

Welcome and thank you

Welcome to our summer newsletter, and we start with a big thank you to our local shops, small and large, for their support. For Mr Simms Sweet Shop, Burrows Book Shop, Nisa and the Hereward Pub for their spare change collections, and our local supermarkets for their crates, enabling customers to give food.

East Cambridgeshire Floating Support Service



Hi - my name is Rachel Greenfield, and I am a Support Officer for East Cambridgeshire Floating Support Service (part of CHS Group).

We work closely with Ely Foodbank, referring clients with limited income at their time of need. This may be due to having their benefits cut or cancelled, or even struggling with debts and finding it hard to budget their finances. In return the team at Ely Foodbank also refer people to our service to help get them back on track and be able to manage their income more efficiently.

As a team at the Floating Support Service, we work closely with people in the communities of East Cambridgeshire to support independence, by achieving goals set in an action plan set up between our clients and their assigned Support Officer.

We are able to give advice and support to people aged 16 to 64 living in East Cambridgeshire about:

- Wellbeing and General Support,
- Home Management and Life Skills,
- Setting up a budget and paying bills,
- Security, Health and Safety in the home,
- Setting up and maintaining a home tenancy.

As a committed equal opportunities Association we will not discriminate against any person for any reason. We

believe in equality, diversity and opportunity.

We have a fantastic working relationship with the Foodbank volunteers across East Cambridgeshire and our Service is very grateful to you all for all of your hard work.

Helping people to improve their lives for the better is my personal goal in life, and I'm very proud to be part of such a caring community.

7-7-7 Campaign:

Ely Foodbank is looking for new regular donors to help its year-to-year operations.

Ely Foodbank 7 7 7
campaign



When the Foodbank first begun 5 years ago, the response brought a huge blessing that enabled us to grow across the wide area we now serve. With that growth has come increased operating costs – hence the need now for new ongoing giving to keep our operations running to keep helping people in crisis.

Across the 7 areas that we distribute, we just need 7 donors in each area to simply commit to giving £7 per month. Along with Gift Aid, that will give us the regular income we need for our ongoing costs across the area.

There is a special web page where people can download the flyer and the form: www.elyfoodbank.org.uk/7-7-7/ or people can set up giving online using: <http://localgiving.org/7-7-7> . Please spread the word!

Joy and Sadness

The emotions that we have working for the Foodbank are as erratic as being on the worst roller coaster – we know moments of joy, excitement and sadness.

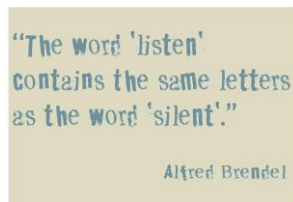
Ely Foodbank Newsletter

Summer 2017



The aspects of work that are joyful range from seeing a client leave happier than when they arrived to giving someone time to drink and eat with a friendly, welcoming volunteer. We may have the opportunity to tell someone that God can change lives, and a simple prayer of inviting hope into the hope-less, is exciting.

But what of the sadness, when a person's life is so complicated, filled with hurts, and the black tunnel looking darker and longer by the second? This is the time when volunteers show their true grit. They don't walk away, they don't judge – they listen and sometimes they remain silent – taking it all in and searching for the right words to form in that instance. Listening for wisdom in the silence.



Listen and Silence contain the same letters, is that a coincidence?

Grassroots Activists

In the recent terrible tragedies it has been heart-warming to see the grassroots response of the public coming together to help: regardless of creed, colour or background. In fact the Grenfell Tower response showed how the public can deploy and start organising themselves much faster and more effectively than the machinery of the state!

There is a parallel with Foodbanks here, which were started by grassroots activists seeing a situation and organising themselves to do something about it. Each of our remote distribution centres across the Ely Foodbank partnership has opened because local people wanted to take action, and Ely Foodbank was in a position to help organise and facilitate. We are pleased to be part of this cooperative process - and our operations across the area depend on it.

As we try to process these recent tragedies some will rightly ask "Where was God?" It's a valid question, and

no easy answers can be offered. Yet the basic human response of coming together to take positive loving action itself images God.

Jesus started out with compassion, and saw through its full consequences. Love would conquer hate not by driving it out, but by *exhausting it* – even as hate managed to do its worst and take his life in a cruel and tragic way. Hate thought it had had the final word, but the final word was Jesus. Alive again – yes bearing scars and marks – but showing life transformed, a positive direction available for all humanity. It is in that same direction that we organise help at the grassroots level for people around us who find themselves in difficulty or crisis.

Shout Out for Stock

Our stock rooms look healthy – but a closer look shows we have been giving out more food that we have received for the last six months.



Stock in: 15,579.4 Kg Stock out: 19,745.6 Kg

If the flow in and flow out of food continues without change at current rates, we would run out of food before Christmas. We do look to a generous provision at Harvest time each year to bolster our stocks.

We are forever thankful for all who donate, whether that is via the supermarket crates, classroom projects, through churches or businesses. However, if you know someone who has got out of the habit of giving to our work, then do gently encourage them to give again please!

Our full list of items and our list of low stock items can be found on our website www.elyfoodbank.org.uk