

Newsletter Issue 19 December 2018

NATS



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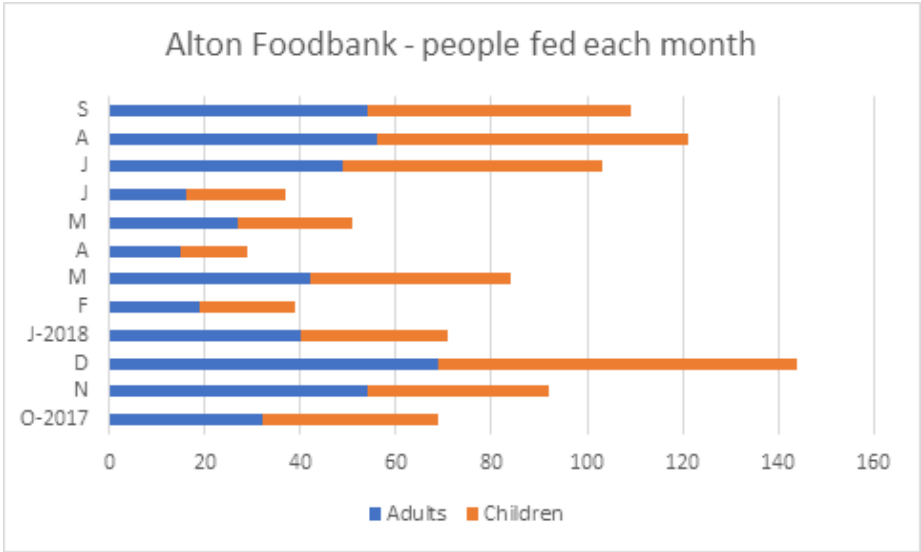
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WHAT IS HAPPENING LOCALLY?

In the past 6 months (between April and September 2018) foodbanks nationally have seen an increase in usage of 13% compared to the same period the previous year. In Alton we have seen a similar picture. Alton foodbank has seen a rise of 20% in the number of people it has provided food for. It is a worrying trend and although there is no single cause we will

continue to monitor what is happening and feedback to the Trussell Trust. Thankfully, our supporters and volunteers have continued to ensure that the foodbank is well supplied and that everyone who visits it receives a warm welcome.



The Trussell Trust Response to the October Budget

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“Today’s Budget suggests the Government has started to recognise our benefits system must be ready and able to support anyone who needs it. By restoring work allowances and increasing support to those moving onto Universal Credit the Government has listened to evidence from the frontline and from foodbanks. These are significant improvements that will make a real difference to many people supported by Universal Credit in the future.”

“We know it doesn’t have to be like this. In a country that created a benefits system to anchor people from poverty, it is imperative that the Government goes further. We look forward to hearing more detail about what support will be in place during the next stage of Universal Credit. We must see the Government act now to help end hunger and poverty in the UK for good.”

LOCAL ORGANISATIONS AND PEOPLE ARE REALLY GENEROUS

Thank you to all those individuals and organisations who have supported the foodbank and made sure that no one in Alton goes to bed hungry. The foodbank relies on a team of over 40 volunteers to manage all the food donations received and ensure that everyone who visits the foodbank receives a warm welcome, prayer (if they would like it) and of course food. Although the majority of food distributed is donated, the foodbank does have significant running costs and the foodbank is grateful to all who generously donate towards its work. We would like to thank all the churches, individuals and organizations such as Pelgar International, Marine Salt Ltd, Bourne Estate agents and Alton Beer Festival, who have all supported the foodbank in the past 6 months.

HARVEST FESTIVAL – A BIG THANK YOU TO THE TOWN & SURROUNDING VILLAGES

Alton schools and churches have once more shown fantastic support to the Alton Foodbank. During a two-week period, donations from Alton, Ropley, Binsted, Long Sutton, Holybourne, Medstead, Four Marks, Chawton, Long Sutton, Bentworth and Bentley filled our warehouse. In total over 1,600kg of food was received on top of our normal supermarket donations. It was great to be able to welcome some of the students whose school supported the foodbank and to answer their questions about the foodbank and its work.



News from the Warehouse



The Alton Foodbank currently has a small space in the Alton Maltings where volunteers weigh in all food donations and check the use by date. Given its size, it is a real challenge to cope with the times such as harvest and Christmas when the foodbank receives large donations. It is therefore, great news that work has started on building a larger space with better accessibility. This will enable the foodbank to better cope with fluctuations in supply and demand.

As you can see in the adjacent photo there is still plenty of work to be done but hopefully the warehouse will move to its new location in the Alton Maltings in early 2019.

HAVE A MERRY AND PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS

It's amazing to think that an unmarried, teenage girl gave birth to Jesus in the worst housing imaginable and yet angels sang.

"Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests"

No matter what your circumstances are, we pray you will know the peace of God this Christmas