

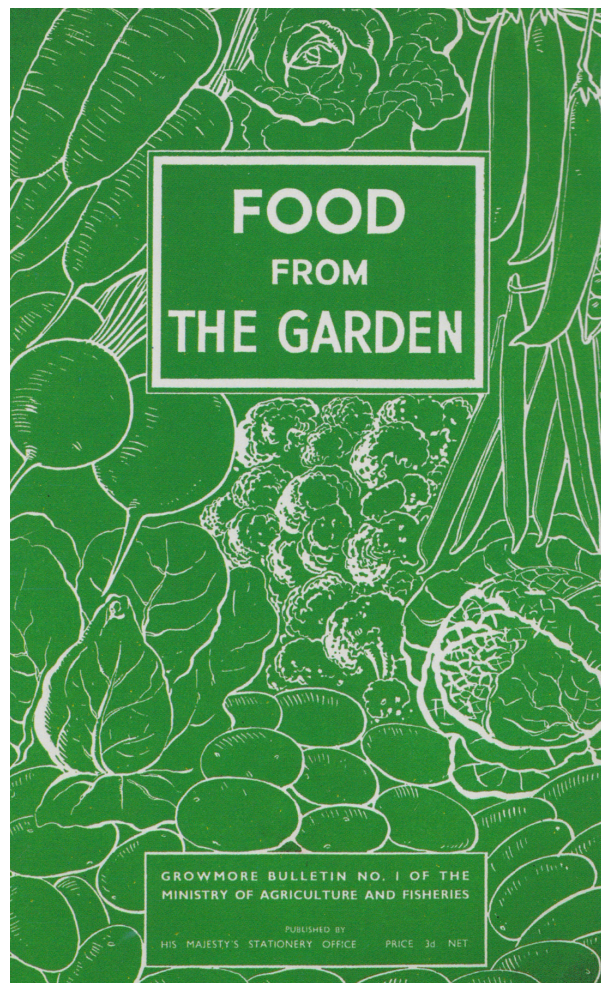
Lincoln Food Partnership

For fairer healthier greener food

Welcome to the April 2020 Edition of the Lincoln Food Partnership Newsletter

Whatever the current uncertainties, a prime concern for all of us has been to secure enough food for us and our loved ones. This has drawn me to my modest collection of books from the Second War on how to grow food in the back garden as part of 'digging for victory'. A small committee from the Royal Horticultural Society, the National Allotments Society and the Ministry of Agriculture produced the first of a series of booklets 'Food from the Garden' in 1939 and by 1944 it was claimed that an area the size of North Kesteven District was under food cultivation.

In this spirit, our first article this month assesses the growing potential of land within the Lincoln City boundary using a range of data sources. We then profile a group in the county that is championing this 'growing in small spaces' – the Lincolnshire Organic Growers Organisation. At a bigger scale, if we do import food from other countries, it is useful to be mindful of doing this as fairly as we can: we report on Cllr



Helena Mair's 'Fairtrade' visit to Palestine.

Finally, we go global. The University of Lincoln's Dan Magnone reflects on feeding the planet as times of threatened food security, drawing on his recent talk to Lincoln's Café Scientifique last month.

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. Many thanks for your interest

Nigel Curry,

Co-chair Lincoln Food Partnership

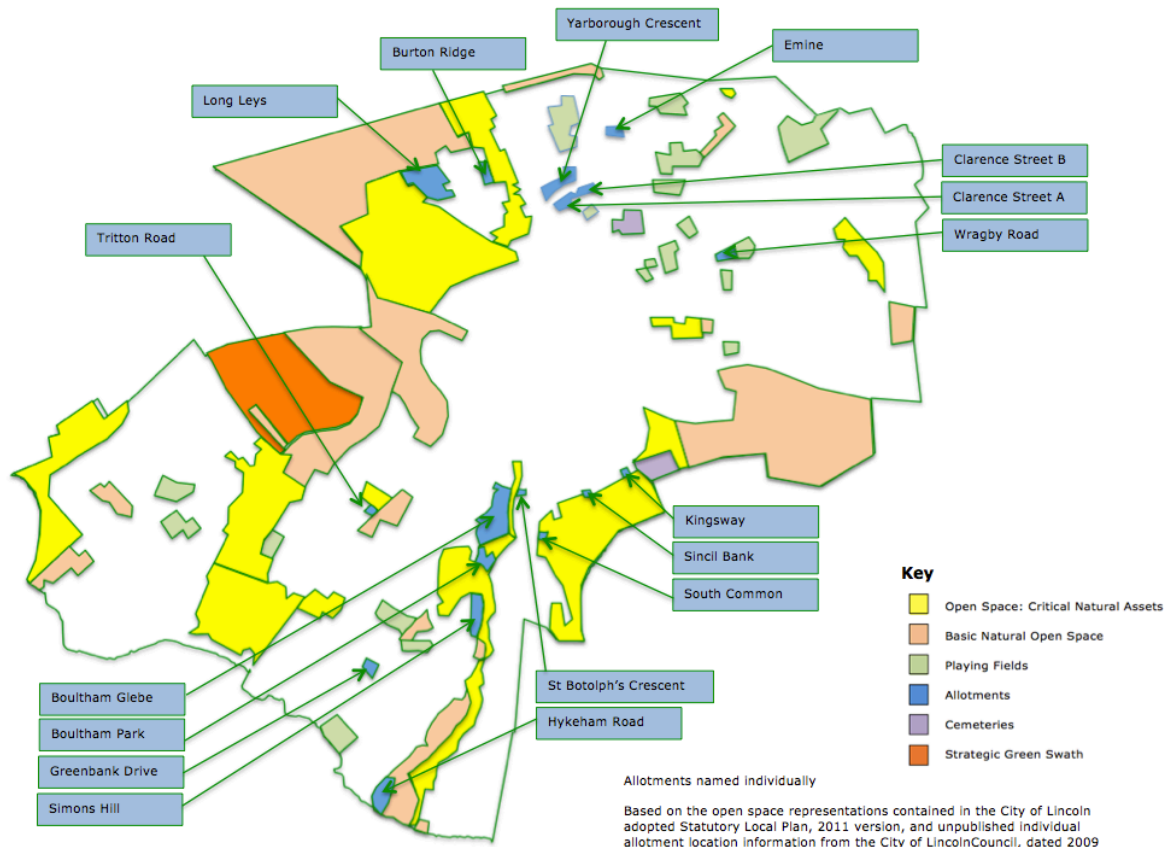
Self-sufficient Lincoln?

Here at the LFP we have been examining the potential for food growing in the City's open spaces. Whilst it is not possible to identify private land, a number of other spaces can be estimated. For example, there are 22.5 hectares of allotments (many already growing food).

The seven largest areas of open space in The City of Lincoln extend to 269.5 ha (see map, below) and there are around 19 ha of private gardens. There is a range of other land too – school playing fields, community parks and other amenity areas and we estimate the total cultivable area to be about **310 ha**. This is before we include rooftop growing – something that the University of Lincoln currently is examining, for example.

Using a range of other data for urban agriculture and horticulture studies, this could yield over 20 million kilos of food from within the City and at contemporary prices for fresh fruit and veg, would have a retail value of over £100 million.

A similar exercise in Sheffield showed that if all such land was given over to salads, fruit and vegetables, they would have 22% more produce than would be needed to feed the City, and everyone would have to give just over an hour a week to help with the growing process.



Of course, there are lots of issues about seasonality, skills acquisition and co-operation: but it is certainly food for thought!

Organic food is growing in the County



Do you know that organic food (and other plants) is being produced throughout Lincolnshire in small spaces? From small gardens, to large gardens, allotments and small holdings, the Lincolnshire Organic Gardeners' Organisation (LOGO) promotes the principles and practice of organic horticulture and agriculture.



Formed over 20 years ago, and affiliated to Garden Organic, LOGO is keen to develop an understanding of organic agriculture across its membership and to the general public. To achieve this, it has programmes of learning (visits, demonstrations and speakers), runs active campaigns, develops mutual help support and

advice, orchestrates seed swaps and sales and encourages the buying and selling of organic produce.



The Lincolnshire Organic Gardeners' Organisation has a Facebook site and a web page, where you can be kept up to date with all of their activities – and join in!

<https://m.facebook.com/LincolnshireOrganicGardenersOrganisation>

<http://logo.org.uk/>

From Palestine to Lincoln: the Importance of Fairtrade



In the November issue of the newsletter we explained what it meant for the City to be a Fairtrade City. Last autumn, Lincoln City Councillor Helena Mair went to visit a Community Interest Company that imports organically grown products from small scale farms in Palestine under the Fairtrade scheme – including the world's first Fairtrade olive oil.

All of the profits in the Fairtrade scheme are reinvested to develop small scale agriculture especially through improving infrastructure (critically, water) and marketing. And this is particularly important in Palestine, where farmers work under difficult conditions, access to resources is often difficult and military occupation can complicate the operation of many parts of the economic system.

Cllr Mair was able to help with the date harvest, visit the Anza Women's Co-operative (where wheat is grown, and couscous is made) and pick and bag the olives – for the olive oil - in the mountains of Canaan. She reflected:



“My experience of the trip was to feel the passion of the producers and the dedication to truly amazing food”.

Seeing the way in which Fairtrade helps at the ‘production’ end of the food chain makes it all the more clear that buying Fairtrade products is a good thing to do.

The Fairtrade Lincoln web site is here:

<https://lincolnfairtrade.com/>

and/or our blog on Fair Trade:

<https://lincolnfoodpartnership.org/2019/05/20/lincoln-is-a-fairtrade-city/>

Feeding the Planet in a Changing World

This is the title of a talk given at Lincoln's Café Scientifique on 10 March by Dan Magnone of the University of Lincoln's School of Geography. A brief summary is below.

Today there are seven billion people on Earth. We produce enough food to feed ten million. The scourge of global hunger is due to inequality not inability. Such food production as we have is a remarkable achievement and due, in part, to the development of modern agriculture and our mastery of soil.



Critical has been the use of fertiliser. Yet a key component of this - phosphate – is a finite and increasingly expensive resource. In Europe, the large amounts applied during the latter half of the 20th Century mean that we can now produce large yields with relatively low application rates – due to “residual” phosphate (that which is left in the soil after harvest).

However, during the 21st Century Sub-Saharan Africa is expected to have the most rapid population growth and will require a similar agricultural revolution. For many African countries this means a doubling of the proportion of income (GDP) spent of fertiliser in the next decade before reaching a more sustainable food future

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?

Thank you!

Active buttons for Facebook, Twitter, Forward (and Instagram?) – as per Laura’s observations:

If you follow the Facebook and Twitter icon links at the bottom of the newsletter, they take you to a mailchimp URL address which refers to a November newsletter. I have tried the link (on my personal Twitter account) and it works fine, but if it is possible to link it straight to the downloadable file from the website (e.g. <https://lincolnfoodpartnership.files.wordpress.com/2018/09/special-issue-s.pdf> , which you can access from this page: <https://lincolnfoodpartnership.org/2018/09/08/spot-light-on/>) it will have the right month in the link, and hopefully it should produce an image instead of just a URL.

Keep an eye out for our next newsletter in May

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