



April 2023

Message from the Chair



As we move further into the year, I just want to say how much I have enjoyed the recent volunteer evening and seeing everyone sitting together after the AGM, taking time to mingle and share the hospitality together. It really brings home the sense of community that you have all build into the fabric of the Foodbank.

Our latest data report shows that demand on our charity has not diminished and that we are still very much needed. We will need to stay busy, keeping an eye on the horizon for that much needed societal change.

Thanks,

Jan

What We Did in 2022

- ◆ Every week we provided over 500 adults and 250 children with food. This worked out to enough food for 333,000 meals.
- ◆ Visits to the Foodbank locations increased by 17% over 2021.
- ◆ We spent an average of £17,900 on food every month. This represented 93% of our total expenditure.
- ◆ We were able to provide this service thanks to you—our 140 incredible volunteers.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the Kirkcaldy Foodbank that nobody in the Kirkcaldy area goes hungry and that everybody shares what they have.

We Welcomed Val McDermid to our AGM

This year's AGM saw a guest appearance from Kirkcaldy-born successful crime writer Val McDermid—a long-time supporter of the Foodbank.



She told the audience that she couldn't believe that, 100 years on from her Granny being forced to use a local soup kitchen to support her family in a time of need, and the stigma which remained with her from experience, people in her own home town were still having to rely on foodbanks to survive.

She said that her love of books and the fact that she lived near to her local library, with access to thousands of free books, led to her becoming a published author and she hoped that libraries would continue to inspire other youngsters, with perhaps the chance of another wee Van McDermid in the making.

Universal Credit Shortfall Warning

A recent report compiled by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation entitled ***AN ESSENTIALS GUARANTEE: Reforming Universal Credit to Ensure We Can All Afford the Essentials in Hard Times*** has revealed some hard-hitting findings. The research has shown:

- ◆ 90 per cent of low income households on Universal Credit are currently going without essentials.
- ◆ Support has eroded over decades, and the basic rate is now at its lowest level as a proportion of average earnings.
- ◆ 66 per cent of the public thinks the basic rate of Universal Credit is too low.
- ◆ Almost half of households see their payments reduced by deductions and caps, eg: a household can lose 25 per cent of its standard allowance to repay debts to the Department of Work and Pensions.

You can read more on the Joseph Rowntree Foundation website [here](#).



Universal Credit's standard allowance falls well short

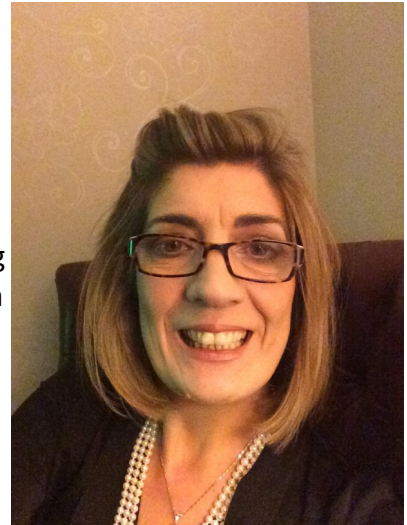
From April 2023 the standard allowance for a single adult is £85 a week, which is well short of this indicative level for what's needed to afford essentials.

- Cost of basic essentials
- Universal Credit standard allowance

A Few Words from Our New Treasurer

Jacqueline Armitage

After 40 years working in Finance, qualifying as an accountant in the profession, prior to moving into the banking sector and finally local government, I am keen to use my experience as newly appointed treasurer to continue to support an organisation which has such a positive impact in our local community. I have been amazed by the vast number of local volunteers who give up their time to make the foodbank such a success and to the individuals who help by donating every month to help those in need, I'm delighted to be part of such a worthy cause, I only wish it wasn't such a necessary part of society.



I'd like to say in my spare time I but life is always busy. I enjoy time with my family, a number of my children live in various corners of the country, so it's always good to catch up. When I'm not travelling to visit children, I enjoy meeting up with friends, going to the theatre, soaking up the history of places while travelling, walking and reading. Prior to Covid, I hosted students and mainly teachers from all over the world, it was such an interesting experience, an activity I may resurrect at some point when I finally decide to stop working life.

Celebrations



Left: On January 27, more than 70 volunteers gathered together for a successful social evening at the Oswald House Hotel. This was a rare opportunity to chat and get to know colleagues who give their time in all aspects of the Foodbank. We enjoyed an excellent buffet dinner and a very good time was had by all. The unanimous opinion was that this should become an annual event!



Right: St Serf's Church, Burntisland invited local organisations to participate in their

first Christmas Tree Festival. The Foodbank contributed a "tree", which looked rather better when lit up!

Donation Forms

A request has come in from the people responsible for sending out thank you acknowledgements for donations that care is taken when filling in the donation forms.

Please would everyone responsible for dealing with these forms ensure that they are filled in carefully, with the correct necessary information clearly written to make it easier for the volunteers to deal with. Also, please do ask the donor whether they are happy for us to continue to communicate with them. We like to keep in touch with all our supporters, but we need their consent to do so. Thank you.