

# North Cotswold Foodbank

# NEWSLETTER

February 2023

## Message from Kevin

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2023.

We were extremely fortunate to receive so many donations during December of both food and money. This puts us in a good position to meet the challenges we will face for the remainder of this winter. A huge thank you to all of our wonderful supporters. And also to our volunteers for their hard work during the busy period in the run up to Christmas. We handed out 210 hampers to clients in addition to our usual food parcels.



The start of the new year is a time for us to take stock of where we are currently and to plan our strategy and requirements to meet the challenges ahead.

Last month we held the first ever strategy day for North Cotswold Foodbank. The day was led by the Trustees and involved our lead volunteers and employees.

We reviewed the growth of the Foodbank over the past three years, taking stock of where we are now and identifying the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Our goal is to produce an achievable plan that ensures we are equipped to deal with the increased need in our area and can support clients facing hardship.

We should all be free from hunger. No one should be struggling to afford the essentials in the UK, one of the richest countries in the world, in this day and age.

But they are. Foodbanks are facing their toughest winter ever, as more and more people are being forced to turn to them just to survive. Please help us ensure we can be there for everyone who needs us.

Kevin Carden  
Project Manager

## Foodbank Britain: five months on the frontline of the new emergency service

In December, *the Guardian* published an article by a journalist who had spent the past five months talking to people who depend on the foodbank in one affluent area of London. They told their stories of struggle and solidarity, revealing the daily reality of the cost of living crisis.

Like communities across Britain, people in Earlsfield are facing an unprecedented struggle to meet basic living costs – many going without food, heat and electricity. On Thursday mornings, a queue forms outside the church from as early as 7am for the weekly foodbank. Its clientele, some of whom walk for as long as two hours to get there, includes new mothers and babies, pensioners, the unemployed, the homeless, people who are disabled, Ukrainian refugees and those who, despite having jobs, still cannot make ends meet.

People told of their fears for the winter, how cost of living stresses had contributed to depression and suicidal thoughts, and many, including the elderly, said having to restrict food was affecting their health. Most said they would struggle to make further cutbacks, while many on prepayment meters said they were still having problems getting government assistance with their energy bills.

You can read the full article here:  
<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2022/dec/03/food-bank-britain-five-months-on-the-frontline-of-the-new-emergency-service>

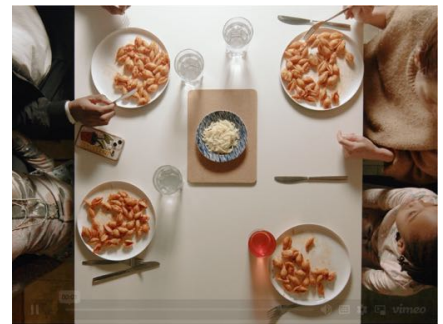


## Trussell Trust video

With the cost of living crisis, more and more people are being forced to use foodbanks.

A new video from the Trussell Trust highlights some of the impossible decisions families are having to make.

<https://www.trusselltrust.org/2022/12/13/watch-our-new-video/>



## One Moreton

Alexia Monroe, lead volunteer at our Moreton centre, represented North Cotswold Foodbank at the recent One Moreton Community and Awareness event. This is aimed at raising awareness of how and where to access services available in the town.



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The Foodbank is very grateful for the generous financial support of: the Notgrove Trust; Co-operative Community Fund; the Baptist Union; the Summerfield Trust; Gloucester Community Foundation; the Moreton Charity; Edith Mann Charity; Bourton on the Water Trust; the Northleach Club; Sudeley Lodge; Yorkshire Building Society; Dormer House School; Muslim Hands; Emporium Gifts; Moreton Conservative Association; The Unite Union; and many parish councils, churches, town councils, individual donors and groups.

February 2023

### News update

The winter collection last December saw a fantastic response from very generous Tesco shoppers in Stow and Bishops Cleeve, with 10% more food collected than in the previous year, despite the cost of living crisis. We were extremely grateful for this boost to our stocks, as we had to make up more food parcels in December than ever before, as well as more Christmas hampers. The effort put in by our volunteers at Tesco, the warehouse and our outlets was truly remarkable. Thank you to everyone who braved the cold (and the power cuts on the Saturday!) and supported us, including local MP Sir Geoffrey Clifton Brown at the Stow store.



There have been a number of changes in personnel in recent months. It was with great sadness that we said goodbye to Diane Hyett at the beginning of December. Diane had been with North Cotswold Foodbank as Assistant Manager for four years. During that time she provided dedicated support to our team and was the main point of contact for all volunteers and agency partners. We thank her for all she has done and wish her all the best for the future. Diane is replaced by Lorna Shawcross, a regular volunteer at our Chipping Campden outlet. Welcome to the team Lorna!

Our long-term Treasurer Allan "Gillie" Gillespie has also handed over his role to Ian Quartermaine. I would like to thank Gillie for all he has done for the Foodbank in his joint role of Trustee and Treasurer. We all wish Gillie the very best for the future and extend a warm welcome to the team to Ian.

And finally, our new part time warehouse coordinator, Arthur Arnold, started at the end of January to manage our store at Guiting Power. Welcome to the team Arthur!

At the end of last year, we received a lovely email from one of our clients. It simply said: "We really appreciate everything you all do. It helps us so much, you have no idea how much this means to us. And you are all amazing and wonderful people. So thank you again."

### Christmas Tree Festival

North Cotswold Foodbank sponsored a tree at the Christmas Tree festival held at St Edward's Church, Stow on the Wold, in December. The spectacular display of Christmas trees, donated by Fosseway Garden Centre, were decorated by children, organisations and businesses in the town. Well done to our volunteers Rowan, Lyn, Sue, Val and Joy for their very creative hand-made tree decorations.

On the Sunday afternoon a coach party of Ukrainian visitors from London arrived. A benefactor had treated the group to a 'Day in the Cotswolds'. They very much enjoyed visiting Stow and the tree festival. The festival raised a total of £4,600 in aid of the church's running costs.



### Citizens Advice Advisors

At the beginning of February, two new specialist advisors from North & West Gloucestershire Citizens Advice joined the team focusing on supporting our clients at Bishops Cleeve and Winchcombe, working alongside the two current advisors.

The two new advisors are Emma, a housing specialist, and Beth, a welfare specialist.

We have been able to fund their salaries for three years through a generous grant we received from the Trussell Trust last year.

### Donate food

We always welcome non-perishable food and hygiene and cleaning products. The items we need change regularly, so please check the list on our website to see the latest shortages.

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

You can take your donations to the store in Guiting Power, which is open on Tuesdays from 10.00 -12.00.

There are also collection points in the following locations:

Post office and One Stop shop, Chipping Campden

Bishops Cleeve Parish Council Office, GL52 8LR (Monday-Friday 9.00am-12.00pm)

White House Surgery, Moreton, opposite the North Cotswold Hospital

Tesco in Stow and Bishops Cleeve

Co-op in Bourton, Moreton, Winchcombe and Bishops Cleeve

Please note that supermarket collection points are for in-store purchases only. You can find a list of what we're short of on the home page of our website at [northcotswold.foodbank.org.uk](http://northcotswold.foodbank.org.uk)

Details of how to donate money can be found on our website here: [northcotswold.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/](http://northcotswold.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/)

### Contact details

Store:

North Cotswold Foodbank  
Unit 2, Glebe Farm Buildings  
Guiting Power  
Cheltenham GL54 5TZ  
Tel: 07879 375562

Email: [info@northcotswold.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@northcotswold.foodbank.org.uk)  
Website: [northcotswold.foodbank.org.uk](http://northcotswold.foodbank.org.uk)

The store is open on Tuesdays from 10.00 – 12.00 for donations.

### Follow us



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via Instagram: [www.instagram.com/Northcotswoldfoodbank](http://www.instagram.com/Northcotswoldfoodbank)



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