

**SHEFFIELD ORGANIC FOOD INITIATIVE
ORGANIC FOOD AWARDS 2001
Local Food Initiative Category**

8 COPIES of ...

- 1. SOFI Annual Report 2000**
- 2. SOFI Seedlist 2001**
- 3. 'Organic Culture and Cultivation' course curriculum**
- 4. 'Growing Food Organically' course advert**
- 5. SOFI Lending Library Booklist**
- 6. 'Gardening For Health' Volunteering Project Advert**
- 7. Welcome to Unstone Grange Handout**
- 8. Definition of 'Organic' Handout**
- 9. Leafmould Information Leaflet**
- 10. Growing Media Information**
- 11. Lunar Planting Calendar 2001**

+ SINGLE COPY of...

- 1. SOFI Document 1998**
- 2. Environmental Assessment of North-West
Inner-City Sheffield**
- 3. Six Photos**

Many Thanks for considering our application.

ORGANIC FOOD AWARDS 2001: SOFI: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

RANGE OF ACTIVITIES Our activities are detailed in the *Annual Report 2000*. We have maintained more than a dozen growing sites for the past decade as practical demonstrations of good organic practice. SOFI has allowed us to formalise and develop our commitment to provide effective support to local communities in the city.

PERSONAL STORY Richard Clare and Darrell Maryon set up SOFI five years ago. The Charity was constituted in 1998 to formalise members' commitment to urban Organic food growing. The booklet titled '**SOFI 1998**' summarised our activities to date and was distributed widely at that time to local and national organisations, including the Soil Association and the HDRA.

Richard has run organic volunteering opportunities for local people, under the name of **Community-Supported Organic Horticulture**, for the past three years and is currently managing Unstone Grange's **Organic Gardening for Health** project, funded through the Department of Health's Opportunities for Volunteering scheme.

Darrell has worked to develop the Organic production capacity of Sheffield's City Farm at Heeley and run several courses for the general public with the Workers' Educational Association.

Together, they wrote and are delivering their Open College Network accredited course in '**Organic Culture and Cultivation**', which educates students in the theory and practice of Organic Horticulture.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES As specified in SOFI Deed of Trust, our remit is to "**Promote Organics, Biodynamics and Permaculture for Education, Health and the Relief of Poverty**".

Our long-term commitment to local Organic production is demonstrated by our participation in the Soil Association's **Group Certification scheme (G.S. 084)**, under which we have been able to certify our demonstration site at Unstone Grange. For the past three years, this venue has hosted Open Days for the HDRA and conferences for the Community Composting Network and the National Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens.

PLANS FOR DEVELOPMENT Recognition by the Organic Food Awards would give us credibility, which would allow us to contribute our experience to the national debate about the development of the Organic sector. It could also help us to develop the organisation further to be more effective and reach a greater number of local people. We hope to be able to develop our website, **organicinitiative.com**, into an effective vehicle for sharing our activities and working practices with a wider audience.

FEATURES TO BE PROUD OF SOFI provides an effective working model of an organisation dedicated to developing urban organic food capacity. We have generated a wide range of leaflets summarising essential information for urban organic growers. These handouts are used on our courses, workshops and consultancy, and are also distributed to the general public when we run stalls at local and national events. They have also been supplied to the local authority and the Health Authority as part of campaigns to lobby support for local Organic growing, allotments and recycling. We are proud of our innovative track record in supporting local groups and individuals, providing a service which is not available elsewhere.

