



# Meet some of the faces running the food bank

By Louis Victor, Finchley Foodbank

Let me introduce you to a small cross section of the regular volunteers at Finchley Foodbank, who are ready and waiting to welcome you to join them. We hope you enjoy reading their profiles and that it might provide inspiration for you to become part of the food bank family.

Based in St Mary's Church in the High Road, N2, most of our volunteers live within walking distance or a short bus ride away. If you can find the time to help out for a minimum of two shifts per month, manager Anna Maughan would love to hear from you at [finchleyfoodbank@gmail.com](mailto:finchleyfoodbank@gmail.com).



**Libby** began volunteering in the pandemic and is now a long standing team member. "It gives me so much; a place to feel like I am doing something to help, a community of kind people, and an outlet for all the anxiety that's happening in the world."



**Lucy** has worked in various universities for 35 years. "I joined five years ago and I love it. Do volunteer, it's very enriching and gives you perspective."



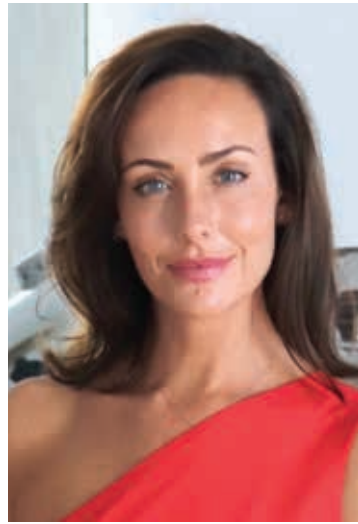
**Holly** is a fanatical crossworder, content writer and aspiring Francophone. "I have found immense joy volunteering at the food bank. I've had the pleasure of meeting some remarkable people, volunteers and clients alike."



**Afua** is a martial art expert, having trained in Krav Maga for eight years. "This vital work is eye opening and deeply enriching. I've so enjoyed meeting people and helping this amazing community."



**Susan and Eddie** are also fairly new recruits, and find, as retired people, it gives structure to their week. "We rock up at the church hall and help distribute fresh veg from allotments, bread from the local bakeries and then the staple foods like pasta. Halal foods too. So glad we joined up."



**Tabitha** started volunteering in 2021, and when she's not volunteering can be found travelling, usually on a thrill-seeking adventure. "This organisation is such a beautiful thing. The time flies during the sessions."



**Maria** is a keen tennis player and avid reader. "Like most volunteers, I assist in the collection and sorting of donations, but also provide administrative support which I find extremely rewarding."



**Steve**, who organises flamenco shows, got involved four years ago and enjoys that there is fun to be had. "Like Esther Rantzen, we are easily amused by deliveries of misshapen veg. And thanks to Google I can translate vital information into the many languages spoken here, so I now know the Ukrainian for deodorant."



**Louis** is a retired school librarian, who has just clocked up his first year at Finchley Foodbank. "I love meeting the clients and helping out. When I'm not here you'll find me reading, at the theatre, or walking."

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## From The Archer archives...

By Jane Marsh

**10 years ago: December 2013**

Teething problems affected the implementation of Barnet Council's new refuse and recycling scheme, the first few weeks of which saw uncollected waste on the streets and many complaints from residents. Many households did not receive their new bins in time for the changeover and there was confusion over the new timetable for collection days, all of which took some time to resolve and bed in.

**15 years ago: December 2008**

Readers celebrated the 70<sup>th</sup> birthday of East Finchley Library, which was opened in 1938 by Alderman Pike, Mayor of Finchley. It was the third library to open in the new Borough of Finchley and was intended for "the professional worker, the artisan, the student and the general reader (including children)". Despite many tribulations in the years since, East Finchley Library still exists to serve its local community.

**23 years ago: December 2000**

For the second time in a year, a group of Martin School pupils were chosen to perform at what was then the Millennium Dome. They were to be included in the London Borough of Barnet's 'Our Town Story', part of a nationwide programme sponsored by McDonald's. The programme enabled people to tell the past, present and future story of their communities and the children's piece 'Changing Places' was the only one from a Barnet junior school selected to go on to the Dome.



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