

www.nourishcommunityfoodbank.org.uk

Reg Charity No: 1154716

**Principal Funder: Town and
Country Housing Group
Foundation.**



Notes From The Editor...

As 2013 draws to a close, it is time to reflect on the huge strides that Nourish has taken this year. As Carole Wanless wrote in last month's newsletter, a little over twelve months ago Nourish Community Foodbank was just taking its first steps in providing emergency support to residents of Tunbridge Wells. As of December 2013, Nourish has provided assistance to over 200 clients and has made huge progress in developing its infrastructure, organisation, governance and management. Throughout the year the media commented on how foodbanks were becoming a vital support to many people who, through no fault of their own, were struggling to feed themselves and their families. The requirement for foodbanks is, sadly, not going to go away and, as we move forward into 2014, Nourish will continue to develop and grow with the objective of providing emergency support with food wherever it is required within our current area of operations and beyond. Our aim is clear: "No one need be hungry in Tunbridge Wells."

Nourish could not operate without the tireless support of its many volunteers, the hard work of our Operations Manager, Dawn, and the generous support of The Town and Country Housing Group Foundation who are our principal initiator, funder and partner and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council. We hope you all have a joyous and peaceful Christmas and we look forward to working with you next year.

Nourish's New Textgiving Service...

Nourish has, in the last two weeks, launched our new Text Giving number. Quite simply, textgiving is a quick and easy way to donate to Nourish Community Foodbank via your mobile phone.

To donate: Text **FOOD35 £2 / £5 / £10** to **70070** (e.g.: FOOD35 £5).

Each £5 we raise pays for 3 days of fresh fruit or vegetables or a fresh meat voucher. If you are planning any fundraising within your organisation or group, please feel free to use this facility.

The Bridge Trust provides good quality accommodation, for up to two years, for single homeless adults aged 18 to 65 in West Kent and currently has five residential properties in Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells. These provide a home for up to twenty three people at any one time and an average of forty to fifty people during the course of each year. Being single adults, they fall outside of the 'priority need' category and are therefore denied



access to any statutory housing, making them particularly vulnerable and needy.

However, they also have other needs apart from housing e.g. emotional, financial, health, employment etc. and our Supported Housing Officers (SHOs) help them work through whatever issues they may have in their lives, linking them with outside support agencies, careers advisors and coaches. (There are many contributory factors to being homeless, e.g. welfare reforms, the economy, unemployment, mortgage arrears, repossession of homes and increased stress leading to relationship breakups). Support Plans are drawn up by our SHOs in agreement with the residents, setting shorter-term goals to reach longer-term aspirations and independent living – the latter through our Supported Move-On scheme. In addition, a well-equipped Resource Centre (based within our Tonbridge Offices) provides our residents with use of computers (with internet access), assessments of literacy and numeracy and guidance on CVs, letter-writing and job searches.

To support our residents further, and homeless people in general, we have recently made changes to improve the way we can get donated food to them. In August we notified schools and churches, who had previously donated Harvest goods to us, that we had entered into a partnership with Nourish, allowing us to leverage their larger and year-long supplies. This helps our own clients much more, as previously we have only been able to use our own donated supplies and these inevitably run out during the year. By pooling our resources with those of Nourish, if one of our residents falls into difficulty they can now receive food at any time of the year and it also enables them to access a greater amount and variety of food than we alone could provide. We have therefore asked that any non-perishable food be taken direct to Nourish, instead of being brought to The Bridge Trust. Any items that do come directly to us will therefore be passed onto Nourish. We are delighted to have entered into this partnership and it will be good to see all parties benefitting from it!

To help fund our work, keen shoppers amongst you will be interested to know that we have charity shops in Southborough (small furniture) and Tunbridge Wells (general items) plus an enormous furniture warehouse in Cannon Lane, Tonbridge (opposite B & Q) with 10,000 square feet packed with quality used furniture and large electrical appliances. Come and have a browse, or if you have a saleable item you could donate (free collections) do please contact our warehouse on 01732 365988



Welcome to Nourish's Newest Trustee..

Paul Haines has been appointed a trustee of Nourish from late November 2013. Paul is an experienced finance professional with over ten years' experience working in The City. Paul has lived in Tunbridge Wells for twelve years and is a governor of a local academy.

Welcome, Paul!

Lamb's Larder, Bells Yew Green..

Our Operations Manager, Dawn Stanford, was delighted when she was contacted by Megan Lamb, whose family own 'Lamb's Larder' in Bells Yew Green.

Megan had read about the work of Nourish in the local paper and wrote to Dawn not only offering to arrange a collection from their customers but also committing to donating 96 rolls of toilet paper each week.



Although not a glamorous item, toilet rolls are something we don't often have as they can be considered a luxury item. On top of that, Megan has volunteered the services of their family to help fetch and pack bags on Saturdays.

Thank you very much to Lamb's Larder and if you live in the Bells Yew Green locality, please consider shopping and donating at Megan's shop.



CHARITY
COMMISSION

Great News from The Charity Commission..

We were all very pleased to hear that the Charity Commission had confirmed that our charity registration had taken place at the end of November. Nourish was issued the charity registration number of 1154716, following which Olga Johnson, Co-Chair commented:

"We are delighted to be awarded charity status. This ensures that potential and future donors will have confidence in our management of their donations. They will also know that as we are regulated by the Charity Commission we will observe their recommended best practice for good governance, effective operational and risk management and sustainable financial planning."



A New Supporting Partner...

Nourish was very pleased to receive a huge donation of food from Tunbridge Wells day and weekly boarding preparatory school Holmewood House.

Dawn Stanford, Operations Manager, commented:

"Holmewood House donated a whopping 542.50 kgs of food. They are now a supporting partner of Nourish and are taking on regular food drives, promotions and are supplying volunteers. The start of a beautiful friendship!"

And indeed it is. Thank you, Holmewood House and welcome.



Our Week at Asda...

You may recall the weekend in the summer when Nourish had a stand at Asda in Tunbridge Wells to collect donation.

Asda very kindly offered us a further stand for the week commencing the 16th of December. The week has again been a great success and a full update with pictures will be included in the January newsletter.

If you would like to contact Nourish to offer your support in any way or to discuss a potential referral, here are some contact details you may find useful:

Main E-Mail: office@nourishcommunityfoodbank.org.uk

Main Enquiry Number: 01892 548892

Co-Chair: Olga Johnson
Carole Wanless

E-Mail: olga@nourishcommunityfoodbank.org.uk
E-Mail: carole.wanless@usa.net

Operations Manager: Dawn Stanford

E-Mail: dawn@nourishcommunityfoodbank.org.uk
Home: 01892 671389
Mob: 07785 987532

Volunteer Coordinator: Vix Daniel

E-Mail: vix@nourishcommunityfoodbank.org.uk

Newsletter & Website: Andy Lloyd

E-Mail: andy@nourishcommunityfoodbank.org.uk