

Spring 2021



luton foodbank

NEWSLETTER

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Welcome

to the first edition of our quarterly e-newsletter—a place to learn about how we help people in our town.

Our work wouldn't be possible without our staff, volunteers, and trustees, as well as friends and supporters in the wider community. So I want to extend our thanks to you all for the support you have provided during these times of uncertainty.



In the eight years since Luton Foodbank was founded, we have seen demand for our services increase. However, the difficulties brought about by Covid-19 have made this an especially challenging time for many people in our town.

In response to this, we have launched a new information and guidance service which is led by our signposting advisers. You'll find more information on page 2.

How can I get involved?

- Spread the word and encourage people to use our services if they are in need.
- Share a fundraising idea with family and friends and see who can raise the most money for us.
- Volunteer your time for one of our initiatives.
- Encourage your place of work to join us as a Business Ambassador.

We will also use this newsletter to showcase the work of our supporters.

Both Luton Town Football Club and Luton Council feature in this edition. They were key supporters of ours long before Covid-19. We have been especially grateful for their assistance over the past year.

We also have a great relationship with schools, and we have included some information for our school family workers and senior leaders on page 2. There is also information about some additional ways your school can get involved with Luton Foodbank.

Looking ahead, we want to hear from you. If you know of anyone that has raised some money for us, then get in touch with a photo, and we will do our best to feature them in the next edition.

And please remember: if you or someone you know needs help, please get in touch. You can find our contact details at the bottom of the page.

Please continue with your support for us. We could not continue to operate without your donations.

Salma Khan

Luton Foodbank Manager



Top 5 needed items

Tinned rice pudding UHT long-life milk
Tinned custard Tinned fruit Tinned pasta

If you or someone you know need support, please contact us.



01582 725838



info@lutonfoodbank.org.uk

Luton Foodbank in the community

Information & guidance



Hi everyone, I'm Claire. As one of the Signposting Advisers at Luton Foodbank, I can provide information and guidance for anybody who needs assistance.

Get in touch with me or my colleague Nicola at:
advisors@lutonfoodbank.org.uk

Information leaflets

Available in six languages on our website.



Schools



Hello, I'm Asma. In my role as Luton Foodbank's Schools Co-ordinator, I work to ensure families do not miss out.

If you are a school family worker, please get in touch to find out how to become a referrer.

You can also ask me about the upcoming Luton Foodbank Ambassadors programme, which launches this summer.

Just email schools@lutonfoodbank.org.uk



Colour Run

Wardown Park Sat 10 July

This family fun run is a highlight of the Luton Foodbank calendar.

Watch our social media channels for announcements. You can find more details at lutonfoodbank.org.uk/run



Congratulations

We were delighted to hear that our long-time friend Mostaque Koyes has been named a Deputy Lieutenant for Bedfordshire.

Deputy Lieutenants assist the Lord-Lieutenant and Vice Lord-Lieutenant in supporting the many aspects of county life to bring kindness, opportunity and cohesion in Bedfordshire.

If you or someone you know need support, please contact us.



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Luton Council

‘The town is well placed to bounce back.

- Robin Porter

Robin Porter is Chief Executive for Luton Council and London Luton Airport Ltd.

Recent challenges facing us as a community in Luton have been among the largest the town has ever faced. Rising to those challenges has been something no single group or organisation could have accomplished alone.

Working with Luton Foodbank, the council has given help and support throughout the community in ways that otherwise would not have been possible.

Over the Christmas period, the council pledged money from the government's Covid Winter Grant scheme to partner with Luton Foodbank. Its many contacts in the voluntary and community sector allowed it to support individuals and families in hardship but not immediately eligible for free school meals.

The council has also been working with Luton Foodbank to reach out to other organisations to better coordinate relief, and to support initiatives across the town. This includes ensuring all those likely to need its help know about it, and liaising with schools to promote the work of the foodbank.

The pandemic has seen an outpouring of kindness and selflessness on a tremendous scale. The hard work, experience, and knowledge of the Luton Foodbank team have made them important partners in channelling this generosity of spirit, and ensuring the town is well placed to bounce back and pursue the aims of *Luton 2020-2040 – a place to thrive*. We at the council are delighted to work with Luton Foodbank, its volunteers, and its supporters.

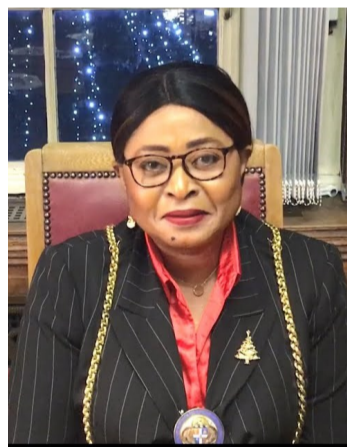
We will continue supporting the foodbank and its partners as they help vulnerable people, and work even harder to ensure everyone who needs support can get it.



Thank you to our Mayor

Our deepest appreciation goes to Cllr Maria Lovell, the Mayor of Luton, for raising funds for us part of her *Wear it Red Day* back in February.

As one of her chosen charities, we want to thank her for continuing to support the Luton Foodbank cause.



London Luton Airport

We're delighted to announce London Luton Airport staff have selected Luton Foodbank for a new three-year partnership.

This relationship will see colleagues from across the airport working with us to raise vital funds. We will continue to receive food and confiscated items from airport security, an initiative which began in 2019.

Our Chair, Liz Stringer said "We're really looking forward to this partnership."



Luton Town Football Club

‘ We’re always ready to do what we can to help.

Gary Sweet - Managing Director, LTFC

Since our formation in 2013, we have always been able to count on our friends at Luton Town Football Club.

We were the club’s Charity of the Year for the 2019/20 season, and as a result, we were the beneficiaries of the wonderful fundraising initiatives that helped our work that year.

It didn’t stop there, and we have over the years continued to receive generous support from the club and its supporters.

We recently spoke to managing director Gary Sweet, who said “We’ve been working closely with Luton Foodbank for many years and we’re always ready to do what we can to help.

“Through Luton Foodbank, we have been able to provide healthy meals to distribute to local children locally during school holidays, which has been a brilliant scheme to be involved in.”

The club make a wonderful gesture when they were drawn against Premier League giants Chelsea for their FA Cup match in January.

Gary explained: “When we found out that our FA Cup match against Chelsea was going to be broadcast live on BBC1, we were delighted to be able to offer Luton Foodbank our sleeve sponsorship to help raise awareness of the important service they provide in our town.

“We look forward to continuing to support them as much as we can.”



THANK YOU HATTERS!

Kevin scores!

Hatters fan Kevin Crowe published his long-running blog in book form to raise funds for Luton Foodbank. Thanks Kevin!

‘ When Covid-19 hit, I wanted to help support people most in need, and could see that other Luton fans did too. So I decided to create a paperback version of my ten-year blog about the ups and downs of being a Luton Town fan. All proceeds from *These are the Good Old Days* go to help Luton Foodbank, supporting the community where Luton fans and their families live.

After the first batch sold out in one hour, I printed more copies to sell at Christmas.

Hatters around the world rallied, even though many had already read the content online. We raised an amazing £5,200 in total.

Next issue...

We would love to share what you are doing for Luton Foodbank. Email info@lutonfoodbank.org.uk.

