

## Food Bank and Senior Events Report – 2023 /4

This year has been very stable for the Marsworth Food Bank. We deliver to nine people every week and I am hugely grateful to Helena Winter-Brown, Denise Cornwall and Jenny Sheils, who look after things the odd week I am away.

Buckinghamshire Council Helping Hand team \* continue to support the Food Bank with grants that have provided funding for 2023 to the end of March 2024, the amount received in 2023 was £9,237. I am indebted to Jenny Sheils and Caroline Smith, who liaise with the Helping Hand team, make applications and report back to Helping Hand.. The Food Bank also receives regular donations from a few residents and last year received £275 kindly donated by the Steam Rally committee. All sorts of very useful foods are regularly left in the box at All Saints and I receive boxes of both dog and cat food every week.

Peter Dean and Noble Foods generously give us sufficient boxes of eggs for everyone to have at least six a week. P.E. Mead & Son Farm Shop are also wonderfully kind in providing a large box of fruit and another of vegetables on a weekly basis.

Together this all means that those in receipt of weekly deliveries have a significant amount of their total weekly needs provided. This makes a major difference to what they have to eat and their diets are healthier than they would be otherwise.

It has become more important over the years of providing this service to Marsworth in that it has become far more than a weekly food delivery. Lisa has frequently been called upon to help them when they have injured themselves or are not well, and her nursing expertise and natural caring manner is loved by them all. We have also been able to offer help in providing a new cooker for one when theirs had stopped working. In this I was yet again grateful to Caroline Smith, for liaising with Buckinghamshire Council's Helping Hand team. Additional help is given, when asked for, in dealing with forms, bills and other household administrative problems, which is most gratefully received.

In May we were able to host a special afternoon tea on the recreation ground as part of the village celebration for King Charles' coronation. For this we were indebted to the kindness of Mike and Rebecca Foxcroft, who generously donated the teas individually boxed so that everyone's individual tastes were catered for. Prosecco was provided to make a toast to our new king.

Yet again Helena, Lisa and I were able to put on a Christmas lunch for 32 of our seniors with generous funding from a local couple. To organise this event we had amazing help from a number of people in the village, who prepared the vegetables and two who kindly cooked the roast potatoes in their ovens. Tesco and M&S in Tring and Waitrose in Aylesbury were all very kind in donating a wide range of food and the Marsworth Charity also gave a super donation. Entertainment was provided by the fantastic Anna Swanell and her ladies choir. Father Christmas (Paul Barber) did a fantastic job having a present for everyone. There was also a free raffle with prizes for all and super table decorations could be taken home by those who asked for them. The food was superb, with many having second helpings. This lunch has become an important part of Christmas to many, particularly those who would be spending the day itself on their own.

All financial donations and payments are administered by All Saints Church who provide financial governance for the Food Bank and Senior events, where applicable this means that donations can be gift aided adding 25% to the donation.

Richard Cooper



\* Department of Work and Pensions who has provided the Household Support Grant (1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024: Household Support Fund Grant Determination 2023 No 31/6496 - GOV.UK