



www.stneots.foodbank.org.uk

Newsletter

Issue No 01 - 01 / 10 / 2016

HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE IN CRISIS SINCE 2013

A big thank you to all our staff and volunteers, you have helped to feed 973 people for 3 days each in St. Neots in the last year!



St Neots Firefighters from Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service help prepare food hampers at our St. Neots warehouse.

And another big thank you to the people of St Neots for again demonstrating their amazing generosity. At the July Neighbourhood Food Collection held at Tesco Extra St Neots we received donations weighing 1602 kg. This amounts to approximately **3900 meals** for local people in crisis.



You can donate food in the following ways:

- Into the 'drop boxes' in Budgens, Co-op, Tesco and Waitrose
- At various churches which have collection boxes
- Bringing it directly to our warehouse

Please see our website for urgently needed items



Paddy and Carol Henderson, the founders of the Trussell Trust

IN OTHER NEWS

Excellent Quality Assurance visit for St Neots Foodbank!

In May the foodbank was visited by a senior member of the Trussell Trust as part of their quality assurance procedures to maintain high standards in all food banks across the country.

We are delighted that our foodbank received a large number of commendations as a result of this visit, showing the very high standards we seek to achieve and maintain.

To quote from the quality assurance report *“St Neots Foodbank continues to be a well thought out project, which runs efficiently with the resources they have and is seen by clients, agencies and churches as being an effective community project.”*

Well done to all concerned with running the foodbank.

History and background of the Trussell Trust Foodbank Network

Carol and Paddy Henderson founded the Trussell Trust in 1997, based on a legacy left by Carol's mother, Betty Trussell. Initially they worked with destitute children in Bulgaria. Whilst fundraising in Salisbury, Paddy received a call from a desperate mother asking if he could help her and as a result started the Salisbury foodbank from his garden shed in 2000.

Four years later the UK Foodbank network was launched on a franchise model, facilitating churches and communities nationwide on how to start their own foodbanks.

The number of network foodbanks has increased from two in 2004 to over four hundred in 2016. The main causes of referral to Trussell Trust Foodbank are benefit delays, low income and benefit changes. There are 40,000 volunteers working in Trussell Trust foodbanks.

The Trussell Trust was given top prize in the Social Care and Welfare category and won the Overall Award at the Charity Awards in June 2016.

A Short History of St Neots Foodbank by Peter Lang (a founder trustee)

Early in 2013 a St Neots ministers' breakfast meeting discussed the increasing members of the local community seeking help with rising food costs, and asked "Is it time we had a Foodbank in St Neots?" The answer was yes: some subsequent key events can be summarised as follows:

April 2013: Representatives of 10 churches in the town came together to form an Action Group to consider the setting up of a Foodbank in St Neots.

June 2013: The Action Group took the decision to join the Trussell Trust Foodbank network, the cost being funded by equal contributions from each of the 10 churches. Warehouse premises in Little End Road were donated by Brittain's Ltd.

September 2013: Two Volunteer Training sessions held, warehouse formally opened, first supermarket collection took place (over 800kg donated)

October 2013: Distribution Centres opened at St Neots United Reformed Church and St Mary's Eaton Socon

2014: Two more Distribution Centres opened at Berkley Street Methodist Church (June) and Open Door Church (October)



Distribution Centre

Opening Times:

Open Door Church Centre

Suites 2-6
31A St Neots Road
Eaton Ford
St Neots
PE19 7BA
Mon 16:00 - 18:00

St Neots United Reformed Church

High Street
St Neots
PE19 1BN
Tue 10:00 - 12:00

Berkley Street Methodist Church

10 Berkley Street
St Neots
PE19 2NB
Thu 16:00 - 18:00

St Mary's Church Eaton Socon

Great North Road
Eaton Socon
St Neots
PE19 8EJ
Fri 10:00 - 12:00



If you need help from our foodbank **the most important step is to get a foodbank voucher.**

We work with local agencies. If they feel you are struggling to put food on the table, they will issue you with a foodbank voucher.

Agencies we work with include: Citizens Advice, housing support officers, children's centres, health visitors, social services and some local charities

Here are a few simple steps to follow to obtain a voucher:

1. Do you rent your home from a Housing Association?

If the answer to this is YES then contact your neighbourhood housing manager.

2. Do you have children?

If YES then contact the Pre-School, School or College they attend or a Children's Centre (Eaton Socon CC at Bushmead School or Eynesbury CC at Winhills School)

3. Do you have a social or support worker from social services or a voluntary agency?

If the answer to this is YES then contact the person you usually deal with.

4. If the answer to the above questions is NO then contact one of the following agencies:-

Rural Cambs Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)

Tan Yard Car Park (near Waitrose)

Drop in open Mon – Tue – Thurs 09:30 to 12:30

Other times by appointment – 03442451292

St Neots Locality Team

The Bargroves

Cromwell Road

St Neots

PE19 2EY

01480 376199



It's not just food at a food bank.....project manager Adrienne accepts a donation of toothbrushes and toothpaste from Spire Dental group. These items are also given as part of a box of essential supplies to foodbank clients.

Partners and Financial Sponsors 2015-16:

Brittains
Lovett Sales and Lettings
Luminus
Tesco
Waitrose

Contact details

Phone us [01480 475 426](tel:01480475426)

Email us info@stneots.foodbank.org.uk

Website www.stneots.foodbank.org.uk

Facebook www.facebook.com/stneotsfoodbank

Twitter [@StNeotsFoodbank](https://twitter.com/StNeotsFoodbank)

CAN YOU HELP?

It costs approximately £20 to run the foodbank **each day** and we can only keep helping people in crisis through regular financial support.

Big or small, **every gift you give** helps transform lives.

Our foodbank is run by local people for local people – we rely on the community's support to ensure we can continue to stop people going hungry. Can you invest in the future of our project and help us provide much-needed support to people in crisis in our community?

Please help us if you can by:

- Sending a cheque to our office – see address below
- Give a regular amount every month – see our website for further details
- Put on a coffee morning or other fundraising event – download the fundraising booklet from our website for ideas and hints on fundraising events
- Gift Aid if you can – see our website for details

