



Overview

Well, what a start to 2024 it's been. In January alone we provided 839 emergency parcels. Our busiest ever month.

Looking back to 2023, our busiest year yet. Through a combination of emergency food parcels, support of school breakfast clubs and our food waste reduction programme we managed to directly support more than 9,500 individual people across North Tyneside. That's 35% more than the year before.

Through it all, we're only able to help the people that we do with your support. So, thank you!

**In 2023 we
provided 8,435
emergency
parcels.**





Alan Dickinson, Chair.

Alan Dickinson will be stepping down as Chair of The Bay Foodbank in February 2024. Having helped to establish the foodbank back in 2012, he's spent 11 years as Chair.

Back in 2012, Alan along with others saw a need to provide temporary support to a small number of individuals locally.

The campaign quickly gathered the support of local organisations in Whitley Bay, before establishing itself in a storeroom in locally. From there, finances to build shelving came in, food was donated and our workload has been increasing ever since. More than 56,000 emergency parcels later we're helping more people than ever.

Since the foodbank's inception Alan has provided hands on support. Whether it be driving the vans, fitting a new kitchen or negotiating with the council, no task has ever been too much of an ask for him.

Alan's tireless work over the past 12 years has allowed us to help countless individuals. Simply put, we wouldn't be here today without him.

On behalf of every individual helped, thank you for everything you've done.

Since 2012 we've provided more than 56,000 emergency parcels.





Quiz

January saw the long anticipated return of the quiz.

Held at Whitley Bay Golf Club and hosted by Harry Bell, it was a fantastic evening. Thank you to every one of the more than 90 people that joined and to Harry for hosting.

The evening generated an incredible £1,362.20. Every penny of which will go towards our fight against food insecurity in North Tyneside.

Congratulations to the winning team and for everyone that won something on the raffle.

Hopefully see you all at the next one.

Howard

After six years of volunteering with us, volunteer driver Howard left us in January. His endless optimism, enthusiasm, and desire to help made him a popular fixture of the foodbank.

Howard was presented with a card and gift on behalf of the foodbank and it's volunteers at the quiz.

We wish him all the best in his new life down south. Thank you for everything you've done over the years. You'll be missed.

£1,362,20
raised at the
Quiz.





Christmas

Christmas, it comes around quicker every year! What a Christmas it was.

Usually in the run up to December we have more Mince Pies and other Christmas items than we know what to do with, not this year though. For the first time ever we came close to running out of items to go in our Christmas parcels. At one point we were down to our last box of Mince Pies!

We sent a plea out to supporters (individuals and local businesses) across North Tyneside. Very quickly we were back in business. The generosity seen was incredible. Massive thank you to everyone that helped.

As part of our support at Christmas every client received a small gift alongside their parcel, typically some toiletries and warm clothing. This year we provided more than 500 gifts to clients. As an individual said to us through tears, “this is the only gift I’ve got this year, thank you”.

We were warmed to receive support from many local organisations and businesses over the Christmas period. The Boatyard Cullercoats for example provided meals on Christmas day for anyone in the community that would have otherwise been on their own. More than £2,000 was raised which was split between the foodbank and another local charity.

Huge thank you to everyone that supported us over the Christmas period.

**More than 500
gifts given to
clients at
Christmas.**





Finance

With demand for emergency parcels rising, we're spending more than ever on food to keep going. The total cost to run the foodbank is around £26,000 per month, that's £312,000 per year!

The majority of our income comes from individuals giving £5-£10 on a regular (often monthly) basis. We're grateful for every donation received. Every penny goes towards tackling food insecurity in North Tyneside.

On top of the fantastic donations from individuals we've also been pleased to receive several sizable grants and donations recently.

These include (but certainly not limited to), Community Organisations Cost of Living Fund (Department of Culture, Media and Sport), People's Postcode Lottery and The Headley Trust.

Workwear

The charitable arm of the utility firm Utilita recently donated 50 sets of workwear, enough for every volunteer and staff member. Including boots, jacket, hat and gloves.

With temperatures in the warehouse often reaching minus figures it was a thoughtful gesture, one that's been well received by all.

Comments/Suggestions

Should you have any suggestions of content for future editions of this newsletter or indeed comments/suggestions on how we can continue to develop the foodbank please email –

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