

Lincolnshire Food Partnership

For fairer healthier greener food

Welcome to the March 2021 edition of the Lincolnshire Food Partnership Newsletter

This month's newsletter covers two separate areas of the work of the Lincolnshire Food Partnership. On the *food needs* front, the Lincolnshire Association of Agricultural Valuers has donated funds in lieu of its annual dinner to County foodbanks: an incredibly generous gesture.

The award-winning Second Helpings in Stamford has been doing wonders with its



'waste food' café and shop during 2020, including Christmas Hampers (pictured) and Veg Out has begun offering plant-based 'pay it forward' meals through the Mint Lane Café of Lincoln.

In terms of *community food growing*, the LFP has been hosting a series of online
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online events for Incredible Edible in Lincolnshire, seizing the opportunity of a winter lockdown to learn, get inspired, and make some plans for the growing season. We also connect with Ropsley Market Garden, which we believe - and please correct us if we're wrong - to be the first CSA in Lincolnshire.

The good folk of St Giles in Lincoln are keen to recreate community growing along the original Garden City principles used when St Giles was first laid out. If you live in that area, you could help by answering a short questionnaire. Finally we have a piece on care farming: the therapeutic use of farming practices. It would be great to grow this kind of think in the County, too.

There's more local food news from across the county on our [blog](#). 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: lincolnfoodpartnership@gmail.com

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

Agricultural Valuers at the front line of tackling food poverty

Because of the Covid restrictions, the Lincolnshire Association of Agricultural Valuers was unable to meet up in person this year for its annual dinner. With incredible kindness, they decided, unanimously, to donate their 'dinner money' to Lincolnshire foodbanks. The picture shows Zoom call applause (for the foodbanks) at the unanimous vote!

In the end, the LAAV raised over £4,000 to donate to five separate foodbanks in different parts of the County so that those in the greatest need should be able to enjoy some extra sustenance.

Whilst donations for food are great for food banks to have, cash sums like this are invaluable to help 'plug the gaps' in food to provide a balanced diet.

LAAV members advise on rural property matters throughout the County and further afield, supporting many rural business and British food producers. It is brilliant to see



different parts of the food chain coming together to tackle some of our biggest community issues in this way.

Second Helpings: food support in Stamford

[Second Helpings](#) in Stamford uses otherwise-waste food to run a café and a shop (known as 'the Bunker'), staffed by volunteers and operating a pay-as-you feel system – it is open to all.



In 2020 it had nearly 14,000 customers who had access to 87,424kgs of food either collected from local suppliers or made as food donations. It also made 10,861 take-away meals given out or distributed to the community through partner organisations.

Some 270 Christmas Day Meals with all the trimmings, treat bags and presents were given out to families and individuals in and around Stamford to ensure everyone could have a festive meal, even if only in small groups at best.

The Bunker (Richard and Julie are pictured here) is now stocking packed lunches and also making kids takeaway meals which goes some way to support families in getting the food they need to keep their kids energised throughout the day.

With all this great work, it is perhaps not surprising that Second Helpings has won the 2020 Mercury Business Awards for Best Social Enterprise. Many congratulations to them – a brilliant project.



Veg-out Lincoln develops support for local families.



Veg-out Lincoln is extending its regular plant-based recipe box service to families in need. It is offering nutritious plant-based family meal kits that include everything you need to cook four nutritious family meals at home. It focuses on seasonal recipes, providing a chance to learn about the rhythms of the growing year.

Working with Mint Lane Café, it has launched a 'pay it forward' initiative where anyone can offer a donation to cover the costs of a meal kit for a family in need. Those in need can also apply for a meal discreetly through their web

site and the boxes are supplied at cost. Veg-out Lincoln donates £1 for each of its regular box sales to the scheme.

All boxes are prepared with fresh ingredients and will be ready for collection from Mint Lane Café in Lincoln from the Tuesday after ordering each week. Menus are published in advance and contain all allergen information.

This initiative presses a number of food buttons simultaneously: it is about fresh plant-based food that is good for diets, is educational, it develops cooking skills and it addresses food poverty. What a great idea!



All of the details of the scheme and of donating to it are on the [Veg-out Lincoln](#) Facebook page.

Incredible Edible Talks overview & survey

Incredible Edible is all about local food: galvanising community through food; turning neglected public spaces into beautiful growing plots; and re-learning the lost arts of seed saving, preserving, home cooking and convivial eating.



Over recent months, people from across Lincolnshire interested in Incredible Edible have gathered via zoom at a series of online events that we have hosted.

- We heard how [Incredible Edible Beeston](#) have - in the space of one covid-afflicted year - created a community garden on a piece of waste ground, and in doing so connected with dozens of interested passers-by.
- We had a mind-blowing tour of the dozen communal growing spaces, gardening clubs and projects at [Incredible Edible Wakefield](#), which has been growing steadily for over a decade - a real vision for how Lincolnshire might develop!
- Lincoln has numerous community gardens - we heard from Liquorice Park, the Chaplaincy Herb Garden, St Andrew's Garden, Sincil Bank Community Allotment, Hillside, Ellie's Garden and St Giles Garden.
- Mark Scofield of Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust talked to us about how to [garden for wildlife](#) and biodiversity - such an urgent issue at this time. [Gardening for Schools](#) included discussions of exceptional Primary and Secondary school projects, and inspiration for home-edders from TastEd - recordings available [here](#).
- We discussed engagement with our local councils with Kate Bell from City of Lincoln council and Matthew Davey from Lincolnshire County Council – the presentation plus useful links arising from this event are on our blog.

It's been a whirlwind, and it's lovely to see developments at St Giles Community Garden, Dunston Community Gardening Club and Ormsby Estate, as well as participants creating bird houses and wildflower areas in your own gardens, while we're still under lockdown rules.

Ropsley Market Garden

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is a partnership between farmers and their local community, in which the responsibilities, risks and rewards of farming are shared.



We think that Ropsley Market Garden is Lincolnshire's first CSA - and hopefully the first of many - as people increasingly recognise the need for sustainable, resilient, healthy, local food, and

the power we have in the community to provide for ourselves and each other.

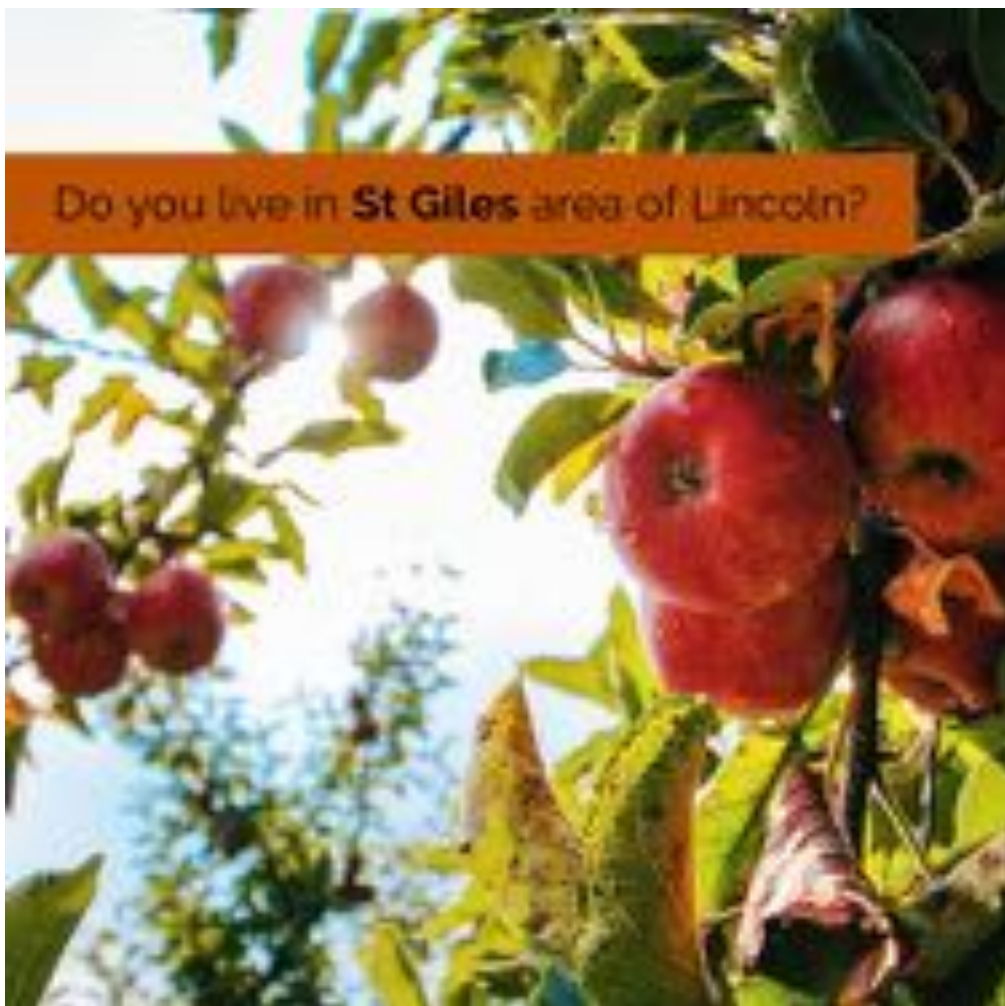
The plan for Ropsley is to grow vegetables, salad, herbs and flowers, and in due course, to create jobs and livelihoods for local people. The scheme will be financially sustainable, and there is the option to expand and take on more land in future.

12 households have already signed up, and *The Great Village Seed Start* is enabling local people to engage despite the lockdown, by sowing seeds in the greenhouse and on their windowsills.

Jemma, the farmer behind Ropsley Market Garden, welcomes involvement from both local people and those further afield who are interested in CSAs. There is more information on our blog and on the [Ropsley Market Garden Facebook page](#).

St Giles Garden City

The original design for the St. Giles area of Lincoln a century ago was inspired by Garden City principles. Could we restore some of those founding design principles to St Giles today? If you live on St Giles, please take two minutes to answer these [quick questions](#) - and please do forward it to a friend if someone you know lives on St Giles. <https://forms.gle/W31bwjMVNkVu6Ka57>



Care Farming

Care Farming is the therapeutic use of farming practices – where service users regularly attend the care farm - which by the way, could equally be a community garden, orchard or other outdoor environment - as part of a structured health or social care, rehabilitation or specialist educational programme.

The powerful mix of being in nature, being part of a group and taking part in meaningful nature-based activities is what makes care farming so successful.

We're hosting an Introduction to Care Farming, via zoom, on Wednesday 24th March, with lots of opportunity to ask questions of Sarah Marrison from Social Farms & Gardens, and Mark Coulman from Hall Farm, a working care farm in Lincolnshire.



Find out more, including how to register here: <https://lincolnfoodpartnership.org/2021/02/24/introduction-to-care-farming/>

Tell a Friend...

If you know of other people or organisations who would like to be involved in the Lincoln 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 May!

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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** lincolnfoodpartnership@gmail.com

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