



A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

TURN TO PAGE 6 FOR ESSENTIAL INFORMATION AND ADVICE ON STAYING SAFE AND WELL, AND CARING FOR OTHERS, AS EAST FINCHLEY PULLS TOGETHER IN THE VIRUS LOCKDOWN

Generous donors keep food bank in vital supplies

By Janet Maitland

The people of East Finchley have responded magnificently to an appeal for help from Finchley Foodbank. Neighbours have organised collections and worked together to deliver hundreds of donations directly to the charity that assists families and individuals in desperate need.

“Our supporters have been incredibly generous, whilst having to look after their own families during this crisis,” said Anna Maughan, a member of the food bank’s management committee. She pointed out that the number of people using their services had risen steeply. “In the last four weeks we have had between 10 and 20 new clients every week. We are now supporting around 115 people in total, of which 42 are children. We just

don’t know how long we will need to support the extra clients, so it’s important that donations continue, even when the lockdown finishes.” The food bank has found a very effective way of getting the quantity of food they need is through appeals on street-based WhatsApp groups. Dozens of roads around N2 have organised collections where residents leave items at the home of whoever has volunteered to drop them off.



Loads of help: Steve Carr and Helena Pugh delivering donations to the food bank. Photo Mike Coles

Donations welcome

All non-perishable food items are welcomed, particularly tinned meat products like pies, chilli con carne and corned beef, soups and cooking sauces and UHT milk. Toiletries and bathroom items are also gratefully received.

Donations are received every Friday between 12pm and 3pm at the hall behind St Mary’s Church at 279 High Road, N2. Delivering food there counts as helping vulnerable people and social distancing can be maintained with no difficulty. A driveway to the left of the church leads to a hall where the food bank is based. Here you can unload the car and leave the food with the volunteer team to sort.

The food bank then opens the following day between 12.30pm and 2pm, staffed by up to 30 volunteers, who distribute packages to people in need.

High demand

Finchley Foodbank’s success has come as other similar operations across the UK are closing because the pandemic has led to a decline in volunteers and a shortage of donations. At the same time, there is a rise in demand. In the first six weeks of the virus outbreak 1.5million people had to make a claim for Universal Credit, which requires a five-week wait for the first payment.

Contact the team by ringing 07849 558307 or emailing finchleyfoodbank@gmail.com.

If you search ‘Finchley Foodbank’ on Facebook, you will find a link to make an online donation.

A smart way to queue for this savvy shopper

It’s amazing how quickly we all adapt. This gentleman came prepared for the queue outside Sainsbury’s Local in the High Road by bringing a chair and a newspaper to pass the time in the early spring sunshine. Smart thinking.

Thanks to Archer reader David Noble for the photo.



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