



NEWSLETTER NUMBER 3 JUNE 2010

Welcome to our third Newsletter. So much has happened since the last Newsletter in December. Wonderful new premises, charitable status, fame on Radio Solent and an Audit!!!

Audit Jeremy Ravn from Trussell Trust spent 5 hours at our premises in January and was very impressed with our new facilities, but not so pleased with our warehouse procedures!! As a result the Warehouse was totally revamped, all food stocks date checked, re-weighed and boxed in categories on the shelves. It took about a month to do that, thanks to all those who helped with this mammoth task. Eventually we became quite adept at finding the best before dates, however small and hidden!! With paperwork streamlined, Tony and Shirley New, our Treasurers, set about putting all our statistics onto a data base, so information can be retrieved at the touch of a button. Thank you, that was a mammoth task too!!

Foodbank Statistics

Over the 18 months up until the end of March, **6515kg** of food has been donated and **5236kg** has been distributed. We have been able to feed **420** adults and **314** children.

During April 2010 we have fed **46** adults and **28** children. **472kg** of food was distributed and **146kg** was donated. So you see we are giving out more than we are receiving. Stocks are quite low at the moment so we are grateful to

The Co-op in Holbury for our Food Collection Day on Saturday 10th July.

Please, please encourage people/churches to keep supporting us. Donations dwindle in the Summer but demand doesn't!!

The number of professional organisations issuing our Vouchers has now risen to 20.

All Statistics from the Foodbank Network (now some 45 across the country) are sent to Trussell Trust who have passed them onto the Government and Ian Duncan-Smith in particular, who is looking into the benefit system. Nationwide, by far the largest group of people needing food is due to benefit delay. Trussell Trust is putting pressure on the Government. One of the solutions is that Job Centres be allowed to distribute Foodbank Vouchers. For more information go to www.trusselltrust.org.uk. We *are* making a difference.

Volunteers

Thanks to the magnificent organisation of Eileen Hayward, 35 registered volunteers appear on the rota. Its thanks to all of you that we are now open on Mondays from 10-12 noon.

Charitable Status

Waterside Foodbank is part of the work of **Waterside Ecumenical Projects**, a group set up to find ways of serving our community and represents all church denominations from Hardley to Calshot. Waterside Ecumenical Projects was recently granted charitable status by the Charities Commission. Our registered charity number is: **1136282**. Our grateful thanks to Tony New for doing this, which will help considerably in our quest for raising the necessary funds to keep us going.

Waterside Ecumenical Projects now has 4 Trustees: Malcolm Carter, Linda Venables, Pat Peckham and Jan Hayter, and along with Jane Bowen from the old Steering Committee, form the Executive Committee who will oversee and manage the Project as a whole.

A Waterside Foodbank Management Committee has been formed to oversee and progress the work done on a day to day basis. The members of this Committee are Jan Hayter, Linda Venables, Paul Stapleton, Eileen Hayward and John McDonald.

Web Site

Local graphic designer **Suzanne Pinchin** has designed and set up a brilliant web site and email facility. Type in Waterside Foodbank and up will come a crisp, clear site that tells you all you want to know about us.

The site also incorporates a blog facility on which we will be able to keep you up to date with what is going on, with links to various organisations who hold our food vouchers.

Our address is: www.watersidefoodbank.co.uk

Email: info@watersidefoodbank.co.uk

Shop Sign

The shop now has a sign, thanks to MacSigns in Holbury who produced it at cost price and Colin Hayter for putting it up. MacSigns are also providing a web address sign for the window for free!!!

Waterside Foodbank is so grateful to local businesses for their support and encouragement.

Debt Counselling

As from Friday 25th June, New Hope Debt Counselling service, managed by Linda Matthews, will be based at our Foodbank premises, at present on Wednesday evenings and Fridays 1-2pm.

We are thrilled to be working with this organisation which can offer the help some of our clients desperately need and welcome Linda onto our list of Foodbank volunteers.

Radio Solent Community Chest Award

At the beginning of the New Year Waterside Foodbank was awarded £400 towards the purchase of food ... being judged the most deserving cause of the week. Not only are we grateful for the money, Radio Solent gave us two airtime slots which was brilliant publicity!!

The Future

In September we are at last hoping to open our Re-cycling Shop!! Selling good secondhand clothing and shoes at affordable prices. This will include uniform from all our local schools. Mena's Clothes Shop in Blackfield has recently closed so we were able to offer a donation for a till and three clothes rails. She also donated to us a large box full of brand new school trousers and lots and lots of hangers!!! Thank you Mena.

Of course none of this is or will be possible without *YOU*, our faithful band of volunteers, voucher holders and food donors.

Sadly, Waterside Foodbank *is* needed in our community so we greatly appreciate your support and look forward to continuing working with you into an exciting future!!

Jan Hayter

Chair of Trustees and Project Co-ordinator

Telephone: 077 687 13329

Donations made payable to "Waterside Ecumenical Projects"

Web site: www.watersidefoodbank.co.uk

Email: info@watersidefoodbank.co.uk