

## Foodbank Update

December is such a joyous time with Christmas, carol services, Christmas dinners at home & with friends and a visit from Father Christmas. However, this is the time of the year when for some people is a time of dread. How will they manage to eat? Christmas dinner and all the extras is just not going to happen. We have three of the most deprived wards in the country: Central, Hindpool and Ormsgill. Central ward has one in every two children living in child poverty.

With the help of the generosity of the people of Barrow, we were able to make things easier for many people. We fed 1,215 people, of which 540 were children. In addition to the normal food, each family received a hamper of Christmas food of which 100 were made and provided and packed into lovely hampers by The Parish of Our Lady in Furness.

We gave out 475 presents to children we are aware this was often the only Christmas present they received. When giving out the presents we note the gender and age on so the parents can put their own or Santa's name on it.



We would not have been able to do it all of this without the very generous gifts from the public as shown in our previous newsletter and the £5,000 received from Community Grant Funding.

This was all made possible through generous donations from the public and the many volunteers who helped with all that was going on, our warehouse looked like Santa's grotto with many people buzzing around but all knowing what they were doing.

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL.

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### Tesco Success!

The Tesco Neighbourhood Collection was a tremendous success, we collected a staggering 6.788.6 tonnes of food which will provide 16,163 meals to people in food poverty. Many thanks to the volunteers who collected at the event and also to the public who made generous donations.

### Fuel Support

In December we were able to help 196 people who were about to self-disconnect from the gas and electric by supplying them with a voucher for gas and electric.



## IN OTHER NEWS



## The Great Barrow Bake-Off

Raiders Rugby Club held a bake off in January and our volunteer Jean White was invited to be one of the judges. The admission charge was food for the Foodbank and people were very generous, Jean brought back two car loads of food which provided 286 meals.

There was a great variety of 36 cakes, the winners were a sponge cake, followed by fruit scones and a Rolo cheese cake. After judging, the cakes were auctioned. There was a lovely atmosphere and everyone joined into the spirit of the day.



Big thank you to Jo and the Raiders Rugby Club for their continued support.

## Volunteer Insight: Anne Coward

I have been working as a volunteer for 3 or 4 years, I was at a time in my life when I wanted to do some voluntary work that challenged me and to help others who were having hard times.

I was at the very first food collection before the Foodbank doors opened, but I wasn't in a position to volunteer at that time. Eventually I was able to join, I've tried most jobs, including working in the warehouse, dating, weighing and sorting food and working in the 'Drop In' where people bring their vouchers to receive food. The Drop In is my niche as I like the interaction with people; helping them & talking to them.

I enjoy volunteering very much, it helps me as well as the people using the Foodbank. We are non-judgemental and people can offload on us, which helps them. I hope to support the Foodbank for as long as people need it, I also love all the people I work with!



## Barrow Foodbank

Abbey Road Baptist Church  
Barrow In Furness  
LA13 9BD

Registered Charity No. 8382130  
Registered in England & Wales

## Money Management

Christians Against Poverty is a national debt counselling charity offering free help and advice. They are holding a money management course that teaches people budgeting skills and a cash-based system that really works.

The event is on:  
Saturday 11th February  
10-4ish Spring Mount Abbey Rd  
Lunch included

Whether you feel pretty organised or whether it's like a lucky dip every time you try to withdraw cash from your account, this course will help you to get more in control of your finances so you can save, give and prevent debt.

Everyone is welcome, you don't have to be a maths genius, there are tools available to make it straightforward.

Spaces are limited so please book your place by emailing [capmoney.barrow@gmail.com](mailto:capmoney.barrow@gmail.com)

01229 34 34 36  
[info@barrow.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@barrow.foodbank.org.uk)  
[www.barrowfoodbank.org.uk](http://www.barrowfoodbank.org.uk)