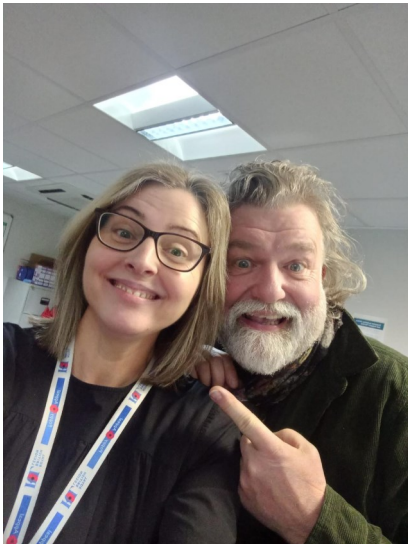


Newsletter



The Bonny Comet

The Bonny Comet is a restaurant on Durham Road with a vision of bringing people together with great food and great drinks as part of the community and in a vibrant, inclusive space. They held a charity night in December at which they raised £3,000, £1,000 of which was donated to Gateshead Foodbank. Then in February they visited our main distribution centre in central Gateshead to deliver the donation together with Si King (one of the famous Hairy Bikers), Hayley from the Bonny Comet and Maureen Wright from Westray Recruitment.



Project leaders Lesleyann and Rebekah showed everyone around and explained all the different levels of support we offer, including

services that help alleviate Foodbank users out of poverty. The Bonny Comet will continue to support the Gateshead Foodbank by making donations as well as putting on more charity events this year. Thank you.



Prayer Points

Please pray for:

- People in our community of Gateshead who are facing unemployment, ill-health, isolation or money worries at this time, especially for those who are unable to afford basic essentials;
- Gateshead Foodbank that we will receive sufficient financial and food donations to be able to respond to every person who needs our support with sensitivity and kindness;
- Justice and compassion to prevail in political and economic decision-making, so that everyone is protected from poverty and has the chance to flourish; and
- The work of our trustees and other volunteers who give so much to time to help others.



Who Gives a Crap?

As well as food, Gateshead Foodbank also provides toiletries, sanitary products and loo roll, plus fresh fruit and dog and cat food. Thank you to Who Gives a Crap for their ongoing donations of toilet paper. In case you didn't know, they donate 50% of their profits to help build toilets and improve sanitation in the developing world. So it's a win win as far as we're concerned.



Sporting Icons



Sporting Icons are a small, family run business based in Gateshead who create limited edition bobble hats inspired by icons from the world of sport. They donate 25% of their profits from each bobble hat sold to Gateshead Foodbank and have now donated a total of £5,500 since they launched in September 2020. You can find loads of different colours and designs on their website at <https://sportingicons.co.uk/>

Volunteers Needed

Volunteering with Gateshead Foodbank not only involves helping fellow Gateshead residents who are experiencing food poverty, but it's also incredibly rewarding as well as sociable. See some of our volunteers' comments just here.

We have vacancies for volunteers at our warehouse in the Team Valley and at our distribution centres in central Gateshead and in Blaydon. We really need more help, so if you can spare two or three hours once a week, then please search for "Gateshead Foodbank vacancies" on your search engine to read about the roles and to apply. If you want to know more or to come along for a taster session then email us on info@gatesheadfoodbank.org



North East Roofing Contractors

Congratulations and thanks to the founder of North East Roofing Contractors, Ian Hogg. In January Ian ran the Druridge Bay Beach Trail Run covering 13.1 miles in under two hours and raised over £1,000 for Gateshead food bank.

His next run is on 20th April for the 30 mile ultra run in the Lake District.



To Georgia and Back

Nigel Wilde of Ryton rode his bike all the way to the central European country of Georgia last year. Following his return he gave a presentation about the trip in his local pub in Ryton, the Olde Cross. The event was jam packed so Nigel repeated it a few weeks later. Nigel invited people to make a donation to Gateshead Foodbank and he raised over £400. This picture shows Nigel after his second talk plus his bike and all of the kit which he had to take with him on the journey.



New Weighing Equipment

Costain Jacobs are the main contractor on the A1 Birtley to Coal House road improvement scheme. They connected us with the National Highways Social Value Fund to which our volunteer Warehouse Manager, Rob Brotherston then made a successful grant application. They donated over £8,500 to Gateshead Foodbank; this funding has provided us with essential equipment to weigh, stack, label and organise food donations.

After seeing Costain's generous donation, Gateshead-based weighing specialists, Northern Balance, donated a roll-on floor scale to Gateshead Foodbank. This much needed piece of weighing equipment not only reduces the risk of physical injury to volunteers by removing the need for manual crate lifting, but also speeds up the distribution process.

Diversity

Diversity are a London based street dance troupe formed in 2007. They rocketed to fame when they won the third series of Britain's Got Talent in 2009, beating Susan Boyle in the live final. They are currently in the middle of a national tour, called Supernova and appeared over two nights at the Glasshouse, Gateshead (formerly the Sage).



Diversity are supporters of our umbrella organisation, the Trussell Trust and their fans were invited to bring along food donations for Gateshead Foodbank on the first night at the Glasshouse and for Newcastle Foodbank on the second night. We received 40 KG of donations together with over £100 which fans donated after the event. Some of our volunteers were invited to meet members of the group backstage before the event, as shown in this picture.

Metrocentre Ice Rink

The Metrocentre has an ice rink each November and December. They invite customers to make a donation to use the ice rink and last Christmas Metrocentre picked Gateshead Foodbank as their chosen charity. They also encouraged customers to drop off food items. They raised an amazing £4,244 as well as almost 60 kilogrammes of food. Thank you to Metrocentre and all of the ice rink customers for their kind generosity.



Latest Statistics and.....Carrier Bags!

Between 1 January this year and virtually the end of February, we gave out emergency food parcels to 1,240 people across our three distribution centres in central Gateshead, Birtley and Blaydon. They were made up of 852 adults and 388 children. 34 of the adults were aged 65 years or older, while 124 of the children were aged up to four years old. Sadly, it doesn't matter how old or young you are, you can still experience hunger on a daily basis.

On a more positive note, during December we gave out Christmas hampers to all Foodbank users, in addition to the usual provision of nutritional food, toiletries, fresh and frozen food and bread. In total, we provided 374 hampers across our three sites. It was a logistical challenge to make up each hamper and to transport them and we couldn't have achieved this without our amazing volunteers. However, Foodbank users were delighted to receive a hamper on top of the emergency provisions which we usually provide.

Finally, we should like to make a plea for strong carrier bags for us to use when we make up emergency food parcels. If you have any spare bags for life or can donate new bags then please leave them in the collection points or call us for further information. Search "Gateshead Foodbank collection points" for the supermarket locations.



Let's get EGGcited about Easter

We try to put smile on people's faces when they collect a food parcel by giving out an Easter egg to every Foodbank user we see. This year we expect that in the week running up to Easter Sunday we will be giving out around 200 emergency food parcels in 10 hours.

Your donations will help us to give out chocolate Easter eggs to everyone who attends Gateshead Foodbank. You can donate by text* using the following numbers from your mobile phone:

To donate £3, text NGPL03 to 70331

To donate £5, text NGPL03 to 70970

To donate £3, text NGPL03 to 70191

*You will be charged the value of your donation plus your standard network message charge (based on your service provider rates).

**Fundraising, payments and donations will be processed and administered by the National Funding Scheme, operating as DONATE, a charity registered in England and Wales (charity number 1149800) and in Scotland (charity number SC045106). For terms and conditions see www.easydonate.org*

Alternatively, you can visit our website for other ways to donate, visit our JustGiving page or telephone us on 07496 840720.

This picture shows a massive Easter egg donation to our warehouse in Team Valley by Savannah.

