

Spring 2024

luton foodbank NEWSLETTER

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Chair's welcome

Spring is upon us, and it usually marks the start of a busy period for us at Luton Foodbank, with lots going on.

It is always inspiring to hear about the support we have from dedicated people keen to make a difference.

Maggie, a long-standing volunteer, will be walking 110 miles, starting in April, with her faithful dog by her side.

Trustee Bilal is currently running 5km a day for 30 days during Ramadan.



Meanwhile, local teacher Jake Gurney will be running the London Marathon for us in April.

I do wish them all the very best with their endeavours. You can see how they get on through our social media channels.

Of course, they are not the only people fundraising. We have a number of schools collecting for us, and our supermarket collections are very active now. Without these donations, we would find it very hard to serve our community, and to help all those in need.

As always, please continue to support Luton Foodbank, not only with food and monetary donations, but with your volunteering and support you continue to give so generously.

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



Tinned vegetables
Sauce for pasta
Baked beans
Tinned fruit
Tinned soup



Around the community

News of our work

We have had a busy few months over the winter, with a variety of activities going on in the community.

We are one of Mayor of Luton Cllr. Yaqub Hanif's nominated charities and recently attended a fundraising dinner, where we were joined by others from around Luton. (Pictured below left.)

In recent months, we partnered up with Islamic Relief to support the most vulnerable in the town. Their team recently popped into our warehouse to put together food parcels. (Pictured below centre.)

Luton Town fan and writer Kevin Crowe (pictured below right) raised a staggering £5,000 for us three years ago through sales of his book, and has followed this up with a second edition of *These Are The Good Old Days*.

We were delighted to hear that he would again be making donations to Luton Foodbank from sales of the book.

Meanwhile, Jake Gurney, a local teacher (pictured right), has begun his training for the London Marathon in April. Thank you Jake—we wish you all the best!

Earlier in the year, it was a double success for Luton Foodbank at the recent Love Luton Awards. Our Chair Liz Stringer (pictured right) was recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award for her dedication to the charitable sector. Luton Foodbank collected the Service with a Smile Award.

You can stay informed about our work through our social media channels.



Luton Youth Council

Massive thanks go to members of the Luton Youth Council for supporting our supermarket drives.

The impressive team of young people has helped out over recent months, and we look forward to continuing our work with them.

If you'd like to get involved, and share your skills, please consider joining us as a volunteer for our supermarket drives.

They take place on Saturdays, at Tesco Extra in Dunstable, as well as at Asda in the Wigmore area of Luton. See lutonfoodbank.org.uk/food-drives for dates.

Our schools work

Colour Run

We are excited to announce that the Colour Run returns on Saturday 6 July in Wardown Park.

We were lucky to be joined by over 500 people last year for what was the biggest Colour Run we had organised.

Amongst them were many young people from the high schools that entered the event.

If you'd like to put your school forward, then get in touch with us at info@lutonfoodbank.org.uk, and we will share an application pack.



Primary Schools Colour Run

This year sees the first Primary School Colour Run fortnight of action take place between 3 and 14 June.

This great initiative means that primary schools in the town can get involved in the fun and colour of our popular event.

Thanks go to our sponsors London Luton Airport and Luton Rising for supporting us.

Register your school at info@lutonfoodbank.org.uk.

luton foodbank
we are here to help

PRIMARY SCHOOLS COLOUR RUN

Bringing the Colour Run to your school. Our Fortnight of Action is Monday 3rd June – Friday 14th June.

Sign up your school by contacting info@lutonfoodbank.org.uk

SPONSORED BY: London Luton Airport Luton Rising

Information leaflets

Available in six languages.



Download from lutonfoodbank.org.uk/leaflets

Let's Eat Together

This Ramadan, we are working with our partners and supporters on the 'Let's Eat Together' campaign.

A number of iftars (communal sunset meals) are being organised around Luton as part of the campaign, including by many of the high schools, as well as events such as The Big Iftar, which runs every year in St. George's Square.

If you'd like to run an iftar as part of the campaign, email our partners Inspire FM at events@inspirefm.org.

LET'S EAT TOGETHER

Hold your own iftar this Ramadan

Media partner INSPIRE FM 105.1^{FM}
POSITIVELY INSPIRING THE COMMUNITY

Donations to charity partner **luton foodbank**
no one should be hungry

Our business friends

Supporters from the business community are such an important part of our work at Luton Foodbank and are a crucial part of enabling us to reach those most in need in our community.

Get in touch with us to learn more about the sponsorship options that we can offer your business and how your business can benefit as a result. These include business volunteering days for your staff.

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With thanks to

Our thanks also go to supporters Electrolux, Fascel Group, Ideal Properties, Impact Personal Training, Liberty Law Solicitors, and Paradigm Housing.



Utilita Giving and Luton Town Football Club

Luton Town Football Club supporters raised a superb £10,103 for the club's charity partner Utilita Giving at a recent Takeover Day for the Premier League match against Manchester United on 18 February.

All funds raised on the day will go towards supporting local people – either directly through Utilita Giving, or by being distributed to local charities, including Luton Foodbank. Utilita Giving is a charity that aims to tackle fuel and food poverty for those experiencing hardship.

The logo of Utilita Giving, which supports some of the most vulnerable families across Bedfordshire, was worn on the front of The Hatters shirt for the match.

The limited-edition jerseys were auctioned off following the match.

Thank you to Luton Town Football Club, it's wonderful fans, as well as our friends Utilita Giving for your amazing support for our work throughout the season.

We wish the club all the best for the remainder of the campaign. Come on you Hatters!



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



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