

## **Food Bank Donations Update - February 2021**



As most of the villagers of F&BP will know, the Village Shop continues to act as the essential conduit for donations of tinned and dried food given for onward distribution by the Witney Food Bank. Every month, for more than a year now, Moira and I have taken these vital donations to Cottsway House and every month your generosity increases with the December and then January collections being the largest to date by some measure.

I will resist the question, “why does the 6<sup>th</sup> wealthiest Country on the planet need to rely upon charitable donations in order to simply feed its citizens?” I would prefer to focus on fact that almost 2 million, 3 day emergency food supplies, were distributed to families in crisis last year. A much reported 5 week wait for receipt of Universal Credit payments, exacerbated by a combination of the Covid pandemic; a resultant rise in unemployment; and bitterly cold weather, has heaped pressure onto people in crisis and has increased the use of Food Banks by some 13% in 2020.

Your continued generosity is hugely appreciated and it is heart-warming to see how selfless and community spirited our neighbours in BP and Filkins have shown themselves to be in order to help others who are simply unable to cover even the most basic of living costs.

### **Current Top 10 Required Items**

- Tinned stewing steak
- Tinned peas
- Tinned carrots
- Tinned rice pudding
- Tinned hot dog sausages
- Drinking chocolate
- Instant coffee
- Jam
- Long life fruit juice
- Gravy granules

We will be taking your latest contributions into Witney sometime in w/c 15.02.21 and a second February collection towards the end of the month. We will continue to collect and distribute food items whilst ever our village community wishes to support such a scheme.

Moira and I will try to pen an update every couple of months or so. If you have any questions or suggestions, please get in touch. [don.stowell@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:don.stowell@hotmail.co.uk) [moira.swann@yahoo.com](mailto:moira.swann@yahoo.com)

Many thanks, Moira and Don