



***Making good food accessible to all across Arun and Chichester
December 2023***

Hello everyone - with a small break over the holiday period we wanted to share a quick update for December. We have focussed this edition on different ways to support people this Christmas. Although the festive season is synonymous with generosity, it is important to remember that many initiatives need support all year round to remain open to those who rely on their provision.

We want to take this opportunity to say thank you to everyone who has followed our work this year, everyone that has supported a local charity, whether that is through volunteering, donating food or funds, and those of you looking out for your families and neighbours day in day out. Here's to a thriving and community-spirited 2024.



How to support the community this Christmas

Christmas is a time where many of us think about how we can give back to the community and support people that are struggling. Here are just some of the different ways you can do that to help people in food poverty this winter.

Donate food

Many foodbanks see an increase in demand during the school holidays where families are having to cover additional meals. This is often more of a financial strain during the winter months where energy costs continue to be high. This can leave foodbanks and other initiatives low on stock - so please consider donating food to your local food bank. [Chichester District](#), [Littlehampton](#) and [Bognor](#) are the three Trussell Trust foodbanks in our area and you can click on each one for a list of their needed items and donation points. There are also independent foodbanks such as [One Foundation](#) in Emsworth that accept donations of food or funds. Please check out their websites for details of how to donate money or time as well.

Donate money

The cost of living crisis has not only impacted on households and caused more demand on local charities - it has also meant that the costs to run those charities, including necessary expenditure such as utility bills and fuel for deliveries, has increased too. Groups are trying to support more people with less money so it has never been more important to provide financial support to local food projects, where you can. Some groups benefit from setting up a small monthly donation, whilst others run occasional crowdfunders or match-giving campaigns - check out [Littlehampton Community Fridge's latest crowdfunder](#) where they hope to bring in £15,000 to cover essential costs, and the [match-funding appeal from UK Harvest](#) means every donation is doubled.

Visit the websites or Facebook pages of your favourite local projects to find out how to give a financial gift - including all the foodbanks listed above.

Donate time

We get lots of questions about volunteering over the holiday period, which is fantastic. Whilst there may be some one-off opportunities, many groups ask for a regular commitment to volunteering all year round. The best place to find all the local volunteering opportunities is the [database from Voluntary Action Arun and Chichester \(VAAC\)](#).

Sign a petition

You do not need to have spare cash or time to make your voice heard. We are supporting the Trussell Trust's Guarantee our Essentials campaign which calls on the Government to ensure that the basic rate of Universal Credit covers life's essentials, such as food and bills. Sign their petition [here](#).

Looking for support?

If you or a loved one needs extra help this year, do not be afraid to ask. A good first step is to contact Citizen's Advice where they have a range of options for how to get in touch and different projects to support you with your specific need, including food bank referrals, energy advice, health and housing. Visit them online [here](#). Find our food information sheets for different areas across Arun and Chichester [here](#), but please note that opening hours may be different over the holiday period.

Grants to increase access to food available for local projects

Funds are still available for community groups to support Arun residents with access to food over the winter months. This can be for a variety of initiatives including:

- purchasing food for your project to meet an increasing need
- extending opening hours or expanding locations to reach more people
- creating a new food provision such as at a warm space or school
- purchasing special diet and/or culturally specific foods
- cook and eat sessions with take-home food
- providing food at a lunch club or community café in an area with poor access to affordable food.

Find all the details of how to apply [here](#).

[Read more here](#) about how the Chichester Food Fund helped improve access to food across the district earlier this year.

TEACHERS: YOUR VOICE MATTERS !



Calling all teachers and education staff

If you work in an education setting we would be extremely grateful if you could take five minutes to complete our survey, and if you know teachers or support staff based in Arun and Chichester, please do share it with them. We want to learn from the real experiences of teachers and support staff about if and how the cost of living crisis is impacting pupils and their families. You can find the survey [here](#).

If you work in a school and are interested in talking to us about any of the above, please [get in touch](#).



Changes to UK Harvest Community Food Hubs

UK Harvest are moving their Portfield Community Food Hub in Chichester to the [Swanfield Park Community Centre](#) as of 11 January 2024. This will be a fortnightly hub running between 3-4pm every other Thursday and the larger venue will be able to provide refreshments and signposting support to those in the area. Please note their hubs are closed from 25th December until 4th January 2024. They are working with some hub venues to provide a limited number of emergency food parcels. If you are in need please contact your closest hub venue to find out, or contact [Citizens Advice](#) for further guidance. For full community food hub listings visit the [UK Harvest website](#).



Are you a local business in Sussex that buys or sells food?

Our neighbours in the [Good Food for East Sussex network](#) have had many businesses and groups suggest that they arrange an event to allow farms and producers to connect with local businesses and procurers, to support more food being bought locally.

If you would be interested in coming along to an event, and/or being part of a directory connecting local suppliers and buyers, **please fill in the following form:** <https://forms.gle/pC456GY2grSpsu3f7>. This is open to anyone based in Sussex or surrounding areas.

Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) scheme open over the holidays

Once again over the school holidays there will be free sessions for school children, providing various activities and food available for families receiving free school meals. [Click here to register and sign up.](#)



Spotlight on Goodwood Education Trust

Earlier this month we were thrilled to get the opportunity to visit the [Goodwood Education Trust](#), a charity linked to the Goodwood Estate that provide opportunities to connect with and learn about the natural environment and experience an active organic meat and dairy farm. We met the fantastic team who showed us the built-for-purpose education centre before a visit to see the cows.

Set on the 11,000 acre estate, Goodwood Home Farm is one of the largest lowland organic

farms in the country. Alongside beef, pork and lamb products they make their own award-winning cheeses as well as brew their own beer.

The Trust have fully funded trips - transport included - for local schools with a higher than average proportion of children eligible for free school meals, special education needs or English as an additional language. They can also host sessions for youth groups and adults - contact them to discuss your requirements.

Children have close but safe access to dairy and beef cows, see pigs and sheep, make butter from cream, and taste Goodwood organic milk. The principles of organic farming are explained, and experienced Education Guides describe the benefits of farming in this nature-friendly way.

To find out more contact the team at get@goodwood.com or call 01243 755157.

Food Partnership in the press

We were pleased to see that the Food Partnership and various projects were mentioned in an article in the Chichester Observer last week by leader of Chichester District Council, Councillor Adrian Moss. The article mentions the community growing project, fantastic organisations like Petworth Community Garden, UK Harvest and Chichester District Foodbank alongside useful initiatives like food waste reduction apps and the council's Supporting You service. Thank you for highlighting the important topics of food access! You can read the article [here](#).

Please forward this newsletter to anyone who you think may be interested.

[Click here](#) to sign up to this newsletter.



The Arun & Chichester Food Partnership brings together a collaborative network of cross-sector partners in the local food system to make good food accessible to all throughout our region.

We are proud members of [Sustainable Food Places](#), a partnership programme run by the Soil Association, Food Matters and Sustain. It is funded by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and The National Lottery Community Fund.



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