

North Cotswold Foodbank

NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2024

Message from Kevin

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter.

As the days shorten and the weather turns colder, the signs of autumn are all around us. It's also Harvest time - traditionally, a time when the community gathered to work together to bring in the crops. So Harvest provides a powerful moment of connection and sharing with our local communities.

As I write this, donations are arriving from Harvest Festival collections around our area. We are extremely grateful for these as our stock was at its lowest ever over the summer and our shelves were unusually bare. So far we have received donations from 49 local schools, churches and other organisations who have collected just under 3.5 tonnes of stock between them. This has significantly boosted our stock levels ahead of what we are expecting to be a challenging winter.

Over the last year, like many foodbanks in the Trussell Trust network, we have experienced record levels of need, as more people struggle to afford the essentials. This sharp increase in people needing help is outstripping food donations. It is likely that this situation will only worsen this winter - so this Harvest time is a particularly important time to support the Foodbank and help us to make a real difference to the lives of local people coming to our foodbanks.

Kevin Carden
Project Manager



Empty shelves

At the beginning of the summer our food stocks were at an all-time low. For the first time ever, we had to buy basic items such as pasta, baked beans and biscuits. At one point we had only one tin of custard in the store.

So we launched a social media appeal for more food donations and this, together with one-off collections at Tesco in Stow and the Co-op in Bourton, has helped to replenish our stocks in preparation for the upcoming winter.

Our additional Tesco Collection at Stow at the beginning of September filled 87 crates, or over 900kg of food, over the 2 days. A further one-day collection at the end of September brought in 400kg. A huge thank you to Tesco and their generous customers and to our team of volunteers who supported the collection, both at the store and sorting at our warehouse.

Our stock level has also increased due to some very significant harvest festival donations. Thank you for all the food we have received so far from schools, churches and other organisations.

We are now in a much stronger position thanks to the tremendous response from our very generous followers and donors.



New Foodbank outlet in Bishops Cleeve

In September, we started running an additional Foodbank session at Bishops Cleeve Primary Academy to cater for the increased demand from people in the area.

Located at the Primary Academy, Tobyfield Road, Bishop's Cleeve, GL52 8NN, the centre is open on Thursdays from 4pm-5pm during term time. The outlet is only for clients who have been referred

Transforming lives: how money advice services are helping to tackle hunger

Recent research for the Trussell Trust explored the critical role of advice and support services provided by foodbanks and the underlying causes of financial hardship across the UK.

The research reveals that people referred to foodbanks often have very low incomes, high levels of debt, and minimal savings:

- Across the UK, 52% of people are in some form of debt.
- This rises to 82% among people who are food insecure.
- It continues to rise to 90% among people turning to our community of foodbanks.
- 78% of people experiencing hunger and hardship are managing two or more debts.
- 65% of people are dealing with three or more debts.

People using these advice services report having more money through additional social security payments, reduced debts, and decreased expenditure. This alone is not enough to end hunger and hardship, especially since Universal Credit does not cover the cost of essentials. However, these services can make a significant difference to the depth of hardship people face.

By ensuring everyone can afford the essentials, we can create a more just and compassionate society where no one needs emergency food to survive.

to the Primary Academy centre and are in possession of a Foodbank voucher.

We are extremely grateful to the team at the school for their generous support.



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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.

Meet the Team

There have been some changes to the Foodbank team and Trustees over the past few months.

Wayne Morgan has stepped down from his volunteer roles of Trustee and Social Media Manager. Wayne has played a significant role in the growth and development of North Cotswold Foodbank and will be sorely missed. We thank Wayne for his support over the past six years and wish both him and his family all the best for the future. Claire Wright, one of our volunteers at Moreton, has picked up the social media volunteer role.

We're pleased to welcome Jenny Jones and Louise Goll who both became Trustees in May.

Sue Dunn has stepped down from the role of

Referral Agency Liaison. We would like to thank Sue for her work over the past year which has helped us to learn more about the role and shape how it looks going forward. Sue will continue volunteering at Chipping Campden.

Karen Dean has replaced Sue in the role of Referral Agency Liaison, supporting our referral partners. Karen has been volunteering at Stow, where she shared the lead volunteer role, and Chipping Campden since 2023.

In September, we said a fond farewell to Betty Stocker. Betty has been a member of the Baptist Church in Chipping Campden for 28 years and has been with North Cotswold Foodbank for 13 years. We are extremely grateful for all her support and wish her well in her move to Hertfordshire.

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.

You can also take donations to our Foodbank centres whilst they are open. For a list of our centres and opening hours, visit our website at <https://northcotswold.foodbank.org.uk/locations>

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

Coventry Building Society, Winchcombe

Please note that supermarket collection points are for in-store purchases only.

Details of how to donate money can be found on our website here: 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
Website: northcotswold.foodbank.org.uk

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via Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NorthCotswoldFoodbank>

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Thank you

We are very grateful to all the people and organisations who have so generously donated to us over recent months.

A huge thank you to the organisers of the North Cotswold Country Fair which was held in May for naming North Cotswold Foodbank as one of the charities supported by this year's event. And to the organisers of this year's Brockhampton and Villages Show in August who kindly nominated us as a charity to benefit from the show.

At the end of the Longborough & Sezincote villages' annual show, all the exhibits were auctioned off and the money raised was donated to North Cotswold Foodbank. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to the auction.

And many thanks to Naunton Village Social Committee who hosted an open garden event in June and donated the proceeds to us.

Thank you to the Blue Cross in Burford for their regular donations of dried pet food.

Thank you to the Slaughters Manor House, who have created a vegetable garden to grow produce for their restaurant and donated some of the produce grown to us over the summer.

Thanks, too, to a local lady, Christina, who brought in wonderful sourdough bread and produce from her allotment for clients of our Bourton outlet. And to the St Vincent de Paul Society who are providing weekly deliveries of fruit and vegetables for our six outlets.

A big thank you to Kitebrook Preparatory School for their generous Harvest Festival donation



which arrived in 2 minibuses! And to Longborough shop, school and St James Church for all the kind and generous donations collected at their Harvest Festival.

And thank you to the Cotswold School in Bourton for their end of term donation of 200kg of food.

