**FOOD BANK ANALYSIS FOR JANUARY 2022**

We continue to be very busy at the food bank. There seems to be a small shift to both days being busy, rather than Mondays being quieter, but we must wait to see if that is permanent. We have given out food to 211 people,   
151 adults and 60 children. This compares with the same month last year when we were in the second lockdown and helped 226 people, 142 adults and 84 children.

We continue to receive large amounts of donated food and very generous gifts of money. This is so appreciated. Looking back to Jean’s report for January 2012, when the food bank was still very new, I note that she asked for no more baked beans as they had so many. This is still true, we have enough baked beans to feed the town!

Also every week we have two or three people offering their services in one way or another. We are so grateful for all this support and hope soon, to be able to use our ready supply of willing volunteers, more frequently. The operation is growing due to the increased demand and so we are looking at ways of making the work less onerous by increasing the numbers who can volunteer in a session.

The fact that we are helping so many people is not a statistic to be proud of, but rather one for concern. Recently parliament shared the fact that there are 2,200 food banks in the UK. This means there are far more food banks than branches of McDonalds, of which there are 1,300. Food for thought!

With thanks for all your support

Alice Penney