

Summertime and the living is easy

For some, that is. The summer months are a time when the fortunate among our volunteers are able to take a break and recharge their batteries. For our clients, that is usually not the case and their needs continue. Indeed for some it is even more stressful, as children who are eligible for free school meals during term time, still have to be fed in the holidays - to say nothing of being kept occupied.

At Lakeside we are fortunate in that some young people taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme choose us as the conduit for the community service part of their qualification. These are well motivated individuals who have shown themselves to be both intelligent and willing and provide great assistance to the depleted band of regular volunteers in maintaining and supporting our essential services during this time.

'Thank you' to all of them.

Painting the town for Southport Foodbank

Dan Mayor is 14 and goes to Marshside Road Methodist Church, who are raising money this year for the foodbank. Dan decided he wanted to do the Galloways Society for the Blind 5K Colour Blast on 10th July to raise money for us. He and his Mum, Natasha, trained hard in the weeks before the run and on the day they both finished the race. Dan was exhausted in addition to being covered in many colours of paint! But he scrubbed up well and on 23rd August Dan presented a cheque for £447 to the foodbank. Well done and thank you, Dan!

Dan, pictured here with Foodbank Manager, John and Warehouse Manager, Carol, presenting his cheque



The statistics

Demand has continued to run at levels below last year's but the individual stories of hardship continue to be just as harrowing, as many of us who regularly see clients will testify. The DWP seem finally to be making their clients aware that an advance of benefits may be available during the otherwise six week wait from registration to first payment and that does seem to be providing a little relief.

A very successful three day collection at Tesco's, Southport as part of the national Trussell Trust event has eased many of our previous shortages and given us good stocks going forward. We continue to be short of some items though and these are listed on the 'shopping list' below. It is always surprising how quickly famine can change to surplus - and vice versa - and we have continually to be monitoring these things.

The Newsletter

Why not join those volunteers who get this newsletter emailed to them as soon as it is produced? Please send your email address to Alan - actomox@gmail.com and he will be happy to add you to the mailing list.

If you know of any fellow volunteers who do not see the newsletter, please ask them to sign up as above, or speak to the leader at their local centre.

Thought for the day

"I saw the world I had walked since my birth and I understood how fragile it was, that the reality was a thin layer of icing on a great dark birthday cake writhing with grubs and nightmares and hunger."

Neil Gaiman, The Ocean at the End of the Lane

SHOPPING LIST

Deserts (Angel delight, jellies, sponge puddings etc)

Custard

Biscuits

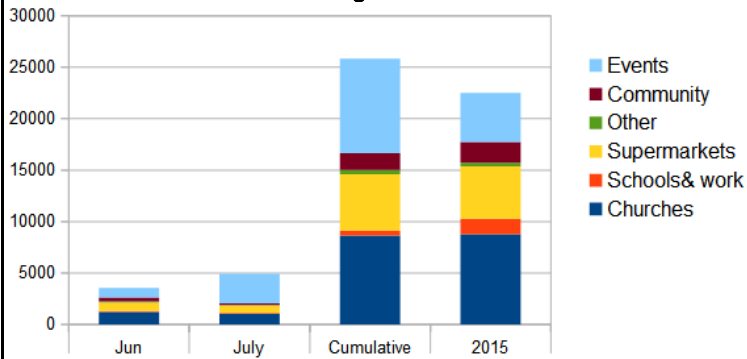
Treats

Currently we have more than adequate stocks of soup, milk, fruit juice, fruit, sugar, hot meats, pasta, and savoury snacks such as couscous, savoury rice and noodles.

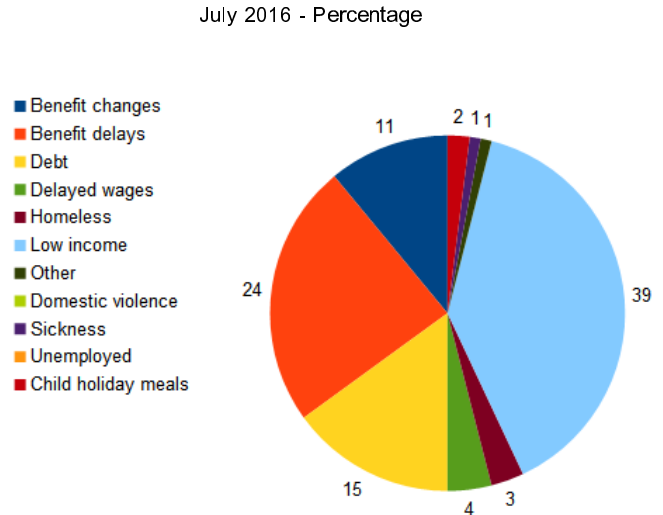
Team Training and First Aid Course

A first aid course for volunteers is being held on 16th September from 9am -11:30am in Studio Two at Lakeside. This is a great opportunity to learn some basic skills which could come in useful at any time in our lives. There are currently just six places left, so if you would like to attend please get your name down without delay. Our regular team training sessions due in September and October have unfortunately had to be cancelled due to sickness. Further information will be given when available.

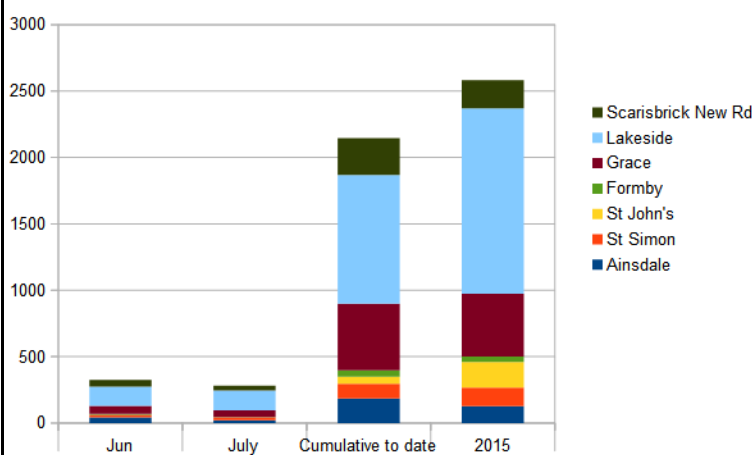
Donated food by source kilograms



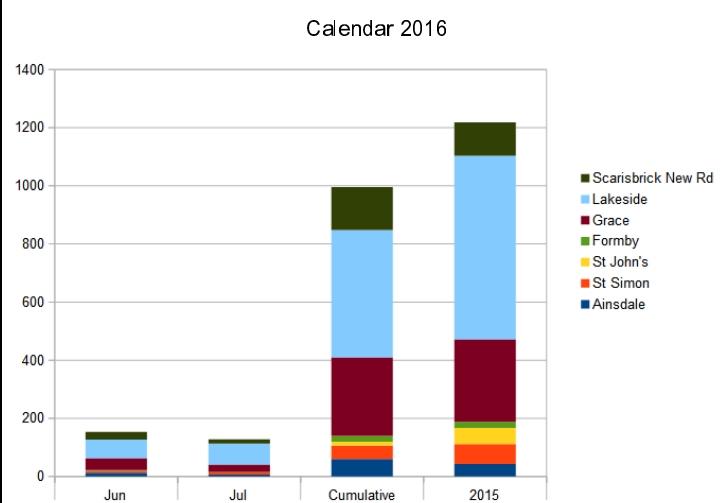
Reasons for voucher issue July 2016 - Percentage



People fed Calendar 2016



Number of vouchers fulfilled Calendar 2016



A time to relax ... the barbecue

Whilst not having quite the same glorious weather enjoyed on the two previous annual events, the evening of July 28th remained dry and about 40 volunteers from our distribution centres and Lakeside enjoyed the food, entertainment and company, sitting by the Marine Lake at Southport. We are indeed fortunate to have such a prime spot in Southport available to us.

