**FOOD BANK ANALYSIS FOR FEBRUARY 2017**

There has been absolutely no let up at all in the people using the Food Bank since Christmas. This month a total of 101 clients came who were in need – 52 adults and 49 children. The main reason for our services seems to be that either someone has just found a job which means that their benefits are stopped immediately despite the fact that they won’t be receiving any pay for 4 weeks or a small mistake has been made on a claim form for benefits, which also means that no money is being received until the mistake has been rectified. This may sound like a small thing to do but many of our clients are hardly able to read let alone understand the jargon on the forms they are asked to fill in. In nearly all these cases it leads to depression, which then leads to them being off work and forms having to be filled in and so the circle goes on.

On a happier note, a couple that we have been helping for a while now (the husband had a stroke which again involved massive issues with benefits) came in on Monday of this week to say that they were now back on their feet and they brought in two bags of food to say thank you for all the help they had received from us.

I must also mention an extremely generous donation we received from the Fairthorne Trust, which is in Brightwell. Through the local village shop they supplied us with a car load of food which will keep us going for some time. Despite the fact that we have given out so much food, your continued supply of goods and money means that we don’t have to worry about not having enough to give out. I know I make a big thing about thanking you all each month, but I genuinely mean it.

We are still well stocked with baked beans and tinned tomatoes. Milk, fruit juice and cereal are always welcome, as are pasta sauce, jam and honey.

Many thanks once again,

Jean Burt