



Overview

With even more records broken, new staff and countless people helped it's been a busy few months on site.

We provided a record 5904 emergency parcels in the first eight months of 2023 compared to 3877 in 2022; 774 in August alone. Some days we've provided as many as 50 emergency parcels. Referrals are currently up 53% on last year.

Over the past few weeks we've provided an average of 38 parcels per day. This is the equivalent of supporting 74 people per day through parcels. A figure eclipsed by the number of people helped through other things (breakfast clubs etc). Bringing the total number of people helped per day to between 150-200.

This increase in demand has understandably put a strain on our stocks. Back in April we had one of our lowest levels of stock for many years. Following an increase in our bulk purchasing (from wholesalers) and a successful plea to locals and businesses we're now back to a healthier level of stock. We continue to spend around £5,000 on fresh stock and £8,000 on long life stock each month.

Annual General Meeting

The Bay Foodbank is hosting it's annual general meeting on Tuesday 24th October (1800-2030). Everyone is welcome to join. It's a great opportunity to hear more about what's going on and what we have planned for the year ahead.

If you're interested in attending please email – info@thebayfoodbank.org.uk

Staffing, Volunteers & Trustees

Following a lengthy recruitment process we're pleased to welcome Alan Marriner into the position of Deputy Foodbank Manager at The Bay Foodbank. Having spent many years running his own catering firm he brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience that will be invaluable to us.

Connor sadly left us in September. Having worked for several years as a Foodbank Assistant, he had proven himself to be an invaluable asset to the foodbank. We wish him all the best for the future.



Jan-Aug 2023 we provided 5904 emergency parcels (up 53% from last year)





Dr Jackie Dickinson

Jackie Dickinson was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Civil Law from Newcastle University in July. She joins the ranks of Alan Shearer, Gordon Brown and Sharmishta Chakrabarti as having been awarded the Universities highest honour. Jackie was awarded the doctorate in recognition of her longstanding commitment to supporting those most in need within our community.

It was a wonderful occasion to celebrate Jackie's hard work with her family present at the ceremony.

A list of those previously awarded this honour, plus a copy of the citation as given at the ceremony can be found here – [Citation](#)

Link to watch the ceremony - [Ceremony](#) (starting at 40:30)





Art Exhibition

For the Love of the North are hosting an art exhibition in support of The Bay Foodbank at The Spanish City (Whitley Bay) on Saturday 13th/Sunday 14th October. 25 professional artists have each donated an A5 size piece, each will be sold for £50. With our patron, Steph McGovern opening proceedings it'll be a fantastic weekend. More details can be found here - [Details](#)

Supermarket Collections

With our winter peak approaching now is the time to fill our shelves. As such, we'll be collecting donations of stock outside various supermarkets in the coming months. The idea being that we hand out shopping lists and ask customers to consider purchasing one or two items from it for us. It's a fantastic opportunity to engage with the community and to stock up (last year we averaged £6k of donations per collection day).

Dates currently booked (10:00-15:00 each day) –

Morrisons Tynemouth – Friday 20th/Saturday 21st October

Morrisons Whitley Bay – Friday 24th/Saturday 25th November

Vera

The crew of the ITV drama Vera popped by once again to drop off some donations. Filming locally, they often donate props used in the filming. Most notably a whole greengrocers of fresh produce last summer!

This time they brought with them a signed photo from Brenda Blethyn, as ever they were greeted by our ambassador Alfie who was happy to say hello.





Hygiene Poverty

3.1 million adults in the UK are affected by hygiene poverty. A figure that is continually rising. However, we know that there is no single type of poverty, if someone is unable to afford hygiene products then they're also unlikely to be able to afford food. As such, we're pleased to be working with The Hygiene Bank to distribute hygiene products (toothpaste, shower gel etc) to our clients. Much of which has been donated by major retailers.

You can find out more about the work of The Hygiene Bank here - [The Hygiene Bank](#)

Support

As ever we continue to see incredible support from individuals and organisations, far too many mention. Just this month we've received donations from a variety of local churches and schools as part of their Harvest Festivals, with many more planned over the coming months we remain grateful to every individual and organisation that supports us.

We have also had volunteers from several locally based companies working with us here at the foodbank, including (but definitely not limited to) Proctor & Gamble, Ubisoft, Freudenberg, Leeds Building Society and Newcastle Building Society.



Comments/Suggestions

Should you have any suggestions of content for future editions of this newsletter or comments/suggestions on how we can continue to develop the foodbank please email – joe@thebayfoodbank.org.uk / maggie@thebayfoodbank.org.uk