

It's begun!!

This time last year the foodbank gave up its large rented warehouse having decided to consolidate onto one site. Renting was just too expensive. So that we could continue to meet demand we needed to extend our existing warehouse, so thanks to some generous donations and the approval of the Community Asset Grant from TVBC we are delighted to announce that the building work has begun.

We have been very overwhelmed by the support of our local community in getting this project off the ground. As in all builds we have had hitches with potential tree roots and just this week with an unexpected drain, but we hope to be completed sometime in July. We'll need to close for a few days for the builders to knock through to the existing warehouse, for new racking to go up and the food to go back in but we shall stock up our distribution points with boxes before this happens to ensure no one goes hungry during this time. We would like to thank everyone who has been involved in this process and watch out for building updates!



Universal Credit

Just as our extension is due to be finished, Universal Credit is expected to be rolled out in our area. Other foodbanks have seen an increase in demand as this has happened in their areas and although improvements have been made to the application system we would be grateful if you can watch our social media and other publications in case we start to run low on items, thank you.

"It is so much better for us to have everything under one roof, not having to constantly move stock saves so much time and it helps us all feel part of the same team"

Easter Eggs

Thank you so much for your generous donations of Easter eggs. Thanks to you, 1120 chocolate eggs were distributed to children and vulnerable adults in time for Easter Sunday. An eggcellent result!

Supermarket collections

Once again we had some very generous donations at our recent supermarket collections in ASDA, 575kg and £68.98 on 24th March and 788kg and £85.98 at Tesco's on 4th & 5th May. Thank you so much for your generosity and for the positive comments our volunteers receive while out collecting. Our next collection is back in ASDA on 29th and 30th June. Please note that from 12th May, ASDA will also have a permanent collection point– thanks ASDA!

IN OTHER NEWS

Quiz nights

The foodbank quiz was excellent fun and over 70 people came along. Some local history questions had a few people puzzled but helped raise £700!

We'd also like to thank Amy and all at the Town Mills pub for hosting a quiz night back in February. A great night had by all and raised £370!

Don't forget to sign up for

Andover foodbank 10k & 5k lake run

Sunday 16th September

www.andover10klakerun.co.uk

We also need help with marshals and on the day admin so if running is not your thing, but you would like to help contact the office on the details below.

By doing a little additional fundraising you can also become part of **Team AFB**. Check out details on our website

www.andoverfoodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money

Picnic in the Park

We'll be at the Mayor's Picnic in the Park from 2-5pm at Vigo Recreational Ground Sunday June 17th. Entrance is free and there will be entertainment for the whole family. Just bring your own picnic, chairs and tables etc. Come and have a chat and maybe even pack a box. A lovely way to spend Father's day!

U3A

We were delighted to welcome a group from the local University of the Third Age (U3A) to the foodbank. The group got to hear all about the things we do and who we help and had the chance to look around our warehouse and see how it all works. If you belong to a group who would like to find out more, please contact us to arrange a speaker or a visit.

GDPR

As with many organizations we are preparing for the new GDPR regulations. Along with the Diocese of Portsmouth (with whom we are registered) we are committed to ensuring high standards of information security, privacy and transparency. More information regarding these changes will be available on our website soon.

Annual review

We've just put together our annual figures for year April 2017 - March 2018. For a copy of our full review please email the office or give us a call using the contact details below. Here is a summary of how you helped with your generous donations.

You gave an amazing 31.7 tonnes of food and this was distributed through 984 family boxes, 797 single and 57 limited cooking (boxes designed for those with limited cooking facilities, eg homeless or in a B&B) and 380 festive hampers. 337 toiletry, 141 cleaning and 75 welcome packs were also distributed. We also were able to supply 26 duvets with linen sets. Enough food for 4325 people was distributed of which 1395 were children.

The 2 main reasons for people being in crisis are changes and delays in benefits (38%) and struggling on low income (37%). 76% clients need two boxes or less from us.

None of this would be possible without your generous donations, either the items themselves or through financial support. Our clients are so very grateful that they live in a community that cares so much. Thank you.



Andover foodbank

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