



### THE FOODBANK HAS BEEN 'A REAL EYE-OPENER'

B30 Foodbank's new support worker has now been in the job for a little over a month, and he's had to hit the ground running. Adam Booth says moving into the charity sector has been a real eye-opener.



*Adam helps Jimmy with his benefits*

"People can say what they want about foodbanks but until you've actually been in a foodbank, you don't realise the vulnerabilities of the people you see coming through the door," Adam explained. "There's genuine poverty. It's really open my eyes." Adam works for The Project in Rednal, attends almost every foodbank session, and already has a bulging case load - mainly caused by problems with universal credit. Jimmy Garghan is 20 and unemployed. He's one of the latest foodbank clients to seek Adam's help. Jimmy has a serious eye condition and was moved onto universal credit in February. Then he was sanctioned: "I don't know what's happened. I'm totally in the dark," Jimmy said. "They

think I've got a job but I haven't, and all my money's been stopped for at least two weeks while they investigate it. I'm really struggling and I can't feed myself so I had to come here."

Adam recognised that Jimmy needed help filling in complicated but crucial forms. Jimmy was delighted: "I feel great that somebody actually wants to help me. And I should get the disability benefits that I'm entitled to for my eye problems." Adam added: "I really do enjoy the foodbank. I like the fact that we can give some instant advice - sometimes it's just 10 minutes spent with people who might not have been helped by anyone else."

### DRESSING DOWN & PULLING PINTS

Demand for emergency food continues to increase, so we're always delighted when people come up with new ways to donate. Callum, Nesheela, Stacey & Jane from QualitySolicitors Davisons in Cotteridge brought in 100 Kg of food after a dress-down day at the company's six Birmingham offices. Everyone taking part paid £1 and the Cotteridge office decided who should benefit. "We chose the foodbank because we're here every Friday providing free legal advice," Stacey explained. "We know how much the food is needed, and we wanted the money to go to help a local charity."

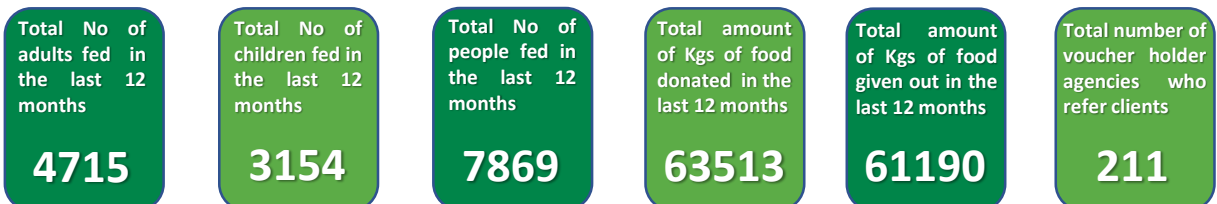


*A dress-down day raised enough cash for a 100 Kg donation.*

Birmingham Brewing Company's recent tap room event gave a tempting free 1/3 pint of beer to everyone who brought a donation for the foodbank. More than 80 Kg of food was donated, and nearly £50 in cash.

These brilliant donations are much-needed. So far this year, we've given out 32.4 tons of food – 29% higher than for the same period in 2017. We've received in 24.5 tons, a remarkable figure that's also up by nearly a third.

## B30 Foodbank Statistics: June 2017 – May 2018



## WE'RE THE "4<sup>th</sup> EMERGENCY SERVICE"

Foodbanks were described as "The 4<sup>th</sup> emergency service" during the keynote speech at the Trussell Trust's national conference in May. The address was given by Campbell Robb, chief executive of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

Delegates responded with sustained applause when he said this about the benefits system: "The same system that should be pulling people out of poverty is pushing people into it. This is destitution by design."

The Trussell Trust's Gaz Lemon also struck a chord. He said: "It is not fair to keep pulling people out of the river. We need to start looking up stream at why people are falling in."

## "FIGHT HUNGER, CREATE CHANGE"



The Trussell Trust's multi million pound deal with Asda has already started bearing fruit – of the tinned variety – and much more. Because of the "Fight Hunger, Create Change"

sponsorship, the Barnes Hill supermarket in Weoley Castle now has a permanent box for donations to B30 Foodbank. The collaboration started with a four-hour collection bringing in over a quarter of a ton of food from generous shoppers.

## #BRUMFEEDS 'BIG DROP'



The Birmingham Mail foodbank campaign #brumfeeds is publicising its 'Big Drop' on Friday June 22. People will be encouraged to bring donations to Victoria Square, Birmingham, and city centre stations.

So far, the campaign's brought in more than ten tons of food and £1300 – it's also raised the profile of foodbanks, and dispelled many of the myths surrounding what we do.

B30 Foodbank also appeared in an episode of Channel 4's Dispatches that investigated universal credit. The programme featured one of our clients who'd suffered lengthy delays receiving his payments. If you're very quick, you might just catch it on ALL 4.



**The Cotteridge Church, 24 Pershore Road South, Cotteridge, B30 3EU**

The foodbank is open 2.30pm – 4.30pm on Tuesdays & Fridays



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## CHANGES AT THE TOP

The Trussell Trust has appointed a new area manager for the patch which covers B30 Foodbank. She's Sarah Barcham, previously project manager at Redditch Foodbank for nearly two years.



"I am excited to be working with B30, who are doing an amazing job supporting their local community," said Sarah, who now covers Cheshire, Shropshire and Staffordshire as well as parts of the city. "B30 Foodbank is really welcoming and the volunteers were so keen to show

me all of the ways that they could assist guests through a crisis. I look forward to working with all of the local foodbanks and bringing them together to share ideas, knowledge and best practice'.

## DO-SI-DO 'n' CHIPS

This year's B30 Foodbank annual social combines food and frolicking - and all our supporters are invited to come along. The ceilidh barn dance is on Friday June 22<sup>nd</sup> at Kings Norton Ex-Servicemen's Club, 1853a Pershore Road, Cotteridge, between 7pm and 10.30pm. Do-si-Dos will be partnered by cod and chips. Tickets cost £6 for adults and £4 for children. They're obviously selling fast! Reserve your tickets at [info@b30.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@b30.foodbank.org.uk)

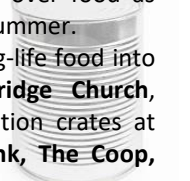
## BACK ON TRACK WITH THE DWP

Managers from B30 Foodbank met with local job centre bosses to discuss referring people for emergency food. Happily, the situation has been clarified and genuine need will be assessed at job centres before clients are sent to the foodbank.

## EVERYONE IS HELPING

Our 'Junkbusters' initiative is asking students at the University of Birmingham to donate left over food as they leave their accommodation for the summer.

And **you can all help too**, please. Put long-life food into the green wheelie bin at **The Cotteridge Church**, arrange an **online shop**, or fill up donation crates at local **Morrisons, Sainsbury's, Lloyds Bank, The Coop, Asda**, and many more.



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