

Andover Food Bank



VOLUNTEERS' NEWSLETTER



Dear Food Bank Volunteer,

February 2009

This is the first of an occasional newsletter that we hope to e mail or deliver to all volunteers to keep you in touch with developments, forthcoming events and plans for the future at the Food Bank.

Whatever you do to help – whether it is supermarket collections, work in the warehouse or in the office – your contribution is invaluable to the continuing success of the Food Bank so first of all a big THANK YOU!

In 2007 the Food Bank fed 1,205 people...and in 2008 it fed 1,783 – a significant increase of 40%.

The Christmas shoebox scheme was also very successful. 246 boxes were donated by the community to local children which will have considerably brightened up their Christmas.

Dates for your diary

Thursday 5th March

All volunteers are invited to a *Thank you evening* to be held at St John the Baptist Parish Hall from 7.30 to 9.30 pm. The evening will give the Board of the Food Bank an opportunity to thank you for your efforts and for everyone

to get to know each other better! This event will be combined with an Extraordinary General Meeting for the Food Bank at which the new Chairman will be voted in and introduced to us.

Thursday 26th March

The Andover Food Bank Conference – will be held at The Bridge Centre. This event is aimed at all AFB distributors and corporate supporters to give these organisations a better understanding of the purposes and plans of the Food Bank. It is hoped a new initiative for the Food Bank will be launched at this event.

Supermarket Collections

There will be collections at ASDA on Saturday 7th March, Saturday 4th July and Saturday 5th December 2009. Rosters will be organised by the FB office nearer the time.

Collections at Sainsbury's will take place on Saturday 20 June and Saturday 5 September.

We hope to be collecting from Waitrose and Tesco as well over the year. (Our first Tesco collection for 2009 took place on Saturday 14 February).

Other dates

Display at Andover Library – Monday 6th to Saturday 18th April

Warehouse

Both sets of new shelving have been set up. Work continues to meet the requirements of the Environment and Health Services recent visit in which the AFB was awarded its first Food Hygiene certificate.

1,000 boxes have been bought at an excellent price from SW Packaging which will greatly help to keep costs down.

There are plans for another local company to visit and hold a teambuilding event in the Warehouse – projects could include painting the ceiling and walls.

HSA

HSA held a community action day at the Food Bank in December. Food sorting and a “deep clean” of the Warehouse made for a productive team

building exercise for the company. A dress down day organised by the company raised 172kg of food for the Food Bank.

Recent Press

Trevor Sleath, Project Co-ordinator was interviewed by Andover Sound and the broadcast went out on Thursday 15 January.

The Andover Advertiser published an article on the Christmas shoebox appeal on 30 January.

On Friday 20 February the Food Bank featured again in The Andover Advertiser in connection with the Slum Survivor Event at which a group of young people built their own shelters and spent the night outside. Representatives from the AFB talked to the young people about the work of the Food Bank and money raised through sponsorship and busking was donated to the AFB.

AFB Website

A website for AFB should be up and running by the end of February. This will provide access to all the latest news and events.

