

Newsletter June 2024

A word from Sue

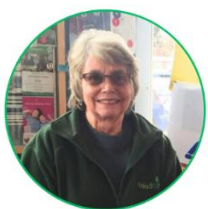
The last two years have been very difficult for local people and more than 1,600 households have turned to the foodbank for help. 935 of these households came to us for the first time this year and many told us that they use to donate to the foodbank but never expected they would need to use it themselves. 75% of those who have used the foodbank this year have come only once or twice.

Alongside the provision of emergency food and a warm welcome Taunton Foodbank now works in partnership with Citizens Advice Somerset to provide on-site advice and support that makes it less likely someone will need the food bank again in the future. This year our Citizens Advice Advisor has helped clients with over 900 different issues. As part of the Advisor's income maximisation work with clients, which includes form filling and charitable grant applications, it is estimated that financial gains of £59,000 were secured for Foodbank clients. We also have a village agent on site one day a week to provide an advisory service.

Could I take this opportunity to thank you, if you are reading this newsletter then you will have also played a part in keeping the Foodbank going this year.

We could not do this without you.

Sue Weightman - Foodbank Manager



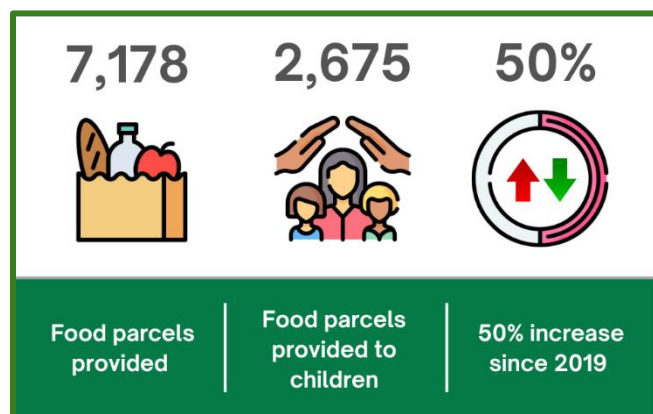
Mary's Numbers

Our annual figures were released in the middle of May and revealed that from 1 April 2023 to 31 March

2024 Taunton Foodbank provided 7,178 food parcels to people facing hardship in our area, with 2,675 of

these going to children. This is a 50% increase from the situation 5 years ago as more local households seek help from the Foodbank. The annual figures from the Trussell Trust show that more than 3.1 million food parcels were given out across the UK.

The support of the local community is vital in ensuring that Taunton food bank can be there for anyone who turns to them for help, but the rising levels of need have had a significant impact on stock levels. People are finding it harder to support the foodbank with food donations and our stocks have dropped significantly over the last few months. However, with our financial donations we are now purchasing food to fill the gaps to continue to provide for the people in need in our community.



Message from the Trustees

We thought this newsletter would be a good opportunity to say something on behalf of the trustees.

Firstly, we say goodbye to Diane as a long serving trustee and we welcome Jon Hughes to the trustee board. We would also like to thank you all, donors, staff and volunteers for your commitment to the work of the foodbank and your generosity in giving your time and financial support to help those in need.

Farewell to Lorraine



In May we said goodbye to our Lead Volunteer in the Distribution Room, Lorraine Jacob. Lorraine has been with us for a number of years, and we cannot thank her enough for all that she has done for the Foodbank during this time. We have all benefitted from her dedication, wisdom and service. The way she has touched so many of us was reflected in the messages and generous gift we were able to give her when she left. This message from Lorraine I think says it all:

"I have just opened my cards and seen so many lovely messages from you all, I was a bit overwhelmed and decided to stay! I was also surprised to receive your generous gift, thank you. I am sure I will find just the right thing to buy when we are settled in our new home. Seriously, I can honestly say my time at Foodbank has been a joy and I have met so many lovely, caring people with a passion for looking out for others. It has never been a chore but a privilege to serve God in this place. I will miss you, trying not to think about this aspect, just thankful to God that I have been part of the team. My prayer is that God will bless each of you and you will find contentment and happiness in life.

With many thanks - Lorraine x

Thank You's

We are continually overwhelmed by the ongoing generosity from various companies, organisations and individuals who support us with food and financial donations. Thank you all.



Special Thank You

A C Mole Accountants who sponsored our Volunteer Thank You event at the Brewhouse Theatre in March. This well attended event allowed us to express our heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated volunteers for their tireless efforts. We deeply appreciate A C Mole for supporting us.



Howards Motor Group who provides and services the Foodbank Van each year, stepping in at short notice when the oil pump broke. We should also thank all the volunteer van drivers who keep an eye on the van and collect all the donations each day from the supermarkets and make extra deliveries where necessary.



Branston Ltd who provide potatoes for us to give to our clients. This makes a huge difference to the variety of fresh food that we give out alongside the standard food box. It is greatly appreciated.

