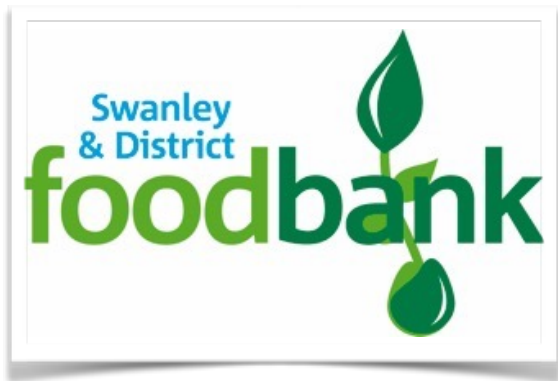


Swanley & District Foodbank

11 Lynden Way, Swanley Kent BR8 7DN

Telephone: 07798 872573 Email:

info@swanleydistrict.foodbank.org.uk



Chairman's Message

The Trussell Trust has advised that their ultimate aim is the elimination of the need for foodbanks in the UK over a 5-year period. With this in mind, I thought it would be pertinent to restate the figures for 3 day emergency food parcels supplied by their foodbanks:

2010 - 2011	61,468	50% up
2011 - 2012	128,697	109% up
2012 - 2013	346,992	170% up
2013 - 2014	913,138	163% up
2014 - 2015	1,084,604	19% up
2015 - 2016	1,109,309	2% up
2016 - 2017	1,182,954	7% up
2017 - 2018	1,332,952	13% up
2018 - 2019	1,583,668	19% up

Given that the freeze on working age benefits are set to continue for another year, it is difficult to see how this aim can be achieved, bearing in mind that a third of referrals to foodbanks are due to low income of which benefits account for the majority of this income.

We are receiving conflicting messages from the government via Secretary of State Amber Rudd and her Work and Pensions Minister Justin Tomlinson as to whether there is a link between the roll out of Universal Credit and the rise in foodbank use. I will leave it to our volunteers who speak to our foodbank clients on a regular basis to come to their own viewpoint on this. For my part I think we should all reflect on whether simply maintaining the status quo is good enough anymore or whether we should be pressing for a transformational change in how we treat people.

Philip Levy



Foodbank List

Long Life Fruit Juice

UHT Milk

Tinned Tomatoes

Tinned Fish

Tinned Spaghetti

LARGE Tins of Vegetables

**Tinned Cold Meat
(e.g. Ham, Spam, Chicken)**

Chocolate

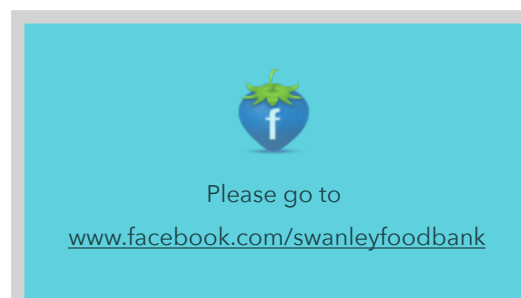
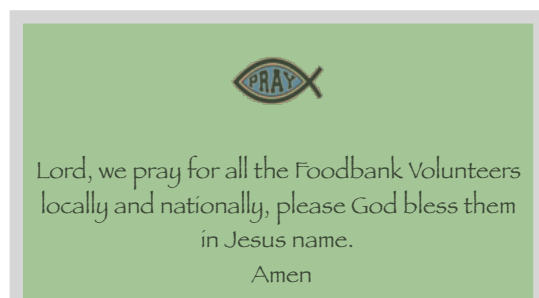
Peanut Butter

Egg Noodles

**Washing Powder/Liquid/
Capsules**

Shaving Foam/Gel

Feminine Hygiene



Statistics

For those who like statistics:

Our figures for the last year April 2018 to March 2019 saw:

446 vouchers being issued feeding 639 Adults and 483 Children a total of 1122 (a small increase on the previous year)

A total of 14,031.9kg coming in and 15,023.5kg going out

Thank you everyone for your donations big and small, we are very grateful for your support

Since April 2019

107 vouchers have been issued feeding 136 Adults and 107 children a total of 243

We have received donations of 2293kg and gave out 2659kg (nearly 400kg more going out than coming in!)



Foodbank Manager



I am always overwhelmed by the generosity of the friends and supporters of the Foodbank. I am very grateful for the time, money and goods given by so many to keep the Foodbank running, there doesn't seem to be any letup on the demand and we continue to see people living in very difficult situations,

often through no fault of their own. It is however, so good when people we have helped in the past are in a better position and come back to see us not only to thank us for our help, but often to give something back for others in similar situations, it is so encouraging to hear their news and know that the Foodbank played a vital part at that time when they most needed help. The Foodbank really can make such a difference for people struggling with health, finances and even a safe place to live.

Every Tuesday between 2.00-3.00pm we have a lady called Julia who comes to the Foodbank to give extra support and signposting, she can give a listening ear, help fill out forms or phone agencies or companies on clients behalf, and many of our clients have been very grateful for this extra support.

It was a pleasure to have another school visit us at the Foodbank. Just before Easter some staff and pupils from Hextable Primary School came to be shown around and they heard how the Foodbank

worked, where the food comes from, how it is weighed and sorted and where it goes to. They went away to plan a Foodbank day. This was a great success and they came back at the end of April with 265kg of food, toiletries and household goods (over a quarter of a tonne!) Well done Hextable Primary School and thank you very much.

Following the visit from St Pauls C of E Primary school (as mentioned in the last newsletter) they held a 'Foodbank Friday' where everyone wore something green (Foodbank colours) and either paid £1.00 or brought something in for the Foodbank. We received £105.00 and 40kg of donations. Thank you everyone at St Pauls.

As many of you reading this start thinking of your summer holidays, please remember those who really struggle at this time of year when schools are closed and hungry children need feeding during the day, with no school lunches or breakfast clubs available.

Finally, I would like to thank the Oddfellows Star of Mottingham branch, All Souls Crockenhill and the Parish Council of Farningham for their very generous donations and the many "Friends of the Foodbank" who regularly support the work in our community. We now have 26 "Friends" who regularly give to the Foodbank (our aim is to reach 100) So thank you all very much.

Wendy Halford

Foodbank Needs Friends Like You

We are thankful for the many generous friends in our town and villages who regularly donate food and household items to the Foodbank so that we always have a good stockroom of items to give to those in need. However, we cannot pay our rent and other bills with cans of beans!

Will you join our 'Friends of Foodbank' scheme we simply ask that you pledge a gift of £5 per month by standing order. If you are able to Gift Aid this as well, that would be an extra bonus. Our target is to sign up 100 friends. Please contact the Foodbank for a Standing Order form.

Tesco Collection 19th June 2019



Another successful Tesco Collection Day took place on Thursday 19th June at the Sidcup branch of the store.

The day started early, and our team of volunteers set-up the tables and wheeled out furniture for

collecting the food from customers who were handed a Foodbank list of requirements when they entered the store.

Many customers were very generous on the day in their giving and the crates provided by Tesco soon started to fill up, and by midmorning we had collected at least 10 crates that were collected and delivered to Lynden Way by van. On this occasion we were helped by volunteers from West Kent Housing Association as well as from all the local churches and community. The vehicle for delivering the crates was provided by WKHA and so was the driver.

Throughout the day our volunteers worked hard in 2 hour shift sessions by giving out the Foodbanks list to customers and at the end of the day 45 crates had been filled and delivered to Lynden Way, where the team weighed-in the contents and then sorted and stacked them in the storerooms.

I have now carried out a few collections at Tesco and this one-off day worked well especially with our new and old volunteers who helped to stack the crates as food came in and talk to the customers who wanted to know more about the workings of the Foodbank.

On behalf of the Swanley & District Foodbank, I would like to thank all those who helped on the day, either in the store or at Lynden Way and for the support you gave to those in need at a time of crisis in their lives when they arrive at the Foodbank for help in many ways.

John Kahan
Trustee



Donations

Regular donations are very important to the Foodbank. We are very grateful to Stanhill Farm in Birchwood Road Wilmington for their continued support by donating fresh fruit and vegetable boxes to us every week, and for the donations left at drop-off points at both Asda in Swanley and Waitrose in Sevenoaks, along with those in local churches.

Should you wish to donate to the Foodbank please see the current list on the front of this newsletter or visit our website for up-to-date news of items we are running low on.

If you would like to organise a larger donation or collection for the Foodbank, please contact us beforehand to check what items we are short of and to ensure we have the capacity to store the donation, as our storage space is limited. Thank you

Our Opening Times

Tuesday 11:30am to 3:00pm

Friday 10:00am to 2:00pm

You can also find out more about us at www.swanleydistrict.foodbank.org.uk

or

Our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/swanleyfoodbank

If you do not wish to receive newsletters from Swanley and District Foodbank, please email the Foodbank info@swanleydistrict.foodbank.org.uk with the word "unsubscribe" in the subject line, and your full name in the body of the email. Alternatively, send a text to *07798 872573* with the text "unsubscribe" followed by your full name.

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