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## MILLIONS OF PEOPLE TURN TO FOOD BANKS IN LATEST EVIDENCE OF FOOD INSECURITY

*From the editor:* We start this Newsletter with the latest news from **The Trussell Trust**. "More people are being pulled into poverty and last year a record number of **2.5 million people** received for parcels from its Foodbank. - **up by 33% on last year!**" Here

at Truro Foodbank we saw an increase in people needing help of almost 50%.

This month heralds a double dose of bad news for millions of people on benefits and low income - the major reasons why people need Foodbanks. The £20 per week increase in Universal Credit introduced during the Covid pandemic is to be withdrawn, leaving the poorest people in our country £1000 a year worse off. **The Trussell Trust is mounting a national campaign to prevent this** - see their web site.

Added to this is the announcement that **energy bills will increase by an average of £139 a year**. The report from the Trussell Trust and the "Food and You" survey shows that too many people - especially those in poor health and households with children - are being failed by the benefit system.

The poor are becoming poorer whilst according to the Sunday Times "Rich List" the UK created more billionaires last year than any year since records began and their wealth increased by 22% in the year.

Added to this Cornwall faces a housing crisis, with local people forced to move out of their rented properties which are being turned into more lucrative Airbnb rentals. Council waiting lists for rented accommodation are now at record levels. A national strategy is needed to deal with poverty!



Amongst the many much appreciated donations was this cheque for £600, Staff at the Cooperative stores at Truro and Threemilestone together with staff at the Cooperative Funeral service collected the money for Truro Foodbank.

Picture shows our store manager Bob Girvan receiving the "large" cheque outside our new store.

**Thank you also to the many unnamed individuals and organisations who regularly support us financially.**

**Truro Foodbank  
Opening times:**

**Monday:** 3pm to 5pm , Truro Methodist Church (TMC)  
**Wednesday:** 10 am to 12 noon, Truro Methodist Church (TMC)  
**Friday:** 10am to 12 noon. All Saints Church, Highertown. (ASH)

*Roseland and Perranporth service available via phone or web site*



Although we collect most of our food through local supermarkets we are always impressed by the number of local businesses, schools, colleges and churches that are motivated to do something special. Last month we received a large donation of food from the **Cornwall Islamic Centre**. This gave us an opportunity to show their representatives Kamal and Hassan our impressive new store which has been masterminded by Bob Girvan. It will be in operation until the proposed development at All Saints Church, Highertown is completed.



From 15th to 17th July we were again offered a special collection at **Truro Tesco** store when shoppers are encouraged to support our Foodbank. This is a National event held twice a year. We weigh the food and in addition Tesco generously contribute a percentage of the value of the food in a cash donation.

One lady came to the sorting tables three times with trolleys full of food. *“It was my birthday this week and people gave me scratch cards. I had some winnings so I thought this was the best way to use the money”*

Another lady said *“ fill a trolley with food you need and I will come and pay for it tomorrow morning.”* We did but it came to £190 so Simon suggested she just made a contribution but she paid the full amount and then said *“Now get another trolley and fill that”* The cost was £220 and she paid the full amount again.

***The generosity of local people is so heart warming !***

We collected 2 tonnes during three days so thanks to Tesco shoppers and Tesco managers Matt and Chris and also to our staff and volunteers who staffed the event. Special thanks to the staff of Truro Nationwide Building Society who volunteered.

**Summer top up food:** Shortly before the end of term we contacted local schools to ask if they knew how many children would benefit from top up food to help during the school summer holidays. If the family is in food crisis then the normal food parcel is available. This “top up” is to help families who might be struggling whether or not there is entitlement to free school meals. Several schools replied asking for this “top up” totalling 141 children. We have put together top up bags each containing approximately 27 Kg of food totalling about 3.5 tonnes of food and these have been distributed.

Our picture shows **Lottie** from year 7 at Richard Lander School, who came in early for a week to pack up 120 “top up” bags - 3 bags per child, so enough for 40 children. We also work alongside the **Cornwall Children’s Clothes Bank** who in July gave out **91 packs** of children’s clothing. **38** of their customers were also given one of our “top up” bags

