

Synopsis for BBL on Thursday 6th December 2012

Nick Weir www.nickweir.co.uk

- **Community Supported Agriculture – a new economic model for farming**
- **Community web-based food hub now adopted by 70+ groups worldwide**
- **UK network of community enterprises sharing best practice to build resilience**

Nick will bring a background photo slideshow of these projects in action and will encourage questions throughout the presentation so that the session is focussed on the areas of most interest to you. The session will cover his experience of:

- Setting up a community supported agriculture project that grew from a small group of concerned consumers who wanted to find an alternative to the supermarket system. www.StroudCommunityAgriculture.org is now a community co-op of 200 consumer households paying all the running costs of a 50-acre farm and employing 4 farmers to produce vegetables, beef, pork and lamb for those 200 households.
- Setting up www.stroudco.org.uk - a not-for-profit food hub which is a co-op of local food producers and consumers using an internet shopping basket and a school hall as the distribution point. Nick is now funded to support new food hubs and bring together all 70+ other groups who are already using the Stroudco open source software. This network will develop the specification for version 2 of the software.
- Co-founding Local United – a hothouse for community initiatives building sustainability. www.localunited.net already offers a series of action packs and is starting to build a network of ‘animateurs’ and mentors.

Nick’s paid work is facilitating communities to build resilience. He has worked with over 120 community food growing projects and 90+ food hubs. More recently he has moved into community energy projects having just completed a Community Renewable Heat project for the Department for Energy and Climate Change.