

Update from the Foodbank: Our Foodbank continues to function and help support people in need in our community.

As many of you are aware, we have had to change the way we function, due to the practicality of social distancing at our warehouse, many of our volunteers having to self-isolate and the drop in donations via our usual routes.

From April 6th we introduced the issuing of supermarket cards /vouchers instead of food parcels.

Our clients are still referred in the usual way from the varying referral agents either using the red referral form or in many cases now via email. The supermarket vouchers issued are of varying value depending on the size of the household.

All three of our Distribution Centres are open as usual Tuesday and Friday 10 - 12.00 midday, manned by a small team of volunteers, for clients to collect a supermarket voucher. A small number of food parcels are available if necessary, mainly for single people.

We are extremely grateful to our local supermarkets, Sainsbury's and Waitrose in Hitchin, Morrison's in Letchworth and Tesco in Baldock for their support in with the new scheme.

The need for help as expected has dramatically increased, we helped 80% more people in the last 4 weeks compared to last year, helping over 800 people.

The generosity of the local community, individuals and businesses in financial donations to the Foodbank has enabled us to introduce & maintain the purchase of the supermarket vouchers. We have had several generous donations from various organisations and from the supermarkets.

We have also applied for grants from the local council and other charitable funds to help maintain the supermarket voucher scheme. We estimate our current funds mean we will be able to continue with the scheme for several months but as with everything in the current crisis we will be reviewing the situation. Our aim is for the Foodbank to return to our normal food distribution service as soon as safe to do so and restrictions are lifted.

Working with other

Agencies: Throughout the current situation we have worked with other local agencies to help maintain a co-ordinated approach to helping those most in need, including Letchworth Heritage Foundation, Letchworth Community Support Group, Hitchin Food Provision Group, Hitchin Roundtable, Baldock Community Support Group.

We have linked with the Trussell Trust/Tesco national food distribution scheme in order to replenish our stocks so that we are ready to reopen with a full service as soon as the need to socially distance has been reversed. This food has been donated by Tesco and is distributed to us by British Gas. When we receive the deliveries, they are sorted by one or two volunteers at the warehouse who also prepare packages for the Howard Day-care Centre, the Salvation Army and Settle.

Thank You: We want to thank everyone who continues to support the foodbank without the generosity of the local community we could not maintain the service.

To continue our voucher scheme, we will still need monetary support, please see the website for how to donate:

www.letchworth.foodbank.org.uk



Polestar Pottery Fundraiser for Foodbank

Pottery Fundraiser lockdown project !

To raise funds for Letchworth Foodbank a local potter is selling handmade pottery.

'I've been a hobby potter on and off for many years but have recently set up my own studio at home, and now have more pots than I know what to do with. Everything is handmade in Letchworth and is unique'

To see the fabulous vases, jugs, plates, tea light holders, plant pots and more made at Polestar Pottery go to.

<http://www.facebook.com/PotteryFundraiser>

Purchase by donation direct via the Facebook link, local delivery can be arranged.



Help make a difference in our community and have a beautiful piece of pottery.

For further information on the Foodbank, how to obtain a referral, find our Distribution Centre, or make a donate please go to our website:

www.lechworth.foodbank.org.uk

or

See our Facebook page

Newsletter Feedback

Please email Susan Kostrzewska, Foodbank Newsletter Editor. susan.kostrzewska@hotmail.co.uk

If you do not wish to receive newsletters from Letchworth, Hitchin & Baldock Foodbank, please email with the word "unsubscribe" in the subject line, and provide your full name and address in the email