



foodbank4whitby

1st Anniversary Edition

When is the anniversary of foodbank4whitby? A good question!

It was conceived in early summer 2013 and a steering group was set up; it was publicised to potential volunteers in early autumn 2013 and preparations and training began in early winter 2013/14; the doors finally opened on 20th January 2014.

We are now 10 months on from opening and it is timely for an anniversary newsletter! We hope you find it informative.



HELP GIVEN

The most important information is the number of men, women and children helped by foodbank4whitby with food parcels. In 10 months, 200 adults and 75 children. On average people come twice for emergency help, with families receiving 3 or 4 bags of food and essentials for the week. In all, we've given out around 550 bagfuls!

Food arrives as many donations, and in recent months we have received around 75 bags a month, with a massive boost in September from school and church harvest festivals.

Your help lets us help others.

A FACT BEHIND THE NEED

A fact worth knowing is that the government assesses a single person over 25 needs just £72.40 each week to live on (for under 25's it is £57.35). This has to stretch to cover food, electricity, gas, water, council tax, any rent top up, travel, toiletries and everything else.

It's little wonder that the slightest unexpected financial pressure is enough to push people over the top and into debt. The food bank helps people when they are at their most financially vulnerable and with the help they receive from the referring agencies, it is hopefully the beginning of them getting back on track.

NEW STREAMS OF HELP

We helped children in families recommended by schools during the school holidays – when school lunches were not available. Around 50 children were helped in this way.

We are also loaning short term electrical items such as a microwave or kettle for particular cases of emergency. Appropriately safety tested by Yorkshire Coast Homes staff.



<https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/foodbank4whitby>

WHITBY CAB SAYS . . .

“Whitby Citizens Advice Bureau has found foodbank4whitby incredibly helpful. When clients come to us, we cannot always wave a magic wand and sort out benefits instantly or make rent arrears vanish, but when people are *really* struggling it's brilliant to be able to offer them a food parcel to tide them over. It helps them, but it also makes our advisers feel that they *have* been able to help a little.

Some say people are just after anything for free, but our experience is very different. Many are initially reluctant to take up the offer of a voucher and we have to explain how helpful it will be for them, and to reassure that they will not be judged.”

HOMEGROUP (STONHAM) SAYS . . .

“I pointed a client to the Whitby food bank when she and her family were financially struggling and had little money for food. It was very helpful to her in an emergency. Their circumstances have now changed. They have been re-housed and are in a better place financially since she is in employment and her disabled child is now receiving benefits (ESA/PIP) that contribute to the household income. On my recent link visit she said they intend to make a contribution to Whitby food bank as they appreciate how much it helped them during their time of need.”

OUR DONORS & VOLUNTEERS!

Where would we be without our volunteers and donors? And those like Sainsbury's and Yorkshire Coast Homes' Can-for-Can programme who facilitate donations. The answer is, back on the starting blocks and a few hundred people not helped. You are simply indispensable and we *greatly* value what you do.

SUPPORT ROLES

We have several specialist “from home” volunteer roles open and welcome enquiry from anyone interested.

- Skills to help with preparation of this newsletter, press articles, and content for the web-site and facebook. Aimed at keeping all parts of our Whitby community informed.
- Sharing in the management and maintenance of the web-site and a make-over probably too!
- Administrative assistance such as with “Thank You” letters to donors.

Call Graham directly about these 01947 810776.

EVENTS

The year has seen two collection events at Sainsbury's, a donation day from customers (with a permanent bin for food donations) and a Bag-Pack day for cash donations.

Foodbank4whitby has been involved as part of several town events aimed at promoting awareness of help of different kinds to local people.

OUR NEW STATUS

For start-up foodbank4whitby sheltered under the charity status and insurance of Whitby Area Development Trust. We thank them.

We are now independently registered (charity no. 1159269)! There are 5 trustees responsible for the food bank - Graham Hilton, Melanie Tilley, Chris Taylor, Barry Davies and Graham Storer. You can contact them through trustee@foodbank4whitby.org.uk

We thank Ian Peck of Coast & Vale Community Action for his work in guiding this through with Mel to achieve a successful registration.



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