

# North Cotswold Foodbank

# NEWSLETTER

October 2020

## Message from Kevin

*It seems difficult to believe that it's now over a year since I joined North Cotswold Foodbank – I don't know where the last twelve months have gone! It has been unusual and challenging but also extremely enjoyable and rewarding. It has been a privilege working with such a supportive, flexible and accommodating team of volunteers and I want to thank them for making me feel welcome and supporting my work over the past year.*



*The increase in people turning to the Foodbank that we saw at the start of the pandemic back in March continued throughout the summer. Between 1 April and the end of September, we handed out 372 three-day emergency food parcels (an increase of 40% compared with the same period last year), feeding more than 1300 people (an increase of nearly 50%). As winter approaches and the number of Coronavirus cases begins to rise again and more restrictions come into force we expect that we will continue to see more people seeking help, particularly families. You can read more about what the Trussell Trust's research thinks may happen this winter in the article over the page.*

*We've been amazed that the fantastic response from all of our supporters has continued, both in terms of food and financial donations. We are so grateful to everyone who has supported us and realise how lucky we are to have such generosity in the local community during these difficult times.*

*Many of our volunteers who were shielding have now returned to help again and it is lovely to see them back. A number of younger volunteers have stepped in over the past few months and we thank them for helping out at the store, the centres, delivering bread, eggs etc. We're delighted that so many of them have decided to stay on. If you are interested in volunteering with us, see our website for details and an application form.*

*Kevin Carden, Project Manager*

## A big "Thank you"

We want to say another massive THANK YOU to everyone who has supported us over the past few months – we've been absolutely amazed at the response from the local community during these unprecedented times. We have seen a 40% increase in the number of food parcels handed out in the last six months compared with the same period last year, so with the increased demands on our stock we are very grateful to everyone who has donated food or money to help us. This has enabled us to continue to help local people who are unable to afford to feed their families.



Thanks to continued financial support from a local gentleman, we are still able to buy fresh bread every week

from the Bakery on the Water for our clients, who are delighted with this addition to their food parcels.

We're also still supplying families with CackleBean eggs which are kindly being donated to us by Cackleberry Farm.

In addition to the meat vouchers we have been providing for use at local butchers, we are also using money from some of the financial donations received to provide vouchers for fruit and vegetables that can be redeemed at Walkers butchers in Moreton and the Co-op in Bourton and Bishops Cleeve. This provides families with an even greater range of fresh food.



## All change!

There have been a number of changes to the Board of Trustees and our Centre management teams recently.

It was with regret that we said goodbye to Marion Beagley in August. Marion served faithfully as a Trustee for North Cotswold Foodbank for the past five years, offering many words of wisdom to her fellow Trustees and colleagues at the Bishops Cleeve centre. Her boundless energy has been used to help others not only at the Foodbank but also at church, with her neighbours, local schools and fundraising to support the children of Chernobyl.

We send Marion our thanks and best wishes.

To replace Marion, the trustees are delighted to announce the appointment of Wayne Morgan. Wayne has been involved with the Foodbank since the film "*I, Daniel Blake*" made such a resounding impact on him personally. Wayne will be a great asset in introducing younger views and assisting with digital marketing and technology. His professional experience in newspapers and publications such as "*Cotswold Life*" mean that we have already been utilising his skills for our social media.

At the end of August, Philip Cule stood down as lead volunteer at Bishops Cleeve after more than six years in the post. Philip has done an outstanding job during this time and we thank him for all his hard work.

Gill Donovan has been appointed as the new lead volunteer at Bishops Cleeve. Gill has been involved with North Cotswold Foodbank for just over a year now at Bishops Cleeve and also regularly helps at the warehouse and Winchcombe centre. We wish her every success in her new role.



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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.

## News update

The Tesco summer collection took place in August and this year we had collections at both the Stow and Bishops Cleeve stores. Normally, we would have our team of volunteers at the stores giving out shopping lists and talking to customers about our work but due to the current situation we were unable to support the two stores in person. However, the Tesco staff did an excellent job promoting the event on our behalf and customers of the two stores donated 460kg of stock between them.

The Tesco winter collection will take place from Thursday 19th to Saturday 21st November, again at both the Stow and Bishops Cleeve stores. We will be able to have volunteers at the store this time, although they will have to adhere to social distancing and hygiene regulations, including not being able to hand out shopping lists, so we do hope you will be able to come and support us. We will be asking for donations of specific items to put in our hampers which we give out to clients in the run up to Christmas. If you're unable to get to Tesco that weekend, check our website nearer the time when we will be adding the special items we need to our shopping list.

We also had some good news from Tesco with confirmation that we will be able to have a permanent collection point at the Bishops Cleeve store. This is most welcome news as we will receive food weekly from the store and a financial top up bonus from Tesco twice a year based on the amount donated. We hope that the collection point will be in place early next year. This is in addition to the permanent collection point we have at Stow Tesco.

Earlier this year we applied for a grant from funds that the Trussell Trust has received from Asda to support the needs of local foodbanks. In August, we received the good news that our application had been successful and we now have the funds to provide a Citizens Advice Bureau advisor to support clients visiting our Chipping Campden and Bourton outlets.



## Potato Pick at Cotswold Farm Park



For the third year running, Cotswold Farm Park held a potato pick at the end of September, where visitors were encouraged to dig their own dinner and donate any excess potatoes picked to North Cotswold Foodbank. These were distributed to our outlets to include in food parcels for our clients. We want to say a huge thank you to Adam, Emma and the team and to their generous customers, as along with the potatoes, the pick raised a fantastic £1,350 which will be donated to our Foodbank.

During a visit to our warehouse in Guiting Power, Adam Henson said: "We're delighted our customers have been so generous and that we can pass it onto such a good cause locally".

## Donations

If you would like to donate food, the store in Guiting Power is open on Tuesdays from 10.00 - 12.00. There are also collection points at Tesco in Stow, the Co-ops in Bourton, Moreton, Winchcombe and Bishops Cleeve, and the post office in Chipping Campden. You can find a list of what we're short of on the home page of our website at <https://northcotswold.foodbank.org.uk>

Details of how to donate money can be found on our website here:

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

## Contact details

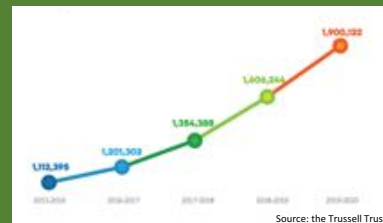
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Email: [info@northcotswold.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@northcotswold.foodbank.org.uk)  
Website: [northcotswold.foodbank.org.uk](http://northcotswold.foodbank.org.uk)

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

## The impact of Covid-19 on foodbanks in the Trussell Trust network

Well before Covid-19 hit the UK, foodbanks in the Trussell Trust network had been seeing year-on-year increases in levels of need, with 1.9 million emergency food parcels given out in 2019/20. As Covid-19 hit the UK, the Trussell Trust saw an immediate and sustained surge in need across its foodbanks. Almost 100,000 households received support from a foodbank in the Trussell Trust network for the very first time between April and June. That's over 50% of people using foodbanks who had never needed one before.



Now, new research, carried out with Heriot Watt University, estimates 846,000 parcels will need to be provided to people in crisis during October to December 2020 – a 61% increase on last year. And an additional 670,000 people will be destitute by the end of the year, meaning they cannot afford essentials like housing, energy, and food.

As winter approaches and the effects of coronavirus continue to trap people in poverty, foodbanks in the Trussell Trust network are forecast to give out a staggering six emergency food parcels every minute.

So it seems likely that here at North Cotswold Foodbank we can expect to see an increase in the number of people that need to use our Foodbank. We are, however, better equipped than we were in March to meet the increase in demand as we have greater resources available. We coped extremely well over the main lockdown period and we are confident that we will rise to the challenges that the winter months may bring. We have a great team of volunteers and an extremely supportive and generous community.

## Follow us

Keep in touch with us on social media:  
via Twitter: [@NthCotsFoodBank](https://twitter.com/NthCotsFoodBank)  
via Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NorthCotswoldFoodbank>  
via Instagram: [www.instagram.com/Northcotswoldfoodbank](https://www.instagram.com/Northcotswoldfoodbank)

