

Newsletter

Summer 2024



10 YEARS IN THE COMMUNITY



Today, Droitwich Spa foodbank provides emergency food and support for those in need in our community. But the formation of the foodbank found its beginnings in late 2012 when the organisation, *Churches Together in Droitwich*, noted that there were significant numbers of people struggling to afford food in the face of a cost of living crisis. Led by the Methodist Church Minister, a team of hard working volunteers worked over an 18 month period to raise the funds necessary to launch the first incarnation of Droitwich Spa Foodbank at The Old Library on the 14th July 2014. Established as part of the *Trussell Trust* the foodbank was able to utilise the knowledge and experience on offer to best help those people needing support in the town.

VOLUNTEER REFLECTIONS

As we acknowledge our 10 year anniversary we asked some of our team members to reflect on why they choose to volunteer and to reflect on the foodbank's role and impact in the community.

Volunteering at the Droitwich Spa Foodbank offers so much! Not only can you help provide food but also offer a listening ear, a warm safe place to visit and some signposting on how they may deal with their crisis. **Anne, Centre Manager**



The 10th anniversary of the Foodbank is a sobering reminder that the needs are still there and are greater for Foodbank users. It's a privilege to be part of an amazing team that wants to make a difference and humbling to listen to the openness of clients about their predicament. **Debbie, Volunteer**

I am constantly humbled by the troubling and challenging situations our clients have to cope with on a daily basis and it is such a privilege to be part of an organisation that exists to alleviate some of those anxieties with a listening ear and a few bags of food. **Nikki, Centre Manager**

The most rewarding part of doing it is when someone comes up and hands you a donation saying "Thank you, you helped me when I hit a low, so I want to give something back." **Mike, Volunteer**

One of the highlights of my year was when Steve and I made the Harvest Festival and Christmas collections from local schools. The enthusiasm and generosity of the children, their parents and the teachers were extremely heart warming. **John, Volunteer**

When I retired I wanted to give something to the community. In July 2024 I will be calling time as a volunteer. We initially hoped the foodbank would only be needed for a few years. Sadly we realise it will be needed for many more to come, but at least I know that it is in many pairs of safe hands of volunteers. **Mary, Foodbank Founder and Trustee**



News Update

Community organisations and businesses working with Droitwich Spa Foodbank

Sponsored walk

Thanks go to Nick who works at a local Post Office. Nick's generous customers sponsored him to take part in a charity walk. Nick raised a huge £1,200 and the Post Office has kindly agreed to match fund some additional support. What a fabulous effort!



Tesco collections

Thanks go to Tesco in Warndon who regularly encourage local foodbanks to take part in food collection days at their store. One of our volunteers, Mike, has been involved every year for 15 years! "On one occasion on a warm day a group of people appeared and said that we looked hot and presented each of us with an ice cream!".



Quiz night

Foodbank volunteers took part in a quiz night organized by **Ombersley Village Hall**. Amidst the friendly competition both managed a respectable mid-table placing! The fantastic event was well attended and raised a wonderful £1,500 as well as food donations for the foodbank. Thanks go to **Ombersley Village Hall** for their support and **Eileen**, for all her involvement.

Parking for volunteers

Thanks go to **Papa John's** in Droitwich Spa for allowing our volunteers to access much needed parking spots close to the Foodbank Centre in St Andrews Street.



Thank you

We are hugely grateful for financial and food donations from **Amazon**, **Vax** and **Droitwich High School**.



Delivered by
THE NATIONAL LOTTERY
COMMUNITY FUND

Grant award

Funding from the **Community Organisations Cost of Living Fund** delivered by **The National Lottery Community Fund**, has helped us to continue to run the foodbank this year and provide supermarket vouchers to enable our clients to purchase fresh food. Our thanks to the Government for making this possible.



Our **Give Today** online shop contains items we urgently need.

Follow the link, select some items and they will be delivered directly to our warehouse.

www.givetoday.co.uk/droitwichspafoodbank



Time for tea

Woodland View Carehome, in Droitwich, recently hosted an afternoon tea party, inviting foodbank volunteers from both our Tuesday and Friday teams to thank them for their efforts in the community.

Innovative donating!

We heard a lovely idea that the "Elf on the Shelf" was setting her young children a challenge to find food from the Foodbank Reverse Advent Calendar appeal. The children were asked to find the hidden food item each morning and donate it to the Foodbank. This proved to be a great success and allowed the children to be a part of this fantastic appeal. Not only did they look forward to the elf's antics, they also learnt to share with those in need.

TOGETHER WE CAN END THE NEED FOR EMERGENCY FOOD

Droitwich Spa Foodbank

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