



www.barrow.foodbank.org.uk

Newsletter

Issue No 20 23/5/2017

Foodbank Update

In April, we fed 856 people of whom 474 were adults and 382 children. This is a 34% increase on the same number of people we fed last year. We have shown between a 30% & 34% increase in people being fed month on month since January. Donations for January to March remained the same as the previous years or showed a dip of around 1%, this meant that during that period we were giving out twice as much as was coming in each month and our reserves from Christmas and Harvest Festival were depleted.

Thank you to all our supporters who rallied to bring in more food after seeing it on Facebook and our increase of donations in April were up 36% bringing it in to line with the increase in people we are feeding. In April 5,236.4 kgs was donated and we so appreciate every can or packet.

This year more families will be moved to Universal Credit with a six week gap with no money coming in. The benefit cap will be rolled out so working families will only be able to claim working child tax credits for the first two children, this will make it difficult for people on the minimum wage or part time work. With your help, we will support those affected.



There are changes in our Millom Centre as Tony Woodward stepped down as co-ordinator due to an impending move to The Isle of Wight. We thank Tony for the hard work that he has done over the last 5 years and our best wishes go with him and his family when they do move. In the meantime Tony will remain on as a volunteer. His place will be filled by Clare Brind, with Jean Liney doing the administrative role and the support of all the volunteers in Millom. The Community Champion at Millom Tesco Superstore, Maxine Lawford has broken her foot and we all wish her a speedy recovery.

“ April donations increased by 36% - thank you to all supporters who answered our Facebook appeal ”

Thanks to the Scouts!

A massive thank you to the 11th Barrow Beacon Scouts who did a bag pack at Tesco last week and raised a fantastic £40 for us. Well done everyone!



IN OTHER NEWS

As Barrow, Millom & Ulverston will be feeding more people this year, we need more volunteers, if you can help, please contact Barrow Foodbank on 01229 343436 or mail projectmanager@barrowfoodbank.co.uk for a volunteer pack.

Jane Coward is now Supermarket Coordinator and immediately went to work recruiting volunteers for the Tesco Collection at Flass lane in March – a big thank you to all! If you cannot offer 2 hours a week to volunteer, perhaps you could offer 90 minutes at one of the three Tesco Food Collections each year. If you would like to please contact Jane supermarket@barrowfoodbank.co.uk

Volunteer Insight

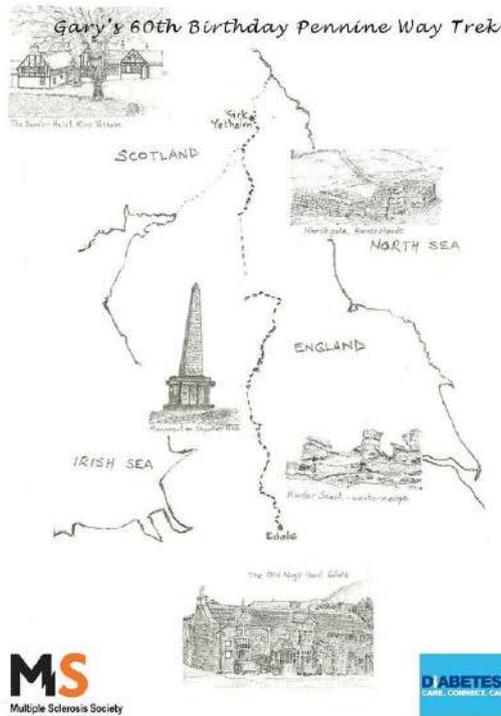


Steph & Rob are new to South Cumbria and are keen to help their local community. They started volunteering in the warehouse at Barrow in January & soon became valued members of the team, packing boxes in the inner sanctum.

Steph has always worked with people in her role as Occupational Therapist and Rob worked in Pharmaceuticals. Married with two children, they have recently retired to Lakeside and are enjoying discovering their new area.

Gary Walks the Pennine Way

Foodbank supporter Gary Rushworth is planning to walk the Pennine Way as he turns 60 this year, this has been a lifelong ambition for Gary and he would like to help others in the process by fundraising for some worthwhile causes. Gary will be fundraising for the Multiple Sclerosis Society, Diabetes UK and Barrow Foodbank. If you would like to support Gary and raise money for the foodbank please visit www.charitychoice.co.uk/barrowfoodbank



Feedback from Our Clients

It's good to receive feedback on the service we provide, so we were pleased to receive the following from a Foodbank user:

"I've had to use the foodbank through no fault of my own and am looking to start volunteering soon... they support people from many different backgrounds with many diverse issues and without local support that couldn't help those who truly need the help."

Unfortunately some TV programmes & media coverage don't show the real work that goes on behind the scenes, there are people out there that do take advantage but the majority of people that access the foodbank don't want to ask for help but have no alternative, it's not just about the food they provide they offer so much more than that and their support that is essential'

Barrow Foodbank

Abbey Road Baptist Church
Barrow in Furness
LA13 9BD

Registered Charity No. 1152753
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Barrow 01229 34 34 36
Ulverston 01229 34 34 10
info@barrow.foodbank.org.uk
www.barrowfoodbank.org.uk