

The Micawber principle

The oft quoted Charles Dickens' words uttered by Mr Micawber -

"Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure nineteen pounds, nineteen shillings and six pence, result happiness. Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure twenty pounds and six pence, result misery."

- apply equally to our Foodbank at present.

In the first two months of the year, need has increased by 50% above the level for the same period last year, while donated food is down by 1%. Stocks in the warehouse are at rock bottom and we have only been able to meet the need for some basic foodstuffs by purchasing them and, more painfully, rationing the amount of food supplied to each client. This causes us misery!

All this makes the success of our one day special collection at Tesco, Southport on Saturday July 15th more important than ever and your help on that day is vital. Important, too, is the need to spread the word about the needs we have and the support we give to local families experiencing crises, in order to increase and sustain donation levels in the future.

The help you already give is very much appreciated - please help now in any way you can.

Our Distribution Centres – St Simon's

Whichever of our distribution centres you visit you can be sure of a warm, friendly welcome, as I experienced myself when turning up in 'civvies' at St Simon and St Jude with All Souls on Norwood Road. The centre is often referred to as SCC or Sefton Community Centre after the building they operate from, which is leased by the church to Sefton CVS.



from left to right: Chris, Wendy, Lyn, June, Mike and Peter

Guided by Peter Middleton, the team supporting the operation is 16 strong with some of its members having been there since the early days in May 2013 and others being more recent recruits. The volunteers see their service there as Christianity in action, demonstrating God's love to all.

Open from 11 to 2 each Wednesday, the 16 volunteers make full use of modern technology, using Doodle to volunteer on the staff rotas and ensuring there is adequate support week by week.

Located near the residential area of High Park, they are conveniently located for clients in that part of town and, like most of our outlets, have experienced a substantial increase in demand over the past months.

Moving the food around

Up until now we have had to rely on the goodwill of our staff and volunteers to use their own cars to transport food from the collection points to warehouse and from there to our distribution centres, supplemented by the occasional borrowing of Lakeside church mini bus to move heavy volumes.

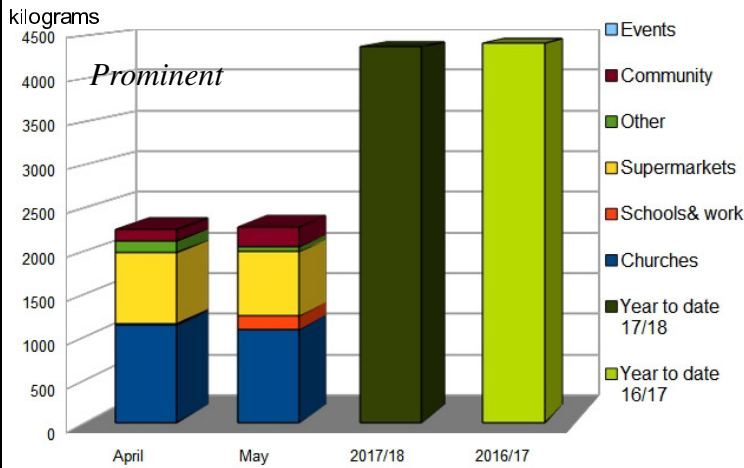


Now, thanks to the generosity of our supporters – and particularly **One Stop – Carriers for Causes**, who celebrate their first year anniversary this month, we have acquired some dedicated transport and have become White Van Man. Pictured here is our 'new', second hand vehicle which we hope soon will be decorated with the Southport Foodbank logo and become a familiar sight around the district raising our profile as we go about the day to day concomitant logistical operations necessary for our success.

Wouldn't it be great if a local business sponsored the running costs?

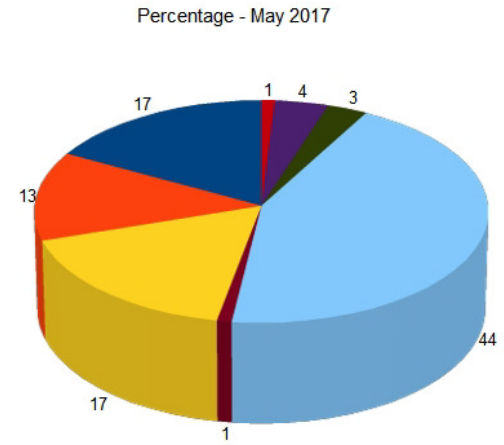
A sincere thank you to our supporters, without whom this would never have been possible.

Sources of donated food



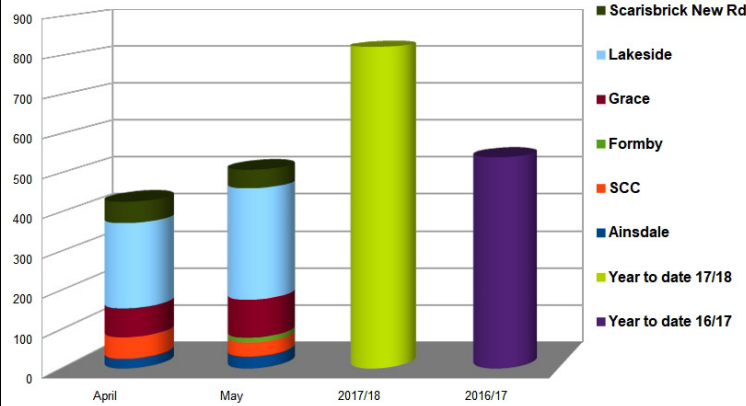
Reasons for voucher issue

- Benefit changes
- Benefit delays
- Debt
- Delayed wages
- Homeless
- Low income
- Other
- Domestic violence
- Sickness
- Unemployed
- Refused SBTA



People fed - by Distribution Centre

2017/18



Average number of people per voucher 2.25 ↑

Highlights & lowlights

- Van for our use purchased and delivered - thanks to our supporters
- Food stocks at record low
- Client demand running 50% higher than same period last year
- Welfare rights advice staff have been increasingly busy
- Large donation of food, weighing in at almost a third of a tonne and visit from pupils of Linaker Road School to learn what happens to it.
- Food stocks obtained from other foodbanks to keep us going.
- Milk, vegetables, fruit juice and tinned fruit purchased
- Our participation in the Fareshare scheme starts this month.

Singing for our clients' supper



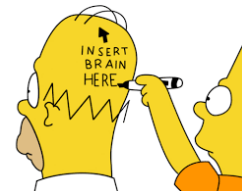
Foodbanks have overheads and, no matter how careful we are, there is a minimum level of expenditure we just cannot escape.

Therefore financial support is as welcome and necessary as the donations of food we get and so on May 16 the talented local Roundelay Choir entertained a packed hall at Marshside Methodist Church and in doing so raised £500 for us.

Thanks to them and all associated with this great evening.

Ridiculous quote of the day

"the typical user of a food bank is not someone who's languishing in poverty, it's someone who has a cash-flow problem episodically."



politician during recent election campaign

The Newsletter

Why not join those who get this newsletter emailed to them as soon as it is produced?

Send your email address to Alan - actomox@gmail.com and he will be happy to add you to the mailing list. He also welcomes any suggestions which will improve the Newsletter.

