

FEBRUARY 2023



We asked Lorraine, one of our new volunteers, what does volunteering at Larne Foodbank mean to you? This was her answer:

"I had toyed with the idea of volunteering at the Foodbank for quite some time but to be honest I never took it any further until I reconnected with an old friend from my 'younger days' who works at Larne Foodbank. Listening to her and witnessing first hand her enthusiasm and passion for what she was doing I decided to take the plunge and join.

Right from my initial induction I knew I had made the right choice. Everyone I have met and worked with has been fantastic and I have been made to feel so welcome. There is such an eclectic mix of volunteers there is never a dull moment!

In my short time volunteering I have learned that not only are there more people than I ever imagined suffering from severe financial hardship, but that there are equally many kind hearted people in the town who donate financially and with food.

And remember, no matter what others say, the people of Larne are a generous kind bunch!!!!

I have been humbled listening to some of the volunteers and how much time they actually give to the Foodbank and other charities. They are truly inspirational.

So what does volunteering mean to me?

It means giving something back to the people of my town. Realising that what I am doing is a 'drop in the ocean' but if we all keep going maybe we will make a difference.

As Nelson Mandela said: -

"Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is an act of justice. It is the protection of a fundamental human right, the right to dignity and a decent life"."



## Thank you to Joan

We want to say a huge big thank you to one of our volunteers, Joan Erwin. Joan has been Chair of the Management Committee for the past five years and has thrown her heart and soul into her work for Larne Foodbank. She has chaired the monthly management committee meetings, chaired the past five AGMs, the many team leader's meetings, as well as hosting and chairing the multi-agency meetings which sought to bring all the local agencies together so that they each know what the other is doing to help local people.

While in her years of office Joan also did induction training for new volunteers, including a survey of all the existing volunteers to see how we could best support them and was the person behind the emergency phone number. We send our heartfelt thanks to Joan for all she has done. While she is stepping back we are delighted that she is maintaining links with Larne Foodbank but enjoying a well-earned rest.

## Thank you for you continued support



Larne Foodbank Volunteers with Paul Henderson and Alistair Carmichael

We simply could not survive without the continuous support of the generous community which we serve. Thanks to the Larne Fire and Rescue Service for donating £150 and to Equality Period for providing Toiletries and Household Products.

Please continue to support us so that together we can meet the needs of those suffering food poverty.

## Thank you to all who offered help at Larne Music Festival

Larne Foodbank has been asked to provide refreshments at the forthcoming Larne Music Festival. We want to say a huge thank you to all who have volunteered to help. The Festival is a vibrant four-day annual event consisting of Classes in Vocal, Pianoforte, Instrumental, Traditional and Guitar and will run from 26<sup>th</sup> April to 29<sup>th</sup> of April 2023 in First Larne Presbyterian Church Halls. We look forward to renewing our links with the festival community after three years of not being able to take part in such activities.

