

# Welcome to the May 2021 edition of the Lincolnshire Food Partnership Newsletter

In this May newsletter, we update you on two aspects of food poverty. Simon Hoare, the CEO of the Acts Trust, which runs the Lincoln Food Bank, provides us with an analysis of all foodbank activity across the City in the first 12 months of the pandemic. We also report on the allocation of funding across the County that has helped support this activity for both food organisations and individuals.



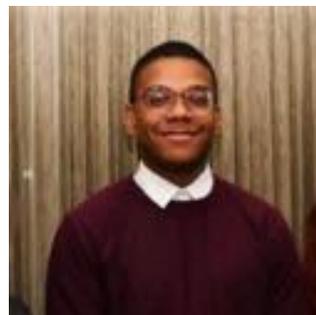
Fred from Hartlepool on LBC today, praising the Tories because.... Wait for it.... They have 9 food banks now, and Labour didn't give them any.

It is very hard to know whether all of this support is a measure of success or of failure – encapsulated by the view of Fred at the may Hartlepool by-election.

We also report on the 'Good to Grow' weekend in Lincolnshire at the end of April, which hosted a range of virtual events and activities, and a new research contract that has been won by the LFP into the way in which food hubs operate.



Finally, we have directed you to a blog by Laura, which provides an insightful assessment of the advantages of becoming more involved with all aspects of food. We summarise other recent blogs, too.



This month, we also say goodbye to Igor, our media volunteer, after eight months of good work on our website, blog and social media - many of you will have interacted with him, as the main person behind our Facebook page. Many thanks, Igor, for all your time and contributions to the Lincolnshire Food Partnership.

We say farewell, too, to [Lincoln Indie Takeaways](#), with a lot of gratitude to Lincoln's independent good food businesses, cafes, restaurants and more for doing so much under tough circumstances to keep our local food economy alive, and providing us with good local food for the past year. Thank you to you, too, if you chose to support a local, independent food business during lockdown.



Please do contact us if you would like to share your news stories about any aspect of local food – whether it is a growing project, local produce-making and sale, cooking communities or tackling

food waste. We would be pleased to showcase your work, no matter how small, in this newsletter.

Our email address is: [enquiries@lincolnshirefoodpartnership.org](mailto:enquiries@lincolnshirefoodpartnership.org)

If you are happy to continue to receive this newsletter and therefore be considered a member of the Lincoln Food Partnership community of interest, you need to do nothing.

If on the other hand you wish to unsubscribe from this newsletter, just email us.

Laura Stratford, Nigel Curry and Ticky Nadal

Lincolnshire Food Partnership

## Food Poverty in Lincoln During Covid 19.

The CEO of Acts Trust, Simon Hoare, has been examining data for the Lincoln Food Banks (Lincoln Foodbank, Lincoln Community Larder, Lincoln Mosque and the St Swithins Church Love Your Neighbour programme) from March 2020 to February 2021.

Overall, in the first 12 months of the pandemic, 6,034 households received an emergency food parcel (including repeat referrals). Some 36,234, meals (roughly a third of a total of 109,701) were provided to children: about half being collected and a half delivered.

There was a 71% increase in food given out compared to the previous year (by weight), and donations from the public increased by 62%, thanks to the generosity of Lincoln people.



Whilst 'benefit issues'

remained the main issue for referrals, 10% were due to self-isolation and 20% to income loss caused by the pandemic.

The 5 areas with the highest levels of food poverty were LN2 5 (Monks Road), LN5 8 (Sincil Bank/Bracebridge), LN6 7 (Moorlands/Boultham), LN6 0 (Birchwood/Hartsholme) and LN1 3 (Ermine West/Burton Road).

## Easing the food crisis in COVID

The Lincolnshire Food Partnership has been working with Bishop Grosseteste University, the Lincolnshire Community Foundation and all of the County's local authorities, to distribute grant funding to organisations and individuals in the County who have been experiencing food poverty during the COVID crisis.

The Scheme, funded by the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs ran from

October 2020 to the end of March 2021 and overall, we were able to support 61 applications from organisations – mainly food banks - in the County across all districts, with the highest number of applications being from



Lincoln City, East Lindsey and West Lindsey. Nearly £250,000 was distributed across these organisations.

We were also able to support over 300 individuals referred to us as having problems accessing food, again across all districts, and we were able to allocate over £105,000 of funds to these people.

Part of the work required the production of a 'Social Food Infrastructure Plan' for the County and this will be used to shape further provision for food poverty in the County as well as the development of community growing projects, which will reconnect people with food. It is good to be able to create a legacy framework as a result of this funding.

## It's Good to Grow

The last weekend in April was 'Good to Grow' weekend across the UK, hosted by Good to Grow (run by Sustain). Three days of events took place across the County, celebrating community growing spaces.

[Low Carbon Louth](#) hosted a community composting Zoom event. The Louth-based charity takes practical action to promote local organic food growing and composting (as well as promoting sustainable transport) through local community action on



council-owned land. The community composting project has been going for three years.

LCL also provided a guided tour of [Louth 13plus project garden](#), working with 8 – 19-year-olds and based at Louth Youth Centre on Park Avenue.

Other activities included a Facebook event hosted by [Mrs Smith's Cottage](#) based in Navenby, with its traditional Lincolnshire cottage garden. The [zero cost recycle garden](#) also was featured as an Instagram event, where Brett and Tom have provided a pictorial story of the transformation of a previously neglected urban garden into a vegetable garden using only recycled and donated items.



You can find community growing projects in our area on the [Good to Grow Lincolnshire](#) map.

## Lincolnshire Food Partnership to Research Food Hubs

The Lincolnshire Food Partnership is leading a research project with the University of East Anglia and the University of Lincoln, into food hubs.

Food hubs come in many shapes and sizes, but they invariably blend a range of different activities from the commercial (for example, selling artisanal food) to the social (tackling food poverty) and environmental (reducing food waste).

The research will explore the way in which these diverse sets of activity can benefit from each other by being in one organisation or collective. It also will examine how food hubs themselves measure their success – is it through ‘profit’ or some wider social purpose, or a range of different factors? If so, what kind of innovations are possible, for example, cross-subsidising one activity in order to benefit another.



The research is funded by UK Research and Innovation through the National Innovation Centre for Rural Enterprise, based at the Universities of Newcastle and Warwick and the Countryside and Community Research Institute. It runs from the beginning of May to the end of October 2021.

If you know of any food hubs that would like to be part of this research, do contact the LFP direct.

## Learning from the Lincolnshire Food Partnership

Our website and social media manager, Laura Stratford, has been with the LFP for 15 months now and during that time she has transformed our ‘virtual’ presence. She also has found the time to develop Incredible Edible in Lincolnshire with a series of talks and mutual support advice for all of those interested in community food growing in the County.

Her most recent [blog](#), reflects on some of the things that she has learned from this experience. Firstly, it is good to remember (as many of us have found) that by interacting with nature and earth, sowing seeds, tending the soil and harvesting the fruit, we can recover something lost: it is transformative of ourselves.

Secondly, she notes that good food economies are invariably a shared endeavour. With several great examples from within the county she shows that good food citizenship is so much more than just being a food consumer. Thirdly, intergenerational friendship really matters. Children learning about all aspects of food



from 'grown ups' will keep those lessons for life: and we all have a responsibility to teach them well.

And finally, she notes that community solidarity is on the rise through food. Neighbourhood groups, online communities, schools and the like, are coming together through a range of 'social' food projects, sharing much more than just physical nourishment.

We commend Laura's [blog](#) to you as a stimulating read. It explores all of these issues more fully.

## More Lincolnshire food news from our blog

Everyday things you can (or can't) compost at home



If you're new to composting, there's not much that can go wrong. You can add any uncooked fruit and veg, as well as lawn and hedge clippings, eggshells, scrunched up paper and torn up card. Here are a few everyday items that can sometimes be composted, but you need to just check... keep reading

Dunston Community Garden

Guest blog, by Linda Scrutton: Dunston Community Garden was born out of a request for ideas to spruce up the area around the village hall. This Spring, the gardeners have been transforming that land... keep reading



Can Kids Keep Bees?



They're not exactly the most usual school pet, requiring considerable knowledge and skills, some specialist equipment, not to mention the careful handling – but the learning opportunities are as bountiful and delectable as the honey! Wyberton Primary Academy near Boston shows us how it's done, with a little help from Willoughby Road Allotment Association... keep reading

## Mrs Smith: a Low Waste Inspiration

Guest blog by Sally Bird, Learning & Development Officer at Mrs Smith's Cottage: Lincolnshire resident, Mrs Smith (1892-94) can teach us a huge amount about sustainable living, local food and minimising waste... keep reading



## 'Milk' back on the Doorstep



I wonder how many times during this past year I just had to go to the shop because our household had run out of 'milk'? Feeling overwhelmed by the number of Tetrapaks piling up in our recycling bin every week I searched again for a company that would deliver plant-based milk to our door.... keep reading

## Tell a Friend...

If you know of other people or organisations who would like to be involved in the Lincolnshire Food Partnership, please help to spread the word. Why not start by forwarding this newsletter to them?

If this has been forwarded to you, you can sign up to receive our newsletter directly to your inbox next month [here](#)

Thank you!

## Keep an eye out for our next newsletter in July!

### GDPR Statement

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You can ask us for a copy of your details at any time. Please let us know if any of them change or if you no longer want us to hold them.

**Our registered address is** 12 Mint Lane, LN1 1UD. **Our mailing address is** [enquiries@lincolnshirefoodpartnership.org](mailto:enquiries@lincolnshirefoodpartnership.org)

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