



The Hub@BA15 Newsletter

Issue 10: Spring 2021

Please feel free to pass the Hub newsletter on.

What a Year

Since opening 6 years ago the Hub has become integrated into the Bradford on Avon Community. The support and generosity of the local residents has been overwhelming during this truly difficult year. Although we closed for all services except the foodbank on 23rd March 2020, we continued to receive donations of food from individuals, organisations, churches and businesses. The financial gifts have been phenomenal - again from both individuals and some organisations. In addition the Hub has received several grants that have enabled us to restock the shelves to supply the increased demand. This has also been helped by the weekly Fareshare deliveries during the first lockdown and a substantial donation from Malmesbury foodbank.

Woolley Grange Farm and crop drop have donated their organic surplus to enable the Hub to offer fresh items alongside the non-perishable food. Those picking up a food parcel.



In an attempt to further help those in need we have been able to partner with The Swan Hotel as they have offered a meal to those struggling on low income or as a result of the challenges of the pandemic

However the Hub is for everyone, so we are looking to establish other activities- let us know if you are interested.

E- Referrals to the Foodbank

During the pandemic Trussell Trust re-launched the foodbank e-vouchers which allows the agencies to log on to the database and create a foodbank voucher online. This voucher can be printed off and given to the client or more usually the code created can be texted or sent to client. However the Hub will pick up the e-referral and can deliver direct to the address on the voucher and not a piece of paper in sight, perfect in a covid world! Several of the schools have signed up for this. If you need more information regarding this just contact the Hub.

Once again we plan to offer a holiday food parcel to families in receipt of free school meals. These will include the normal non-perishable foodbank items plus Easter chocolate if available. A box and bag will be supplied to each family. Schools and agencies are invited to identify the need to the Hub. We need to ensure we have at least 100 boxes (boxes that contained 5 reams of printing paper are perfect), so if you have any, please save them and a volunteer will pick them up.



New Members

We welcome Phillip Secretan to the Trustees – he has been actively involved with the Hub for 5 years. We are also pleased to have Belinda Dean on the management team she has also been volunteering for over 5 years.

Rough Sleepers

Although Bradford on Avon sees relatively few homeless but there have been a number of rough sleepers over the past year; some have been helped and supported by local residents, businesses, and the Wiltshire Council rough sleeper's team. We are really pleased that we see Mollie, Martyn and Monica at the Hub and can contact them when someone calls by asking for accommodation.

The financial donations enabled the Hub to purchase 8 rough sleepers packs which included a tent, camping cooker and gas, mug, plate, cutlery, saucepan, water container and sleeping bag. These have proved useful to a number in desperate situations as a temporary solution. We are waiting for these to be back in the shops so that we can replenish our stocks.



Hope Debt Advice Service

Hope Debt Advice continues to support their clients via email and the phone. Jim Clarke & his team of 10 trained advisors are available for appointments to call clients with debt issues. The free phone number to make a debt advice appointment is 0800 840 2298 or contact the Hub. The direct email address is hopedebtadvice@uwclub.net.

Clients can also make appointments for budgeting help where they struggle to manage their finances.

Drop-in welfare support and other basic internet and form filling enquiries including PIP will resume Monday through to Friday mornings as soon as the Hub can be fully open.

Additional information about The Hub can be found on the website www.boahub.co.uk or follow us on facebook.

Finances

This year there have been no fundraising activities such as coffee mornings, sales, raffles or street fayres. Yet we have received grants and been donated finances that ensure we can continue to purchase food and keep the door open – well on the chain! Some of the money has come from donations in the collecting boxes, handed in at the Hub or sent by cheque; other monies have been put directly into the bank. Thank you so much to everyone who has donated money and signed gift aid forms. As many of us now use the Internet to purchase items partly forced on us by the pandemic; you may be interested to know there are two ways to support the work in this community whilst shopping online. You can register on-line for Give As You Live www.giveasyoulive.com which gives you access to buy from over 4000 retailers and make a donation to The Hub at the same time. And you can register with www.smile.amazon.co.uk using your existing amazon account to designate The Hub@BA15 as your chosen charity, enabling a donation to be made with every eligible purchase at no extra cost to yourself.



As part of Sainsbury's Millionaire Christmas, our local store promised to match customers' donations to the Hub, and in January Lynsey and Simon (the store manager) handed over a £400 gift card to David and John, two of the Hub trustees. Thank you to Sainsbury's and all their customers.

There is a meeting room that can be hired and the Trustees would be happy to make the space available to groups at a very reasonable rate, Covid 19 dependent of course.