

February 2026

Supporting Letchworth, Hitchin & Baldock

Our new chairman

We are delighted to share that we have appointed a new Chairman to lead the board of trustees. After a rigorous process, which involved talking to ten great candidates which we shortlisted to three, we have unanimously appointed Danny Nasmyth-Miller.



Over his career Danny has led global projects, teams and organisations in the clinical research industry and has a great deal of board level experience.

For twenty years, he has also been an active member of the St Mary Magdalene Church in Welwyn Garden City, including being a Trustee and, more recently, church Treasurer.

Danny is newly retired and applied for the role because:

"It is disappointing that in a wealthy country such as the United Kingdom, there is a need for Foodbanks. However, there is a need, and Foodbanks provide a vital and supportive service. I very much hope I will be able to use my experiences to support the Letchworth Foodbank in its mission, to provide emergency food for local people in crisis, expanding its reach and deepening its impact."

Danny lives in Welwyn Garden City with his wife Clare, two grown up children, and their Labrador Lyra.

Bank the Food app

We don't know, week-by-week, how many vouchers will be issued for our food bank. This means that we sometimes run short of even the most basic items such as pasta or tinned tomatoes.

With the *BanktheFood* app this can change. Now we can update our requirements on the app in real time so that people shopping 'today' can see what we require urgently and add them to their basket.



The app can be set to receive alerts on your smartphone as you arrive at the supermarket.

This allows you to donate smartly; to buy and donate items that we need to make balanced emergency food parcels.

To become a Tinfluencer, download the app from the Apple Store or Google Play Store.

Help stop holiday hunger

We are urgently appealing to the community to support a new giving drive, **#STOPHOLIDAYHUNGER**, to meet the anticipated surge in demand for food assistance during the upcoming February half term holiday.

The campaign aims to prevent the 2,247 North Hertfordshire children who rely on Free School Meals (FSM) during term time from going hungry when schools close in February.



The need has become critical following the announcement that Hertfordshire County Council no longer has the funds to provide the £15 supermarket voucher that previously covered lunches for FSM children during half term holiday breaks. This withdrawal of a vital safety net leaves children in Letchworth, Baldock and Hitchin vulnerable to “holiday hunger”— a reality that impacts a child’s health, wellbeing, and ability to thrive.

“For many families, the Free School Meal is the most reliable meal of the day,” said Charlie Hayter, Letchworth Foodbank Director. “When that support disappears during the school break, a critical gap is left. Families simply cannot absorb the cost of an extra five days of nutritious meals and requests for support from our service grow

significantly. As I look at our warehouse, and our usual donation levels, I am gravely concerned we will not be able to provide the necessary support to stop our community’s children from going hungry. “

The Foodbank’s capacity is already under severe strain. At Christmas, we received approximately 4 tonnes of food donations but were required to distribute 6 tonnes to meet the needs of the community. With the withdrawal of the council’s voucher for February, and less focus on charitable giving after Christmas, we are seriously concerned that the shortfall will be even greater this holiday.

To fully meet the need we need to raise **£33,705 from financial and food donations** — enough to provide £15 worth of food support to every eligible child in our area for the February half term.

“When a child’s basic needs, including consistent, nutritious food, are not met, their ability to concentrate and learn when they return to the classroom is severely compromised,” commented Tim Spencer, Headteacher at Fearnhill School in Letchworth. “Half term is a break in which our students prepare for a busy term ahead. The energy and peace of mind that a full week of lunches provides is important to ensure our students can succeed and thrive. We urge everyone who can to give to the Letchworth Foodbank, and help pupils across Letchworth, Baldock and Hitchin to be able to use the break to re-charge and return ready to learn.”

Thank you for your continued support. Every tin, every packet of pasta and every penny helps us ensure no one in our community faces hunger.

How to support the Holiday Hunger Campaign:

- Share the campaign on or offline (poster available on our website)
- Donate Food
- Donate Funds: you can donate money [here](#)

Can you lend a hand?



We are looking for people who want to help us ensure no one in our community goes hungry.

Whether you are a content creator, an organiser or a great listener we have a role for you. Both in person and remote roles are available.

We need volunteers to help with:

- Administration
- Welcome Centres
- Social Media
- Community Events

Check out our current vacancies [here](#).

Email us on: Info@letchworth.foodbank.org.uk to find out more or complete the application form on our webpage. If you already volunteer but would like to do more, email Charlie on charlie@letchworth.foodbank.org.uk.

Carrier bags

We urgently need strong “bag-for-life” bags.

These bags are used for packing food donations for clients, and in January we used a whopping 400!

If you have any to spare you can drop them off at one of our Welcome Centres, our warehouse (Tues or Fri) or drop them in our

collection crate at your local supermarket or church.



Social media

As we work to reach a wider audience, we are ramping up our social media profile.

Please Follow, Like, Share and Engage with us on your preferred platforms.

You can find us on:



[Facebook](#)



[Instagram](#)



[LinkedIn](#)

We are no longer posting on X.

Getting crafty for March

March is the month for celebrating women. With International Women’s Day on 8th March and Mother’s Day on the 15th, we are taking the opportunity to recognise and celebrate the women who use the food bank.

If you can crochet (or knit) and have some yarn scraps we would love to help to create small flowers to provide with each parcel we give.

Pattern Inspiration:

<https://share.google/KsQTLceJOZQQGux0I>

Email [Charlie](#) for more info.

Our impact

Last year*, the community really came together to ensure those facing hunger got the support they needed. Every tin, packet of pasta and penny counts. Your generosity enabled us to provide 3,570 food parcels to those in need. We offer everyone our heartfelt thanks for the kindness and support. You can watch our *Thank You* video [here](#).

* Financial year

The quarter in numbers (October to December)

448

Vouchers Fulfilled

1,263

Parcels Distributed

761

Parcels Distributed to
Adults

502

Parcels Distributed to
Children

297

Households Supported

12

Tonnes of Food Donated

During this quarter 56 vouchers were fulfilled by the Baldock Welcome Centre, 142 by Hitchin Welcome Centre and 250 by Letchworth Welcome Centre. Christmas was exceptionally busy.

What's next?

2026 has started strong with volunteer recruitment and sharing more of what we do on and offline. Over the coming months we will be focusing on:

- Understanding what clients really want and need through feedback and focus groups.
- Applying for funding to continue our partnership with Citizens Advice North Hertfordshire which offers clients on site money advice.
- Finalising our plans for the years ahead.
- Increasing food donations e.g. we will be participating in Supermarket Donation Drives.
- Encouraging the community to get creative to help raise funds and food. Weston Rugby Club is doing a sponsored walk on 4th April raising funds for their upcoming tour and for the food bank.

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

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**Ending
hunger
together**