

Foodbank Update

March has been a busy month at the foodbank with a total of 743 people requiring food, the March figures are as follows:

- Food in 3,309.94 kgs
- Food given out 6,160.50 kgs

Please see below the figures for the end of year April 2016 to March 2017:

- Vouchers redeemed 2,959
- Adults 4,441
- Children 2,903
- **Total 7,344**

Food in over the year was **64,262 kgs**, the food given out was **64,803 kgs**, as can be seen by the figures, we barely manage to balance the food stocks in and out and only do so because of reserves that we build up over harvest festival, Christmas and collecting food at Tesco so we really need continued support from the community. Thank you to everyone who has supported us in the last year, we really do appreciate it.



We thank everyone who helped collect food at the Tesco collections. If you can spare 90 minutes of your time to help us with future collections please contact Jane: supermarket@barrowfoodbank.co.uk it involves giving out shopping lists to Tesco customers and asking them to buy one item off the list and donate it to us by putting it in our collection box.

The total for the recent collections at Tesco Flass Lane was a fantastic **696.6 kg** that equates to **1985 meals** – a big thank you to everyone who donated.

“ *The total for the recent collections at Tesco was 696.6 kg that equates to 1985 meals* ”

Easter Appeal

We have received some very kind donations of eggs in the run up to Easter. Bothers Matt and Greg kindly donated Easter eggs as shown here & Will Mallinson who won the North West Evening Mail Easter egg has kindly donated it to the foodbank. Thank you to everyone for your generosity.



IN OTHER NEWS

**Volunteers Needed!**

We are looking for volunteers to fill roles in the warehouse, drop-in or inputting data. For more information call in at the foodbank, or phone Therese O'Neill volunteer coordinator 01229 343436.

If you have more time available maybe you would be interested in one of our co-ordinator roles:

Fundraiser

We need an enthusiastic and imaginative person to lead a team of volunteers to carry out fundraising activities. The hours spent would vary according to the event being planned.

Administrator

This role is for an organised person who would complete general admin duties for 4 -6 hours per week but more time may be required during busy periods.

Warehouse Manager

We need a motivated, active person to oversee the running of our warehouse. This role would require a daily commitment of at least two hours with more hours when necessary.

Please contact Ann Mills on 01229 343436 for more information on the co-ordinator roles.

Volunteer Insight: Alison Griffiths

Three years ago my eldest daughter pricked my social conscience & I started volunteering at Barrow Foodbank. I started doing a few hours, one day a week. Now I'm the Deputy Project Manager and Warehouse Manager!

I relish the technical and organisational problem solving needed to collect and distribute food to local people in crisis and I'm very proud of the role we play in the community, even as I despair of the need for foodbanks. I am very happy to work with a diverse and inspirational group of people. I particularly like the new services we have rolled out such as the fuel bank and the rucksacks for the homeless, but I am just as happy thinking of new ways to make the warehouse more efficient. In my spare time I enjoy playing the tuba in various local brass bands and running long distances, I have just completed my first ultra-marathon!



How will the benefit cap affect foodbank clients?

The benefit cap is the limit on the total amount of benefit people aged 16-64 can receive. It only affects people who are on Housing Benefit or Universal Credit. If you may be affected by the cap, please visit <https://www.gov.uk/overview> and use the calculator to work out what your benefit will be. You are also welcome to come to the foodbank and discuss it with Citizens Advice who are available every morning Monday to Friday.

Many of the families attending the foodbank are already struggling and the cap means that we will see more clients in the coming year. More clients will mean that we need more food so if anyone has innovative or fun ideas for collecting food or fundraising, please let us know.

Good news - a cap on costs of pre-payment energy meters has also been introduced, please contact us or visit the website for full information on this scheme.

Barrow Foodbank

Abbey Road Baptist Church
Barrow In Furness
LA13 9BD

Registered Charity No. 8382130
Registered in England & Wales

Barrow 01229 34 34 36
Ulverston 01229 34 34 10
info@barrow.foodbank.org.uk
www.barrowfoodbank.org.uk