

Hello, Goodbye and Thank You!



Rhian and Kevin at the tea party

The Trustees of North Cotswold Foodbank held a tea party on 31st August to thank all the volunteers and supporters for their work with the Foodbank this year. It was also an occasion to say “goodbye” to Rhian Morgan, who has been the Foodbank’s Project Manager since December 2013. During that time, Rhian has seen use of the Foodbank increase significantly as more and more people struggle to eat because they simply cannot afford food.

We wish Rhian all the best and will miss her, although we will still be able to benefit from her knowledge and insight as she has agreed to become a Trustee.

Rhian commented, “I have thoroughly enjoyed my six years with North Cotswold Foodbank. Although it is disappointing that we have not yet reached a point where foodbanks are no longer needed, we will continue to provide vital support when it matters most. I’d also like to thank everyone in the area who has generously donated food, time and funds, as without this support the Foodbank could not operate.”

We also said “hello” to Rhian’s replacement, Kevin Carden, who joined us in August. Kevin has previously worked at foodbanks in Cambridge and, most recently, Stroud, and is looking forward to taking over the project management role. Kevin said, “I am delighted to have joined the team at North Cotswold Foodbank as Project Manager. The work of the foodbank is so important and I aim to make a positive contribution to the operation by fully supporting and building on the great work that you all do.” You can find out more about Kevin in the article below.

We have also said a very final “goodbye”, and huge thank you, to James Milton. James was the founder of North Cotswold Foodbank back in 2011, subsequently becoming Chairman of the Board of Trustees. He stood down from this role last summer, but remained a Trustee. Now, due to other commitments, James is retiring from the Board of Trustees. However, he will continue to work for the Trussell Trust at their head office in Salisbury.

A big “thank you” also goes to the ladies of the Baking, Making and Shaking WI in Bishops Cleeve who provided the delicious cakes!

A Message from our New Project Manager

We’re delighted to welcome Kevin Carden, our new Project Manager, to North Cotswold Foodbank. Kevin said:

“I am delighted to have joined the team at North Cotswold Foodbank as Project Manager. The work of the foodbank is so important and I aim to make a positive contribution to the operation by fully supporting and building on the great work that you all do. I am not completely new to our line of work having previously held voluntary roles at Cambridge City and Stroud District foodbanks where I gained experience of warehouse work and liaison with supermarket partners.



I bring with me 40 years of retail experience in various management positions within Tesco. In the UK, I held store and area management roles, and I have also worked as a project manager in China, Japan and Thailand.

Volunteers required

Volunteers are the driving force behind our foodbank, helping us to get emergency food to people in crisis.

We’re currently looking for volunteers at our centres in Chipping Campden and Moreton-in-Marsh. If you can spare a few hours a month and would like to help make a real difference in the fight against poverty, please check out our website for further details and an application form: <https://northcotswold.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/volunteer/>

Shortages

We have been very busy over the summer holidays and are currently short of the following items:

- Fish: tuna, salmon
- Crumble mix
- Tins of rice pudding
- Biscuits
- Rice (pouches)
- Ketchup
- Mayonnaise
- Long life milk
- Long life fruit juice
- Chocolate
- Snacks
- Packets cheese/white sauce
- Ladies’ shampoo, conditioner, deodorant

Please ensure all food donations have a sell-by date at least 3 months away.

We have plenty of dried pasta, baked beans and cereals.

Store opening

Please note that the Guiting Power store is only open on Tuesdays, from 10-12, for donations of food only.



I live in Stroud with my wife, our youngest daughter and a 7-month old Labrador puppy. My oldest daughter lives in Southampton and our son lives in Singapore. I am a qualified cricket umpire and long-suffering supporter of Portsmouth FC, my home town club.

I would like to thank everyone that I have met so far. You have made me feel very welcome and I look forward to working alongside you all in the future."

A Busy Summer

As in previous years, we have been very busy this summer as parents find their income simply won't stretch to cover the cost of extra meals or additional childcare during the holidays. For some families, the prospect of the summer holidays is something they dread, because many will struggle without free school lunches.

This comes against a backdrop of soaring nationwide foodbank use in the UK with over 1.6m emergency parcels given out to people in crisis last year – more than ever before. At North Cotswold Foodbank, we provided 1,670 three-day emergency food parcels to local people between April 2018 and March 2019. Of this number, 798 went to children. These figures represent an increase of 26% over the same period last year. We believe the increase, particularly of families using the Foodbank, is due to people continuing to struggle with issues with benefit payments and Universal Credit (such as the five-week wait) and insecure work.

The groups of people most likely to be referred to a foodbank are disabled people or those living with a health condition, families with children, and single parents. These groups have seen particularly harsh reductions in the levels of benefits they receive and with continual rises in the costs of necessities like food and housing, compounded with problems such as the wait for a payment under the Government's new benefits system Universal Credit, they're most likely to need a foodbank's help.

What Our Clients Say

It's always nice to get some feedback from clients and the agencies that provide support to them and are responsible for the foodbank referrals. Here are some comments we received from some of our schools and agencies about the hampers we handed out last Christmas:

"I am just so grateful of being able to access your help, it makes my job so much easier, thank you so much for helping my families. It really is fabulous and very gratefully received, my parents are relieved and incredibly thankful. The pressure is lifting off their shoulders! Thank you."

"I came over to your lovely team today and they gave me some wonderful bags for Peter. He will be so delighted. Thanks to your team, please, they are very welcoming and helpful."*

"I just wanted to express how lovely everyone had been and how very impressed I've been with the whole process. I loved how thoughtful everyone was about the extras included with the normal items, especially the little treats. I'm so grateful for the kindness shown to me and the care shown to my patient that I wanted to pass on my thanks to today's team."

*not his real name.

Donations

Just a reminder that in addition to food, financial donations are always welcome as these support our ongoing work at the Foodbank. Details of how to donate can be found on our website here:

<https://northcotswold.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/>

Don't forget to complete the Gift Aid form if you are a taxpayer: for every £1 you donate we can reclaim 25p tax to help your donation go even further.

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[@NthCotsFoodBank](https://twitter.com/NthCotsFoodBank)

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via Instagram:
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