



NEWS BITES



July 2023

A Message to our Supporters From our Chairman

Just a quick update to say that demand and numbers continue to show no sign of abating, the need in the local community continues to be high, so please continue your much needed support. Despite all the challenges we are still making a real meaningful difference. I always reflect on this, that we deal with the reality of life and hold that space with compassion and action. Thank you for all you do to support us in this.

Ian

An Important Anniversary

Our tenth anniversary is approaching later this year and we and we are busy considering how to mark it.

This anniversary is a combination of celebration and anger—celebration of our remarkable achievements, amazing support from our community and our wonderful volunteers; but anger that we are still needed.

When we started operations we did not imagine that we would still be needed ten years later. We were sure government policies would take care of those in need. Sadly this has not happened. We will celebrate what we have done and continue to advocate for what should be done.

OUR MISSION

**That nobody in the Kirkcaldy area goes hungry
and that everybody shares what they have.**

YOU make that possible

THANK YOU

The Numbers

As food prices continue to rise with no signs of relief on the horizon, the demand for our services have increased dramatically. In March, we saw the largest number of visits ever recorded.

This year, by the end of May, we have distributed:

7,374 food parcels, providing

156,060 meals.

In an average week this year, we provided food to

884 people, of whom

298 were children.

Those are distressingly large numbers.

When the Foodbank was founded we did not anticipate that, ten years later, our services would not only still be needed, but the need would be greater. We are grateful for your support that has enabled us to meet these challenges and those to come.

Help Is At Hand event

A recent event connecting third sector organisations and Fife Council departments showed that help with the cost of living is available for all.

The Council's one-stop registration service can provide help with everything from Child Benefit and Pension Credit to Universal Credit, which automatically can lead to rent reduction and Council Tax assistance.

However, these benefits must be applied for and tenants made aware of this.

Hosted by Greener Kirkcaldy, the guest speaker was from Cosy Kingdom, who told guests that although the charity could no longer offer vouchers to customers during the summer months, it could still offer them a whole lot of help with fuel poverty and cooking aids.

People don't have to be Council tenants to make use of the help on offer, with the new Fife Voices service offering housing advocacy support to tenants of many housing associations, such as Ore Valley and Kingdom, to name a couple.

Parents can apply for Best Start grants and the Scottish Child Payment if they are on Universal Credit. Café Inc will be up and running during the summer, awaiting the release of school venues.

Additional help can also be found from Citizens Advice and Rights (CARF) which will be resuming a service at our Viewforth distribution centre on Mondays and Thursdays.

In the near future CARF will be making a presentation to all of our frontline volunteers which will enable them to provide ongoing assistance.

