

Thanking everyone for their support in 2023

Thank you so much for your continued support throughout 2023. We know that the rising cost of living is affecting everyone and now more than ever, we really appreciate everything you continue to do. During the year, we fulfilled 1222 vouchers feeding a total of 2959 people of which, 1137 were children. We received over 27.5 tonnes of donated food and other items during the year, which will enable us to continue to provide emergency food to people in crisis in the Devizes, Marlborough and Pewsey areas. Whilst we are so grateful for every single tin and packet that was donated, we do ask that you ensure that the *food items have a minimum of 4 months until the best before date* and that you check our website and Facebook page for our most needed items. Unfortunately, we do receive items that are out of date, damaged or even packets or jars that have been opened. These items have to be disposed of and in 2023 they amounted to 870kg.

We do give pack sizes for rice, pasta and tea bags on our website but despite this, we occasionally receive large or catering size packs of various items. Unfortunately a 5kg pack of pasta, or 240 teabags are just too big to go into the food boxes - not to mention the 10kg bag of basmati rice!! They also take up quite of bit of storage space. So I'm afraid it's a thanks but no thanks to catering sizes.

Contact us

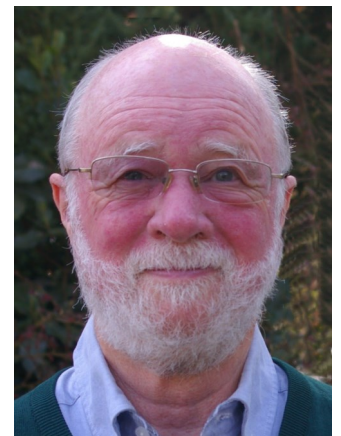
Please phone us on 07807 973605 and leave a message if we are not available to answer. Alternatively drop us an email: info@devizesdistrict.foodbankorg.uk

“Our vision is for a UK without the need for food banks...”

Meet the Trustee

Jasper Selwyn

Jasper has been a trustee of the Foodbank for more than 10 years, and was Chairman from 2019 to 2021. Before he retired he was a teacher, and earlier in his career he spent 11 years working in Africa, where he saw many people having to survive on very little. He retired to Devizes 20 years ago, and has been involved with Fairtrade, Twinning, Age UK and Public Transport as well as the Foodbank.



Community Organiser

Since November, there's been a real focus on building a shared identity amongst the different local campaigning teams, and building up the leadership skills and confidence of local campaigners to push towards a time when no-one in the UK has to use a food bank.

This has meant several campaign meetings of families struggling with school uniform costs, and boat dwellers missing out on historical energy bill support. The campaigns team of boat dwellers decided on the name UK Boaters for Energy Justice, and launched a [petition](#) at the end of the year – please sign if you're able to – as well as writing to the Government directly.

Families struggling with school uniform costs are preparing to write to a local secondary school asking for uniform and behaviour policies that don't disadvantage students on lower incomes, and we're planning a petition for one of the largest educational trusts in the South-West to focus on affordability.

On top of the Guarantee our Essentials campaign and exploration of a new campaign addressing furniture poverty in social housing, it's been a busy few months of the teams working towards the aim of one day no-one in the UK needing to use a food bank.

Guarantee our essentials!

Food banks in the Trussell Trust network have seen the highest ever level of need in a six month period, providing 1.5 million emergency food parcels to people between April and September this year. A record 540,000 emergency food parcels were provided to support more than 265,000 children across the UK.

Our social security system should support anyone in need of help, but more and more people are finding it impossible to make ends meet because Universal Credit is falling short, and it's pushing people to food banks.

The Trussell Trust are continuing to call on the UK government for an 'Essentials Guarantee' to make sure that the basic rate of Universal Credit is at least enough to afford the essentials we all need, such as food, household bills and travel costs.

If you would like to find out more and take part, please visit www.trusselltrust.org/essentials

Lent takes place from Wednesday 14 February to Saturday 30 March this year. This Lent, you can support us by donating food. **We are currently in need of:**

UHT dairy milk

Tinned ham

Long life sponge puddings (minimum of 4 months to best before date)

Instant mash potato

Shampoo and/or conditioner

Small Easter Eggs - *these must be with us by 15 March please to give us time to distribute them before Easter.*

We want to see a future where food banks aren't needed
and we know that together, we can make that happen

Devizes and District Foodbank

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