

# Newsletter



## St James Foodbank Centre



St James Foodbank Centre opened mid May this year. It took a while to get off the ground but is now proving to be quite successful.

People who have a voucher from a partner agency, are able to pick up their food parcels at these sessions. When they arrive at the centre, volunteers welcome them with a hot drink, offer to refer them to the Citizen's Advice (CA) caseworker attending the session, and provide further signposting support where possible.

Our visitors tell us how much they appreciate having someone willing to take the time to listen to them. They also welcome the chance to talk face to face with the CA caseworker.

During June, 15 of our visitors were seen by CA; the caseworkers dealt with 55 advice issues with the main areas being debt, and benefits and tax credits.

**SAVE THE DATE!** **Challenging Poverty 2023** - information, questions and answers  
Friday 6 October 2023 at 7.30pm - The Bouverie Hall, Pewsey

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

## Meet the Trustee

### Sanjeen Payne-Kumar

Sanjeen is our newest trustee having been recruited in May this year.

He has lived in rural Wiltshire for 30 years. He has a background in finance and organisational transformation built up over many years in the energy sector, management consultancy and in the charity sector. The latter includes the Chair of Finance at the Wiltshire Air Ambulance, Chair of Finance at Community First and as an Associate Non-Executive Director for the Great Western Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.



## Community Organiser

In the last few months, several campaigns addressing local causes of financial hardship have seen some amazing progress. With the help of families impacted by the issue, and the Devizes and District campaigning team, Devizes Change-makers, the first local school signed an Affordable Uniform Pledge. This commits them to ensuring uniform is affordable through reducing branded items and evaluating supplier value-for-money. We've also had a BBC article and Gazette & Herald article on this campaign! Engaging with Wiltshire Council on their Household Support Fund (£5.5 million for households to cope with the Cost of Living) has given local housing associations the opportunity to access some of the fund to support their tenants. Finally, Danny Kruger is attending a meeting on the national campaign to ensure social security is enough to afford the essentials, which it often isn't. Thanks to all those involved in these campaigns!

[alex@devizesanddistrict.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:alex@devizesanddistrict.foodbank.org.uk)

## Thank you for your support!

Thank you so much for all your support. We really appreciate everything you continue to do, enabling us to make the greatest possible difference to people experiencing hardship in the SN8, SN9 and SN10 areas.

A special food collection was held at Morrisons in Devizes on 22 July and a total of 492kg of food was donated by Morrisons shoppers. One boy spent all his pocket money on food items for us while some customers gave carrier bags full of food. Other customers told us that they had once been in a situation when they had struggled to afford to buy food and appreciated the work of the foodbank. Thankfully they are now in a better place.

We are so grateful for every single tin and packet that was donated. This will enable us to continue to provide emergency food to people in crisis in the Devizes, Marlborough and Pewsey areas.

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](http://www.trusselltrust.org/essentials)

### Contact us

Please phone us on 07807 973605 and leave a message if we are not available to answer.

Alternatively drop us an email – our email address is given below.

### Stocks are running low:

### we are currently in need of:

Instant mashed potato

Dried rice 500g

Tinned hot meat

Tinned ham

Long life sponge puddings

Instant whip (Angel Delight etc)

Men's deodorant

Ladies' deodorant

Men's shower gel

Ladies' shower gel

Toothbrushes

Shampoo

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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