

Soham Distribution moves to Millbrook House

With the closure of the Salvation Army facility in Soham, a new home was needed for distribution of emergency food to local residents. We are therefore delighted that Sanctuary Housing are now generously accommodating our Soham distribution sessions at Millbrook House within their excellent facilities available on the ground floor.

The first distribution session at Millbrook House was on Thursday 3rd May 2018, with opening times remaining the same as before: 9.30am to 11.00am every Thursday morning.

Millbrook House is centrally located – a 2 minute walk beyond the library in the centre of Soham. The address is Millbrook House, Lode Close, Soham, Ely CB7 5WN.

Foodbank distribution at Soham averages 30 vouchers a month, this is the equivalent of around 900 meals per month to people in crisis.

Meeting the WI in Burwell

A trip to Burwell to meet the WI turned out to be a very productive evening for both the Foodbank and the WI. Cathy Wright was surprised to find herself fixing their 'Loop System'



before going on to describe the work of the Foodbank to the ladies, and amazingly all heard. They responded to the event with a large amount of food for the Foodbank, cash donations and a promise to collect Advent Calendars later in the year. Cathy was asked to judge recipes and single blooms – all in a day's work!

Foodbank Usage Increases

Our figures show a 7% increase in demand when compared to the same first three months of the previous year. Considering that each of our centres has been careful in recent months to work sensitively with regular clients, to signpost to agencies, and where practical ensure they obtain vouchers from agencies *before* coming to us, the increase in food given out shows how many people across the region continue to genuinely find themselves in crisis.

As a Foodbank we always have a heavy heart when our numbers go up in this way. In fact we are peculiar in that as an organisation we would rather reduce rather than grow! In the Bible, Deuteronomy chapter 15 verse 4 suggests that there 'need be no poor among you' and that is the reality we believe is possible, and that we strive for – even though it would mean that we are out of business! This is a Kingdom goal that we make our goal – that there be no poor among us.

Sutton Distribution Centre

We made the decision to close Sutton Distribution Centre at the end of April. The Centre was used less than we originally forecast over two years, and we are satisfied that those needing help are able to access our centres in Haddenham, Ely or Chatteris.

All thanks go to all the volunteers who gave their time to this work; some volunteers have transferred to help at the Ely Warehouse.

Witchford Voices

We are delighted that Witchford Voices are running a series of concerts over the summer, and have made the Foodbank their charity of choice. People attending concerts are encouraged to bring along an item of food to contribute to the Foodbank.



Ely Hereward Rotary Club support Waitrose Trolley Dash



A trolley dash through Waitrose was supported by funds raised by The Ely Hereward Rotary Club. Money raised during the Rotary Club's Christmas activities was used to help the Foodbank provide help to people in need. Thank you very much to Ely Hereward Rotary!

Ely Cubs

Back in March, we visited 1st Ely Cubs (Hereward) pack to talk about the work of the Foodbank. The Cubs explored the contents of some typical food parcels, thought about how to make meals from them, and came up with a shopping list of items they would like to give to the foodbank. They spent their Easter holidays doing lots of odd jobs to earn pocket money, and then went on a trip to the supermarket together! The Cubs donated over 87 Kg of food to stock up our warehouse. Thank you Cubs!

Sainsbury Collection

We held a collection at Sainsbury stores in both Ely and March stores on the 5th May. Approximately 500 Kg of food was collected – customers were generous and we had some good conversations on the work of the Foodbank.



Sainsbury have also invited us to advantage from their Fareshare Scheme, which avoids waste and passes on a selection of fresh items to clients.

New Ways to Donate Money



A number of new ways to give online are now available. Facebook users can now hit the 'Donate' button directly on our Facebook page!

Amazon shoppers can go to www.smile.amazon.com, select Ely Foodbank as a recipient charity, and then shop as normal. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the net cost of the goods you buy to us. Note that it is necessary to use smile.amazon.com as your bookmarked URL each time you shop.

Protecting Your Data

New data protection regulation commences on May 25th and Ely Foodbank has been getting ready. We are in the process of streamlining the way we send out this newsletter, so that everyone will receive it by the same email method. This approach will help us ensure we provide a straightforward way to manage your profile for the newsletter, including a standard way to opt-out. Information on how we manage your data is also available on request.

New Twitter Handle

Please note our Twitter handle has recently changed and is now @Ely_Foodbank. Please like our tweets and retweet them to your followers to help us get our messages out to a wider audience. Thank you.