**FOOD BANK ANALYSIS FOR OCTOBER 2017**

The busiest time of the year as far as the Food Bank is concerned – harvest – has now come to an end and the storehouse (namely ours!) is once again full. We have accepted donations from 14 schools and 10 churches and have been overwhelmed by the generosity of all concerned. It has been a real joy to go and collect the gifts and to see the trouble that has been taken to display them. We have also had help from many of the children in carrying things to the cars and one school had a competition to see which year could produce the best decorated box of food. So in spite of it being very tiring it has also been very uplifting to see the thought that has gone into harvest this year. I had a quick look back at last year’s October report where we said that we had sorted about 2,500 items of food – this year it has been upwards of 4,500 with an estimated total weight of 2 tonnes. I should also like to thank those who have so generously donated money to us, this was very welcome following the busy summer holiday period.

This October has also differed from last year in the number of people we have helped. In 2016 it was 55 in total and this year 131 (73 adults and 58 children) and this despite having to close on one day for routine maintenance in the Bullcroft. This is why it’s so good to have the food that you kindly donate and a special thank you to those of you who give to us on such a regular basis, it really is very much appreciated.

Can I just take this opportunity also to thank the volunteers who came along and helped sort the huge donations that we had. The first year we were opened I managed it on my own, this year there were at least seven of us on three different days, if it were just me I would still be at it! If anyone is still wanting to give any food, we run short of fruit juice, sugar, corned beef and potatoes on a regular basis.

I know I have said this before but when we come into contact with some of our very needy clients I really do think, there but for the grace of God go I.

Jean Burt