

Banc Bwyd Taff-Ely Monthly Newsletter

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Ending hunger together

A message from our CEO, Andrew Butcher



Hello everyone,

What a month October turned out to be! If we had to choose one word to sum it up, it would undoubtedly be **"Collaboration."**

Early in the month, I had the opportunity to visit Hackney Foodbank in London. Last year, this foodbank supported over 25,000 people, and during my visit, I witnessed just how vital their work is. People had been queuing for nearly three hours before the doors even opened, and in just 90 minutes, over 100 people were served. It was both humbling and inspiring, and provided a fantastic opportunity to share ideas and explore ways we can collaborate as we all strive toward the ultimate goal: ending the need for foodbanks.

Back home, we hosted three **Advice and Information Days** across Taff Ely; each event brought together around 12–15 different agencies, all ready to offer support and advice to anyone who needed it. The days were well attended by both the public and foodbank users, helping many people find guidance on a wide range of issues. Just as importantly, they gave local agencies the chance to connect and strengthen their own networks.

We also held our first ever **Referral Agency Breakfast**, kindly hosted by Pontyclun RFC and catered by Wild Roots Kitchen & Bar (who we can't recommend highly enough for anyone looking for exceptional corporate catering!).

Around eight agencies joined us to discuss how we can better "Work Together for Dignity and Impact." Together, we explored three key themes: *Understanding clients' needs*, *Communication and partnership*, and *The client journey*.

It was an insightful morning filled with meaningful discussion about how we can streamline our processes to make support more accessible and less intimidating for those who need it.

We're pleased to say that both the Advice and Information Days and the Referral Agency Breakfasts will now become regular events taking place roughly once per quarter. If you'd like to be involved in either (or both!), please do get in touch!

News and announcements

- We are recruiting new members of our **board of trustees**. To apply or learn more, please contact michelle@taffely.foodbank.org.uk.
- We have launched a new fundraising initiative: **adopt-a-shelf** - a simple, impactful way to keep us stocked of the essentials we need to support local people. For more info, check out our website!
- We are joining Trussell in calling for the UK Government to **scrap** the two-child limit - you can join in too by writing to your MP [here](#)!



Monthly Spotlight - Harvest Festivals

Our thanks to all who who donated food for the 2025 Harvest Festival, including:



- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • Churches of Brynna and Llanharan | • Llanisannor Church |
| • St. Iltyd's Church, Llantwit Fadre | • St Davids Church, Groesfaen |
| • Llantrisant Parish Church | • Llantrisant Primary School |
| • Penallen Church | • Gwaelod Y Garth Primary School |
| • Tref y Rhyg School | • Creigiau Primary School |
| • Llanharan Primary School | • Penygawsi Primary School |
| • Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg, Llantrisant | • Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg, Tonyrefail |
| • Brynna Primary School | • St Davids Church, Tonyrefail |
| • Llanisannor School | |

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Urgently Needed Items

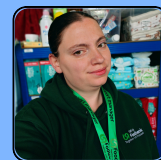
- Tinned Ham/Corned Beef
- Tinned Pears/Pineapple
- Instant Mashed Potato
- Cereal Bars
- Multipack Crisps
- Christmas Treats



Key Date(s) for your Diary

27th, 28th, & 29th Nov: Our
Christmas Food Collection at
Tesco, Talbot Green

Story of the month (Charmaine Walsh)



As the Foodbank's Support Manager, I regularly speak to foodbank users and hear their stories. One story that has really stuck with me this month was Dion's. She came to us and sat outside our centre from 10am (we didn't open until 12pm). It wasn't the nicest day; it was cold and damp, but she wanted to make sure that she could get her parcel. When I arrived, we welcomed her in out of the cold and made her a cup of tea. She explained to me that she hadn't eaten in 3 days, so was really grateful for the parcel she was about to receive. When I asked her about her story, this is what she told me:

'Being under 25 and on Universal Credit makes it hard to make ends meet. I am disabled, so working is not an option for me. The rising costs of groceries and bills mean that I tend to go without things like food to last until my next payday. It can feel embarrassing to admit to needing help, but the people at the foodbank help ease any worries I have. I did get the support and an amazing bacon butty that I needed during these dark days.'

In 2025, people shouldn't have to go without food, or be forced to choose between heating and eating. That's why we are working hard to support people and end the need for foodbanks forever. If you want to support us on that journey, we want to hear from you!

This month in numbers:

- We distributed **290** food parcels to local people in crisis. Over **2,600** meals
- **103** of our parcels went to local children.
- We distributed **3,195kg** of food in the Taff-Ely area
- More than **50** local people volunteered with us



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Fundraising Update (Laura Harrington-John, Fundraiser)



It has been an exciting month for fundraising at Taff Ely Foodbank! I'm delighted to launch the **South & Mid Wales Fundraisers Networking Group**, a friendly space for local fundraisers to share ideas, swap tips, and support each other in making a real difference. We also want to say a huge thank you to **Hepworth Blinds & Shutters**, **Lantern Roof Blinds**, **Klean & Tidy 4 U**, and **The Hogfather Cafe**, for being the first official adopters of our Adopt A Shelf campaign. Thanks to their generosity, rice, coffee, and biscuits will now be fully stocked for an entire year, helping families and individuals in crisis across Taff Ely.

There are ongoing opportunities to volunteer with our fundraising team. We are looking for church and school co-ordinators, admin assistants, and outreach supporters. If you would like to help make a real impact, or if you're a fundraiser and would like to join our Fundraisers Networking group please email laura@taffely.foodbank.org.uk.

Campaigns and Partnerships Update (Matthew Stevens, Partnerships Coordinator)



October has been another busy month in Taff-Ely! We held the second meeting of **RCT's Anti-Poverty Network**, establishing our core mission and plans for the near future - if you want to learn more or get involved, get in touch! Meanwhile, we've been building a **'lived experience'** group, encouraging local people to share their experiences and work with us to ensure we can offer the best support possible to our community!

Looking forward, we'll be releasing our **mid-year stats** soon, and visiting the Senedd for Trussell's 2026 manifesto launch! We're always keen to collaborate and campaign for change and can't wait to see what the rest of 2025 has in store - if you want to be involved, get in touch!

Connect with us online:

 Taff-Ely Foodbank

 @taffely.foodbank

 Taff Ely Foodbank

 www.taffely.foodbank.org.uk