



# News-Feed

*"Providing emergency food for people in crisis"*  
 Volunteer issue

## ***A message from Phillip Davies, Chair of Wirral Foodbank***

The Christmas period saw a substantial increase in the number of people receiving emergency food parcels. Once again, Wirral Foodbank played a crucial role in helping those in need. Thanks to all who supported the Christmas Tesco collection. Sadly, the evidence indicates that as the cost-of-living crisis worsens, the demand for our services will continue well into 2023. Let us hope and pray that the New Year brings a new focus on tackling the underlying causes of poverty so that people no longer need to rely on foodbanks and other charities to provide basic necessities. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our volunteers, staff, and donors for their tireless efforts on behalf of Wirral Foodbank and to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

## ***Review of 2022 (September 2022 - December 2022)***

For the period September to December 2022, Wirral Foodbank supported **5,359 people**, an increase of **63%**, compared to the same period last year. In December 2022, **1,797** people received emergency food support, a **97%** increase, compared to December 2021. Over **50%** of people seeking support are telling us that their income is not sufficient to meet their basic needs

## ***Christmas Tesco Food Collection***

Thank you to all who supported the Christmas Tesco collection; donations were up by 42%. This is an incredible amount of food and highlights the generosity of the people of Wirral. Thank you to all who donated, to volunteers and Tesco staff for their support. With the increase in demand, and with many in our communities unable to afford the essentials, these donations will ensure that we can support individuals with emergency food now and in the months ahead.

*Pictured: Wirral Mayor, Councillor Jeff Green, and Mrs Carol Green, with Store Manager, Gareth LLOYD and Community Champion Debbie Layfield and volunteers at Tesco Bidston.*



## ***We are "more than food"***

Emergency food is not the answer to food poverty. We seek to address the underlying issues, by working with professional organisations. On behalf of Wirral Foodbank, Citizens Advice Wirral delivers Foodbank Plus, a dedicated advice service, tackling the root causes of food poverty. Since 2020, Foodbank Plus has supported **6,000 people**, delivering over **£273,000** in financial benefits (benefit entitlements, debt write-off, grants, and white goods.). In addition, we have set-up two pilot projects (1) [Energy Projects Plus](#), who provide practical support to individuals in fuel crisis and (2) [Wirral Mind](#), who provide mental health support.

Foodbank Plus and other projects are funded through the generosity of our donors; they are at the centre of our strategy to remove the need for foodbanks, making a real difference and in many cases the support offered can be life changing.

We have included below extracts from case studies of clients supported by Foodbank Plus.

Wirral Foodbank is "more than food" offering emergency food support for the immediate crisis and addressing the underlying reasons, providing more sustainable support for the future.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Client 1</b></p> <p><i>Rent arrears of £1,000. Successful application to the Household Support Fund, with rent arrears cleared in full. A benefit review was also carried out and it identified that the client was eligible for an additional £500 per month.</i></p> <p><i>Client was extremely relieved and appreciative of the support of Foodbank Plus.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Case Study 2</b></p> <p><i>Water arrears of £750. Application to Household Support fund was successful, with the debt written off in full.</i></p> <p><i>Client was grateful for the support of Foodbank Plus "Having the pressure lifted has helped me focus on my family and wellbeing."</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Case Study 3</b></p> <p><i>Client was struggling financially and had a number of health issues. They were in debt to the DWP for overpayment of Tax Credit benefit.</i></p> <p><i>It was identified that the client was entitled to additional benefits that they had not claimed. After deducting the monies owed to the DWP, the client received £1,100.</i></p>
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## Donations (September 2022 - December 2022)

Despite the current economic crisis, food donations continued to come in during 2022. To meet increase demand, food purchases were up by 38% on the same period last year. Thank you to all who donated so generously with food and financial donations.

Thank you for your continued support in 2023. Food donations can be made at the following [locations](#). Please see below a copy of our latest shopping list.

## News

You are invited to:  
**Wirral Foodbank**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
 Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2023  
 7pm  
 Venue:  
 St Albans Parish Centre, St Albans Road, Wallasey, CH44 5UD  
 Guest speaker  
 Right Reverend Julie Conalty  
 Bishop of Birkenhead

### Cost of Living Support

The following [help](#) is available to support with the cost of living crisis.

### News from Trussell Trust

Read the [latest news](#) from Trussell Trust.

### SHOPPING LIST

Download our latest shopping [list](#).

Wirral Foodbank, Wirral Business Centre, Unit 14 Dock Road, Birkenhead, CH41 1JW [www.wirral.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.wirral.foodbank.org.uk) Email: [enquiries@wirralfoodbank.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@wirralfoodbank.org.uk) Tel: 0151 638 7090  
 Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered in England charity number 116 7967

Wirral Foodbank is committed to protecting your privacy and will process your personal data in accordance with current Data Protection legislation. Wirral Foodbank collects information to keep in touch with you and supply you with information relating to our work. A full data privacy statement is available from the foodbank on request. If you do not wish to receive further information from Wirral Foodbank, please email [manager@wirralfoodbank.org.uk](mailto:manager@wirralfoodbank.org.uk) with the word "unsubscribe" in the subject line, and your full name in the body of the email.