providing practical help and supporting villages in Sussex to remain vibrant living and working places.

AirS' agenda includes supporting communities to develop local action plans, distributing valuable grants for rural projects, developing innovative schemes for young people and campaigning on a range of key issues from affordable housing to rural transport.

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