

Newsletter **Gateshead foodbank**

Tesco Summer Collection

We had a great 2 days at the end of June collecting at Tesco's Extra, Gateshead. Tesco customers donated virtually 1,900 kg of food. That's equivalent to seven days supply of food for 176 people!

We couldn't have done this without the support of Tesco, our volunteers and our local community who have donated so generously. A massive thank you to everyone involved!

Look out for our collection at Asda, Metrocentre on Saturday, 13th August from 10 AM to 4 PM



Thank you Warburtons and Lintz Hall Farm!

We receive regular donations of fresh bread from the Warburtons bakery in Newburn, and of free range eggs from Lintz Hall Farm near Burnopfield. At the beginning of July we took delivery of 1,000 fresh, free range eggs from Lintz Hall Farm. This fantastic donation, together with the bread from Warburtons and the fresh fruit and potatoes which we buy in, together contribute to the balanced and nutritious food we provide to users of Gateshead Foodbank. **Thank you to Warburtons and to Lintz Hall Farm for your support.**

Prayer Points. Please pray for:

- The thousands of people in Gateshead who are being forced to make tough decisions about when and what they eat, what they can do in life, and when they can afford to heat their homes;
- The success of the Gateshead Council Warm Spaces scheme, where Gateshead people will be able to come together to stay warm

Food Stats for June 2022

Food donations received: 7,161.13kg

Food given out: 8,972.80kg

Number of people fed in our distribution centres at Birtley, Blaydon and Gateshead in total: 521

Number of adults fed = 330

Number of children fed = 191

Please visit our website and see our shopping list of items we're short of. **Please also donate any spare, strong plastic shopping bags you may have.**

Participation Project

Hi, my name is Lucy. I've joined Gateshead Foodbank for one day a week as 'Participation Lead'. I suppose I should begin by explaining what we mean by participation...

On one level, participation is as simple as hearing the voices of the Gateshead citizens who use the foodbank: how can we ensure that we are working for the people who need us?

On another level, the Trussell Trust is speaking out about the importance of getting rid of foodbanks, of building a society where nobody needs them because everyone has enough. This might seem a really long way off when we look at the rising cost of living and the increasing numbers of people struggling with poverty in Gateshead. But while we continue to do the vital work of giving emergency food to the people who need it, I think we are also called to ask, 'why do people need food in the first place?' and 'is there anything we can do to tackle the injustices that leave people hungry?'. I strongly believe that we won't find the answers to these questions unless the people who have lived experience of the sharp end of poverty are involved in the conversations.

So that's what we're doing – getting some of those conversations rolling – starting with a conversation with a group of people who've used the foodbank before and sharing insight and questions over tea and cake. We don't know exactly where this will lead us but watch this space... and in the meantime, if you want to hear more about this work or get involved then do drop me an email: participation@gatesheadfoodbank.org

Lucy Zwolinska



Fancy Dress Fun Day at Lookers Ford

In July Lookers Ford in Dunston held a fancy dress fun day. In return for a cash donation, staff dressed up in all sorts of great costumes, as shown here.

Lookers Ford collected food donations from both staff and customers. As well as the food which was donated, they raised a whopping £200 for the Foodbank. Lookers Ford have doubled this to £400. Many thanks indeed for this fantastic effort.

