

**October 14<sup>th</sup> 2021**

**REPORT OF 2021 DIDCOT FOOD FESTIVAL FOR THE DIDCOT TOWN COUNCIL  
FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE.**

**THANK YOU TO THE COUNCIL FOR OUR 2021 GRANT AWARD.**

I can report that the 2021 festival which was spread over the 2 days of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of October was a huge success. Even though the weather was awful on the Saturday we were packed for most of the day. Sunday was a little quieter but still worth doing when looking at the take and the costs. Antony Worrall Thompson opened the event at 10.30am along with Mayor Mocky Khan and MP David Johnston, all agreed it was a wonderful event to put on for the town.

The councils grant meant that we could achieve the following:

- Have a strong publicity campaign in local magazines and news feeds.
- Street and internal signage
- Contribute towards the cost of the venue hire.

Apart from the main food hall which showcased a lot of local producers, our other wonderful attractions, the Kid Zone where the children could enter competitions and book a place make a pizza, the Vintage Café with its homemade cakes and pastries and the outside delicious Street Food area all contributed to the ultimate success of the event. The demo theatre in the Ladygrove room was full for each appearance of our celebrity chefs and one lady from Harwell sat through all 8!! Broadway Butchers kindly did a demo for us in the Sunday lunch period and I thank them for giving up their weekend time to do it!

We have received countless 'thank you's' from members of the public and on the day a couple who have just moved to the town sought me out and said that they really felt part of the community by the friendliness of the people and the wonderful foods and entertainments on offer!

The money raised from the Festival is enabling us to put on other events for the town most notably the Christmas Festive market on the 5<sup>th</sup> December which will run through the Market Place and into the Orchard Centre. We have much planned for this and it is already attracting a lot of interest from stall holders and the public alike.

We could not consider these further attractions without the funds raised by the Food Festival which owes its success to our supporters and to the hours of hard work by the Didcot Events team.

Thank you for **your** support!

**Chris Wallace** – Great British Bake Off finalist and Food Festival organiser.