

www.andoverfoodbank.org.uk

Volunteer Newsletter

All the latest news and events from the Andover Food Bank

Dear Food Bank volunteer

May 2009

Welcome to the second of a regular newsletter for all volunteers to help you keep in touch with news, events and future plans at the Food Bank.

As usual your help has been invaluable over the last few months and the Food Bank goes from strength to strength with your essential support. Without you there would be no Food Bank! And in these difficult times its need is increasingly vital for so many individuals and families.

Over the last two months (March /April 09) the Food Bank has fed 302 people – a dramatic increase of 45% for the same period last year.

Dates for your diary

Supermarket collections

20th June at Sainsbury's

4th July at ASDA

Results from previous collections

ASDA 7th March 09 – 422.6 kg

Tesco 9th May 09 – 287 kg

Thank you evening at St John's

Many of you were able to join the Food Bank Committee on 5 March over a glass of wine and some tasty cheese and biscuits. During the evening an EGM was held when our new Chairman Jaeson Middleton was formally appointed.

There was a heartfelt vote of thanks to the outgoing Chairman Patrick Lavelle who set up the Food Bank and did so much to guarantee its success in its first three years.

Jaeson Middleton also voiced the Committee's gratitude to the many volunteers who work so hard for the Food Bank both in the office and warehouse.

AFB conference at The Bridge

A successful conference was held at The Bridge Centre in Andover on 26th March. Over 30 representatives of AFB distributors and corporate supporters attended to hear and discuss the workings of the Food Bank and development ideas.

A great deal of support was expressed for all that the Food Bank has achieved and there was wide ranging discussion about its future and plans for the Food Distribution Centre at the Bridge. Here food boxes will be distributed that can be "tailored" to an individual's needs: they may have an allergy to wheat or other substances, be vegetarian or simply need larger quantities if they are feeding a family.

Advice, refreshments and contacts for personal help will also be offered at the new centre.

Annual Foodbank Network Conference

This was organised by the Trussell Trust in Salisbury on Wednesday 29 April. It celebrated the astonishing growth in the number of food banks nationwide which has now risen to 40 nationally with 14 being launched this year alone.

Excitingly, three new food banks signed up during the Network Conference.

24,000 people have been helped throughout the UK representing a 71% increase on last year. Since January 09 there have been 33 new enquiries about opening food banks – a direct result of the current major recession.

There has been an increase in media interest with reporting on Radio 4, 5 Live, Sky News and BBC regions. Public figures such as the Archbishop of York are now talking about the concept of food banks and raising national awareness. Po

As Jeremy Ravn, the Food bank National Manager said during the conference: “The growth of food banks could not have happened at a more timely moment”.

Matt Barlow, Chief Executive of Christians Against Poverty, also spoke with conviction about the need to work through all obstacles to help those in need in local communities.

Local press

The Andover Advertiser ran an article advertising the need for volunteers for the new Food Distribution Centre.

Annie Mihell, Committee Secretary, stressed in the article that “our core purpose is providing emergency food...this is just an extension of that”.

10 trained volunteers will be needed to run the centre with a manager. There have been several enquiries but the Food Bank is still looking for people to help out on this exciting new project.

AFB website

This is now up and running and is being used extensively.

It has many helpful links to other local service as well as the Food Bank newsletter and its supporters. It is also a useful tool in school visits to show children.

Please visit the site to see for yourself! www.andoverfoodbank.org.uk

Easter Eggs

Once again this collection and distribution was very successful and over 480 eggs were given to local children.

Community activities

19th May – St John the Baptist primary school visit to the |Food bank

7th June – “Andover Churches Together” Family Fun Day at Vigo Park. All donations from this event will be given to the Andover Food Bank Distribution Centre.

11th July – There will be an AFB stall at the St John the Baptist school fete collecting food donations and publicising the Food Bank’s activities

June/July Children from Bishop Challoners and Bishops Wordsworth Schools will be offered a week’s work experience at the Food Bank.

Thank you for supporting the Andover Food Bank.

To find out more about what we do please visit

www.andoverfoodbank.org.uk

Thank you!