

Waveney Harvest

The Waveney Foodbank newsletter

Issue No 1: Spring 2025



Pictured: Project Manager Matthew Scade with members of Diss & District Rotary Club handing over a donation of slow cookers. The cookers will be distributed to families who need them.

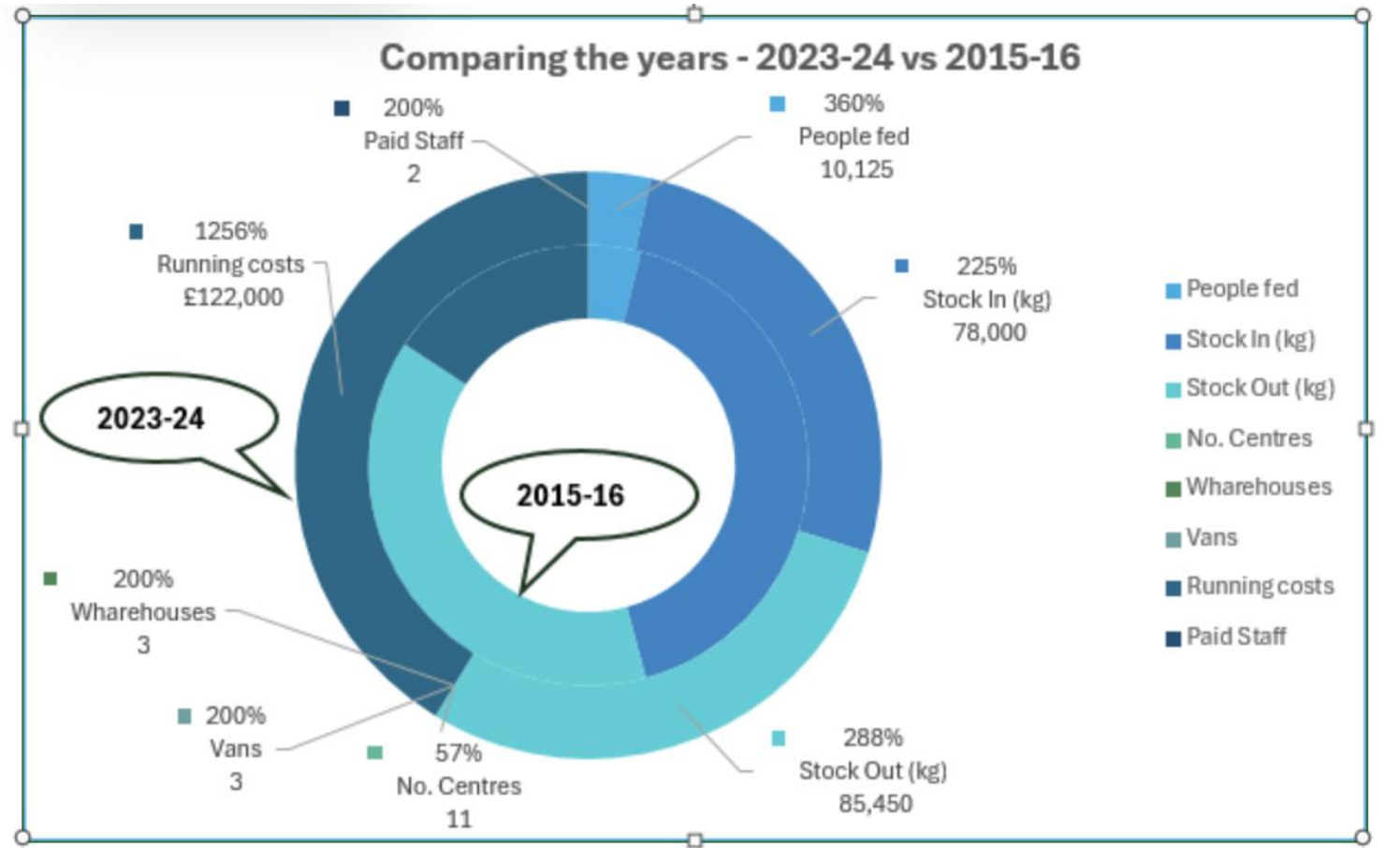
Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter! As 2025 gets underway we have plenty going on at Waveney Foodbank and can look back on another successful year of getting out food to the people who need it most. Last year saw the Trussell Trust refreshing its branding slightly to reflect that much has changed since the brand was first established 20 years ago. The Trussell Trust is now Trussell: Ending Hunger Together and we're now Waveney Foodbank; Together With Trussell. It's a small change but one that reflects our shared goal: ensuring no-one in the UK needs a foodbank to survive. The rebrand also reflects a change in focus at Trussell from growing foodbanks across the country to working together to end the need for foodbanks.

We hope our new quarterly newsletters will help keep people up to date with the work we have been doing across our community and give us a chance to properly thank all the people who help us. We're very aware that without the many

volunteers who give up hours of their time and generous donations from the public and businesses we couldn't do what we do so once again a **huge thank you to all of you who make our work possible.**

Looking back at the last time we put out a regular newsletter (2015-2016 we're ashamed to say) it's incredible to see how much the foodbank has grown and changed and how much more demand there is for our services.

Across 2015/16 we were feeding 2,200 people compared with 10,125 people in 2023/24. Back then we had 24,000kg of stock donated to us; in 2023/24 this had increased to 78,800kg with 22,000kg of stock sent out in 2015/16 compared to 85,450kg of stock in 2023/24. Today our centers have increased from 7 to 11 (2 of those delivery only), we've increased our warehouse units from 1 to 3 and while 2015/16 saw us work entirely through volunteers, today's Waveney Foodbank now has two paid staff to run it. The chart below shows just how much has changed.



Sadly, there seems to be no sign yet that these figures won't continue to grow but it's a testament to the community spirit and generosity of those living in the Waveney area that we are able to do so much for those who need it.



2024 saw the launch of another successful Christmas appeal with the warehouse crammed with donations from across the area. PA Mobbs & Sons of Cratfield (pictured left) generously donated over 30 turkeys for families to enjoy a Christmas dinner, with many customers brought to tears when they were delivered.

It was the end of an era last year as long-time supporters Kathy & Jenny Blackmore from Low Farm Eggs in Huntingfield stopped their egg rounds, leaving us without a regular egg supplier. Over the years they have donated tens of thousands of free-range eggs to us. We are extremely grateful for their generosity and wish them all the best for the future.

“Made the delivery with one and the lady literally cried with joy....” volunteer delivering turkeys in December.

Foodbank's Matt gets stuck in...



A cheeky Elf visited the foodbank just before Christmas, adding a bit of fun to our social media feeds.

Project manager Matt Scade put on his stripy tights to become our very own Elf on the Shelf, appearing in our Facebook and Instagram posts to promote shopping lists, most needed items and appeals for food throughout December all while giving our supporters a chuckle.

Help from HUS Estates

Diss-based Independent Estate Agents Hus Estates is a business that prides itself on its community connections, offering sellers who complete a sale the chance to gift a local charity a cash donation.

So far, the foodbank has received £150 from Hus's MD Stefan Dente – what a fantastic way to support local good causes.

Thanks to: Trevor and Joe from T Edwards Home Solutions who helped fit our smart new kitchen at the warehouse; Books & Crannies of Beccles who made and sold paper Christmas decorations and raised £130 on our behalf; Rosedale Funeral Home and Reads Property Developments who donated advent calendars to us; Old School Henstead who collected 65kgs of food donations for us; and lastly First Prime Care Ltd who collected over 85kg of food donations as part of our Christmas appeal.



Waveney Foodbank Warehouse Manager Jemma Jackson and Hannah Worsley, Project Manager at Norwich Foodbank (pictured top left) paid a visit to two of our Waveney food centers in late February, to check in with volunteers, offer support and compare notes on how each foodbank operates. Hope Church in Diss is one of our busiest centers and offers free community cafes twice a week on Mondays and Fridays, alongside a lunch on Fridays and a chance to pick up 'last chance' fresh food items donated by local supermarkets – all this plus the regular foodbank service. After chatting with volunteers and visitors the pair moved on to St Mary's Church Long Stratton which operates in a more traditional space but similarly uses local volunteers to manage its foodbank parcels. We are always grateful to the behind-the-scenes volunteers who work so hard to help us continue our work – a big thank you to you all.

IN OTHER NEWS

Thanks to Real English Fruit in Braiseworth (Dan Neuteboom) for the donation of superb freshly picked apples throughout the autumn which delighted those who were given them

Pink Tiffin of Bungay (pictured right) have also been donating a range of vegetable curries every month for the last 2 years, these are enjoyed by many of our clients. Thank you Sandip



October saw the foodbank once again receive great support from local schools and churches who held harvest festivals, with 2024 our best year ever – 5688 tons of food were given to us. Ditchingham Primary Academy, Gillingham St Michael's CofE Primary Academy, Earsham CE Primary Academy and Yaxley and Mellis Pre-school and Out of Hours Provision were just some of the schools whose harvest events helped boost our food stores while Care UK's Hartismere Place care home in Eye also donated. Thanks to them all.



Beccles and Bungay Harriers Athletic Club (pictured above at the Tesco store in Beccles) helped boost our food stores last month by taking part in a national foodbank campaign.

The initiative, called 'Foodbank Run', encourages running clubs to donate to their local foodbanks and to date more than 500 running clubs across the UK have taken part.

The aim is to replenish donations in the new year – a time when foodbanks find their supplies of food are often low after the busy Christmas period.

Beccles and Bungay Harriers AC organised two runs from their training locations in Bungay and Beccles with around 30 members bringing in essential food items to foodbank locations in Bungay and Beccles, specifically Co-op and Tesco.

As ever we're very grateful for such amazing support – thank you!

We want to see a future where food banks aren't needed
and we know that together, we can make that happen.

Waveney Foodbank

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