

Winter 2021



# luton foodbank

## NEWSLETTER

**This issue:**

Chair's message	1
Luton Foodbank in the Community	2 & 3
Other news	4

**Once**

again, we are nearing the end of what has been another challenging year for all; our staff, volunteers, and the community of Luton. We are indebted to all for their generosity and determination in making sure food comes in and goes out to all those in need. I never fail to be humbled, by donations of food and money both large and small, keeping us going in difficult times.



Luton Foodbank recently received an award from Jamia Islamia Ghousia Trust

I am also sad to say we have lost one of our long-term volunteers recently. Pauline Cutting passed away on the 1st November, a supporter of Luton Foodbank since our inception. Always finding different ways to help us and raise money for our cause. At her funeral, David Jonathan, on behalf of Luton Council of Faiths (LCoF) posthumously presented a Queens Award for Voluntary Services Badge to her son Michael, for Pauline's immense support and contributions to the work of Luton Council of Faiths and Luton Foodbank.

Thank you all for your continued support and very best wishes to everyone over the festive period and may you remain healthy and safe in the year ahead.

*Liz Stringer*

Chair, Luton Foodbank

**How to 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 activities.
- Encourage your place of work to join us as a Business Ambassador.

**Top 5 needed items**

UHT milk

Tinned fruit

Tinned rice pudding

Sauce for pasta

UHT fruit juice (not refrigerated)

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



01582 725838



info@lutonfoodbank.org.uk

# Luton Foodbank in the community

As we enter the busy winter period, we want to thank all our supporters and friends in the community who helped launch our 'Here to Help' campaign.



Sarah Owen MP, Rachel Hopkins MP and HM Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, Helen Nellis, were just some of those that were a part of the campaign, which aims to encourage people to use the food bank's services if they are in need.

We want to take this opportunity to also thank Adrian Rogers, of the Chiltern Learning Trust, Luton Sixth Form College's Altaf Hussain, Shared Learning Trust's Cathy Barr, Bedfordshire & Luton Community Foundation's Karen Perkins, Mohammed Tariq of Inspire FM, Robin Porter of Luton Council, and Raise Up Foundation's Shazam Mahmood.



The Covid-19 pandemic has had a damaging impact on communities around the country, with more and more people forced into financial insecurity.

We're delighted to be once again working with our friends at Level Trust on a project to provide Christmas meals and toys for local families on Christmas Eve.



Elsewhere, we continue our work with young people in the community.

Young people from the town stepped into the Dragons' Den over the October half-term break as part of an initiative run by Luton Foodbank.

Amar Azam, a Community Ambassador for the charity, delivered the Young Leaders programme, which gave local youngsters the opportunity to show off their entrepreneurial flair. Amar is pictured in the photo with mentors from Connect4Causes, a youth-led organisation that seeks to inspire young people to get involved in activities in their community.

## OTHER NEWS

### New treasurer



In the autumn, we welcomed Bharat Panchall as Luton Foodbank's new treasurer. Bharat is a Chartered Accountant with over 30 years of finance, strategy, and commercial experience.

### The Mall donation point



In the summer, the Mayor of Luton officially launched our tap-and-donate contactless donation point near Tesco. Thanks to our long-standing supporters The Mall, Luton.



# Luton Foodbank in the community

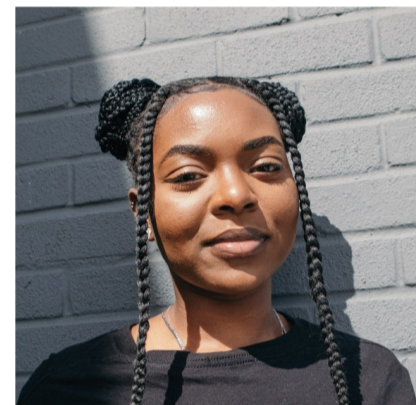
## Be a part of the family

We couldn't do what we do without the help of our amazing volunteers.

They help support our operations in Luton Foodbank's warehouse as well as at distribution points, where they provide food to the individuals and families that use our services.

We are on the lookout for more helpers.

Winter is an especially busy time for Luton Foodbank. If you are able to spare a few hours, please get in touch on [info@lutonfoodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@lutonfoodbank.org.uk)



## Salvation Army

The Salvation Army's Luton corps is a valued partner in our battle against hunger. Major Ralph Walker has kindly agreed to tell us a little about what being a Luton Foodbank referrer means to him.



*"Where there's a need, there's The Salvation Army"* – this famous quotation has never been more relevant than when we give food to the lonely, vulnerable, and homeless in Luton today. It's what we at The Salvation Army do week in, week out. Part of that service is being a referrer for Luton Foodbank.

Every Tuesday morning people from all walks of life come through our doors – many have not eaten for some time; others they are relieved that they will be able to feed their children. Whatever their circumstances, there is no judgement, just a welcome into a warm friendly environment, a quick form filled out and off you go with the food.

If we discover that debt is the reason a person or family have so little money, we can refer them to The Salvation Army Debt Advice Service. This is a totally free service who will work alongside the client, helping them budget and become debt free. The first step is writing to all their creditors and asking them to freeze the interest while we work out the best solution for the client, which may include a DRO (debt relief order) or repayment plan.

There is no greater feeling than when I see the faces of people knowing that on that day they will be able to eat. That feeling is possible because of the hard work and joint effort of Luton Foodbank and Luton Salvation Army.



# Other news

## Signposting Advisor



Hi everyone, I'm Nicola.

As a Signposting Advisor at Luton Foodbank, you I can speak with you about getting a food parcel from Luton Foodbank. I can also provide information and guidance for anybody who needs assistance with matters such as tackling debt.

Get in touch with me at:  
[advisors@lutonfoodbank.org.uk](mailto:advisors@lutonfoodbank.org.uk)



Information leaflets  
Available in six languages  
on our website.

## Schools

The Harvest period is always an exciting time of year and once again we were delighted to have received superb donations from our schools and community groups.



Remember to download your Reverse Advent Calendar from [lutonfoodbank.org.uk/advent](http://lutonfoodbank.org.uk/advent)



## Sad news

We were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Lord McKenzie of Luton after a long illness.

Rachel Hopkins, Luton South MP and long-time foodbank supporter, summed up everybody's feelings perfectly: "He was a dedicated public servant, committed to celebrating diversity and improving people's lives".

We will all miss this highly respected member of the community.

