



## **Thornbury Foodbank Newsletter Summer 2022**

Our routine has changed since our Newsletter to you at the beginning of this year. At the beginning of April, we opened our doors to clients coming in to Foodbank and meeting with our volunteers so that we can have face-to-face conversations with them as we did before Covid restrictions. This has proved to be beneficial as we have so many organisations we can signpost our clients to for further help. We continue to deliver to those who, for various valid reasons are not able to come in and are so grateful to our volunteer drivers who remain available to do this.

The support of our community continues to be amazing both in providing the donations of food and essentials we need to give to those in need and financially so that we can buy other items to supplement the donations. Thank you all for your kindness and generosity.

We are so grateful to Tesco Thornbury for supporting our Summer Collection from 30 June to 2 July and to all of you who donated during this time. The total donated amounted to 1.27tons. Amazing – thank you all so much!

From January to June 2022, we fed 337 adults and 262 children, issuing 7.5 tonnes of food and essential items and received 6.8 tonnes of donations. Compared with the same period last year, numbers of adults fed are down by 23% and the number of children fed is down by 11%. This is not surprising as we are coming out of Covid but we expect these numbers to rise again due to cost of living increases which is also reflected in the reduction in the amount of donations received. However, your amazing financial donations continue to enable us to buy fresh fruit, vegetables, cheese, bread, spread, baby milk and nappies and items where our stocks are low.

We are most grateful to the other businesses such as the Coop store at Thornbury Fields which has become a collection point for our donations. HSBC are now moving out of Thornbury but we thank them for their regular support over the past couple of years and were pleased to hear that they intend supporting the Foodbank in the area the staff have been transferred to. Our continued thanks go to surrounding villages and shops that regularly support us. Not forgetting individuals who regularly bring donations to the Baptist church steps on a Wednesday morning or drop donations in the basket we have at Tesco Thornbury. A big thank you all whether I have mentioned you or not!!

As things have changed and improved following the lifting of Covid restrictions, volunteers who have been so faithful in giving their time to us are now able to take holidays and have well deserved time away. We are therefore so grateful to several new volunteers who have joined us over past weeks. We have been so blessed by not having to close Foodbank once over the past years of restrictions, ensuring that we were always available for those needing our help.

Our varied team works together well, weighing and dating, preparing parcels, meeting clients and being a good listening ear, delivering parcels when needed, collecting from Tesco and the Coop and taking surplus to the warehouse in Bristol. We are grateful to each one for their commitment. Some of our Wednesday team below:



It has also been good to see that those in need are being helped financially by our government via our local council which is helping to ease some of the financial burden on those in food and now fuel poverty.

On behalf of all of those benefitting from your kindness, generosity and concern and in the hope that one day Foodbanks will no longer be needed, we want to thank you again for making life a little easier, for those in need of our help, than it would be without your support.

Wishing you all continued health, peace and hope in the coming days.

Mair Vaughan

On Behalf of Thornbury Foodbank Management Team