

Newsletter Gateshead foodbank



Congratulations to Gateshead FC

In case you haven't already heard, Gateshead FC have won automatic promotion to the top tier of non-league football, the Vanarama National League, with a game to spare. The club has been working with Gateshead Foodbank on a regular basis, having monthly collections at the Gateshead International Stadium on the last home game of the month. The latest collection was at the home match against Southport FC on Saturday, 30 April when a sunny Spring day and a three-nil win to the Heed contributed to a great family atmosphere. We received over 100 KG's of food donations plus a cash collection of £124.



This photo shows our three volunteers at the game on 30 April, Carole, Joan and Marie with Ben Clark (Academy Coach and Gateshead FC Foundation Community Officer) and Simon Johnson (Gateshead FC Ladies Manager).

Heron Foods

A BIG thank you to customers and staff at our local Heron Foods stores in Gateshead for their ongoing support. Shoppers have been collecting Heron's food stamps for Gateshead Foodbank and since Christmas they've raised over £2,000. We've been able buy frozen items for Foodbank users using the money saved, so that we can offer an even wider range of food.

Prayer Points

Please pray for

- local people in Gateshead who are suffering hardship due to the increased cost of living;
- wisdom and clarity for the Gateshead Foodbank steering group as they plan the Foodbank strategy for the next few years; and
- the work of the Trussell Trust to influence public policy to protect people from destitution.

Earth Breeze make eco-friendly detergent sheets, for use as an alternative to liquid laundry detergent. They believe that clean clothes and laundry should not be a privilege, but something that everyone has access to. For each pack of liquidless eco-sheets bought, Earth Breeze donate 10 loads of laundry detergent and in April we received a donation of 100 packs of detergent sheets from Earth Breeze.

As well as laundry detergent, Gateshead Foodbank also provide fresh fruit and potatoes, bread, condiments and even dog and cat food.



Volunteer Focus

Catharine Howe is one of our longest serving active volunteers. Here's her story, in Catharine's own words:

"Retiring from Traidcraft in 2012, I wanted to work on poverty issues locally. I knew the Foodbank was opening and volunteered for our first session. We sat for ages waiting – and wondering if we were really needed! Finally, one client came, the next week two, then four ... the rest is history. How sad it is that we are still needed so much.

"I have mainly helped with distribution, but also with some supermarket collections, church collections and on one memorable occasion with a warehouse move. I also met Princess Anne in March 2015 on her first ever trip to a foodbank, which was quite fun as I have sometimes been told that I sound like her!

"I wish we could see a time when we are not needed. But until then it is good that we here to help and that the Trussell Trust is doing its bit to campaign for an end to food poverty."



Here's a picture of Catharine Howe meeting HRH Princess Anne in March 2015, in the basement of the Gateshead distribution centre. Not only does Catharine sound like Princess Anne, but they even had matching coats!

Food Stats for April

Food donations received: 5,808.33 kg

Food given out: 8,662.55 kg

Number of people fed in our distribution centres at Birtley, Blaydon and Gateshead in total: 656

Number of adults fed = 423

Number of children fed = 233

Thank you to all our donors

Among our many supporters is the Felling site of the multinational paint and coatings manufacturer, **AkzoNobel**. They have been supporting us since November 2020 and in that time have donated £3,000, as well as providing food donations and volunteering to help out in our warehouse on the Team Valley. Thank you, AkzoNobel.

Is there anything you'd like us to cover in future Newsletters or questions you'd like to ask? If so, please email us at info@gatesheadfoodbank.org



This Easter we received over 1,000 chocolate eggs - (whoop!) which is incredible, kindly donated by Tesco's café customers, Cadbury's and Slimming World. We've therefore been able to give an Easter egg to all of our Foodbank users. Some ladies from Slimming World delivered many bags of Easter eggs to our warehouse while wearing Easter bunny ears!