

Lincoln Food Partnership

For fairer healthier greener food

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

Covid 19 news is all-pervasive at present. Much of it can be worrying, but there are also a lot of incredibly heartening stories, too. At the Lincoln Food Partnership, we have wonderful reports of the community working together to try to ensure that everyone is properly fed.

Food banks across the county are broadening their remit. Many schools and food holiday schemes are looking after not only their own children but also the vulnerable in their community.

The Churches and the YMCA have a range of food support schemes – and many commercial enterprises are supplying those in need.



In this issue, we provide six examples of quite different schemes. The Lincoln Community Larder food bank has extended its operation to Welton, opening at St Mary's Church. Sainsbury's – as a large commercial provider – has introduced a volunteer scheme to allow shopping for the vulnerable. The Wragby Children Eat Free (ChEF) project has extended its services beyond both the school holidays and just children, and the Castle Hotel is feeding front-line workers out of their own funds. The Lincoln Baptist Church, too, has a LiFT project that feeds the vulnerable and offers a number of other support services, too.

The Lincoln Food Partnership has been really pleased to set up an Emergency Response team as a conduit for all of the main City Food Banks to work together seamlessly. The Lincoln Foodbank (run by Acts Trust), Lincoln Community Larder and Lincoln Mosque are working as one! We have other positive stories developing that we will bring you next 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

Feeding the Vulnerable in Welton

We've recently reported on developments in feeding the vulnerable in rural Lincolnshire: the new Life Community Larder in *Sleaford*; the Community Larder in *Horncastle*; St George's C of E Community Primary School in *Gainsborough*, *Washingborough Academy's* distribution project and elsewhere in this issue, the Children Eat Free Project in *Wragby*.



The County rural food network has further expanded to *Welton*, where the Lincoln Community Larder has opened its fourth delivery site at St Mary's Church. From here, the Larder is providing basic needs for those who are Covid-

vulnerable, recognising how difficult it can be for the sick and those with special needs in rural areas to gain access basic provisions and wholesome food. The demand for their food parcels is soaring.

The Lincoln Community Larder is run entirely by volunteers, and operates three other sites at Rosemary Lane, St Giles Methodist Church and St John the Baptist, all in Lincoln. And volunteers, of course, can always do with extra support. So, if you can donate, with either food or money there are a number of contacts:

Please continue to donate food and if you would like to volunteer, please visit <https://bit.ly/foodcrisis-volunteer>.

If you would like to donate financially, please visit: <https://evr.fund/oevb/>

To donate food and provisions to families in need:

Any queries, contact Lincoln Food Bank on [01522 542166](tel:01522542166) or amy@lincolnfoodbank.org.uk or lincolncommunitylarder@hotmail.co.uk for help.

Donation points are in most supermarkets and cooperative food stores in the City, or listed here: <https://lincolnfoodpartnership.org/2020/03/22/some-covid-19-food-responses-in-lincoln-city/>

Would you like a volunteer to shop for you?

Sainsbury's have launched a new initiative, to allow you, if you are self-isolating and find it hard to get out, to nominate a volunteer to do your shopping for you.



You can buy a Sainsbury's E-gift card online and put as much money on it as you want. You can then nominate a volunteer on the card, and it will be sent to them to do your shopping for you.

The new Volunteer E-Gift card has been introduced to make grocery shopping safe and easy for people self-isolating or social distancing. The E-Gift card is cashless, thereby protecting both the helper and store colleagues.

if you would like to try this scheme, just go to: sainsburysgiftcard.co.uk, with current information here: <https://lincolnfoodpartnership.org/2020/03/22/some-covid-19-food-responses-in-lincoln-city/>

Helping to Feed both Children and Adults in Wragby.

Wragby Children Eat Free (ChEF) is a volunteer run service, and has been operating for two years, providing free lunches to any child in its local community in the school holidays. The service became active earlier than the Easter school holidays this year - on the 23rd March - in response to school closures as a result of Coronavirus self-isolation.



Whereas the group would normally service an average of 90 lunches a week in the school holidays, they have been experiencing numbers of over 200 a week, whilst the vast majority of children are in self isolation. Wragby ChEF is expecting to see these numbers continue to escalate as more families are affected by financial restraints.

The group also now operates a Community Meals on Wheels service as a result of identifying rising numbers of vulnerable and self-isolating adult residents, too. Volunteers deliver homemade hot meals to the doorsteps of residents, and health and safety is paramount in everything they do. The group has been delighted by the support received from local people, organisations and businesses.

Whether you live in Wragby or not, and you would like to support Wragby ChEF, please contact wragbychef@gmail.com or 07817 801003 for further information.

Castle Hotel provides free, nourishing meals to Lincoln NHS workers.



With cafes and other eating places closed, NHS staff, and those at the Coronavirus front line in particular, can find it difficult to eat properly. Long shifts mean eating at work. But at the end of a difficult day it is also great to go home with a takeaway rather than having to spend more time on food preparation.

Paul Catlow and Saera Ahmed have a solution. They are providing free meals to NHS workers from their small family run enterprise, the Castle Hotel and Restaurant in Westgate. Their kitchen is otherwise unused, and this was a great opportunity to help.

Funding it themselves and sourcing all of their produce locally, they are providing meals on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. These include sausage and mash, cottage pie and chilli with rice - with vegetarian options and a desert.

Saera and Paul would like to ramp up this service. They would love to hear from other eateries in the area who could help them make this a seven day a week service. If you are one such, do contact them:

info@castlehotel.net

If you would like to make a donation to help keep this service going:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/feed-nhs-lincoln-workers>



LiFTing the Spirits whilst feeding the hungry

Lincoln Baptist Church is the focal point for the work of the LiFT Project. Before Covid 19, the Church played host at various times of the week to anyone who wanted to join them for breakfast or lunch. People with various needs such as drug addition, trauma, other mental health issues, homelessness and so on, would participate, and the project would be able to assess a range of housing, medical and benefit needs.



people are sleeping rough.

LiFT's Covid 19 response is still about food – distributing it in made-up parcels to people in need - but the project also is able to assess the situation of individuals specifically in the pandemic context. They also often have a medical team on hand to respond to particular health needs of all types. They can give advice, too, on where to seek help if

It can sometimes be difficult attending to people's personal needs, whilst still social distancing, but the LiFT project provides another great example in the City of using food as a catalyst to gain access to a number of other issues.

Better together!

The Lincoln Food Partnership now has an 'Emergency Response' group, made up of the main emergency 'food banks' in the City. This group includes Lincoln Foodbank



(run by Acts Trust), Lincoln Community Larder and Lincoln Mosque who between them are running nine centres where people without funds for food can pick up a free emergency food parcel. The newest centres are at St Mary's Church in Welton, operating between 1:30pm and 3pm on a Thursday, and Lincoln Mosque on Dixon Street, operating on Monday afternoons between 2pm and 4pm.

Together they operate a joint referral system designed by Acts Trust through which organisations can refer people for help online. Organisations wishing to register to be able to use the new online referral form can do so by filling out the registration form at <https://bit.ly/foodcrisis-referrer-signup>.

In the first 25 days of using the new referral system, the emergency response group provided food aid to 367 households in Lincoln, over 40% of which required home delivery due to



self-isolating, with no access to money and no one to help. In addition to



this, the group has also provided food to many others still referred using the old paper voucher scheme.

Simon Hoare, CEO of Acts Trust said:

“It is a great service to the City that our organisations are showing real willingness to work together in such an effective way, especially at this unprecedented time of crisis”.

Both the City of Lincoln Council and Dial a Ride have supported the group by providing vans and drivers to help with home deliveries alongside Lincoln Foodbank who are using their new van provided by Lincs Van Hire.

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: <http://eepurl.com/gChRcr>

Thank you!

Active buttons for Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram

Keep an eye out for our next newsletter in June

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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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