

# Banc Bwyd Taff-Ely

# Monthly Newsletter

2025 Year in Review, Page One

Ending hunger together

## Urgently Needed Items

- Christmas Treats
- Tinned Meats/Meatballs
- Multipack Crisps
- Shaving Foam
- Tinned Custard
- Tinned Fish



## A thanks to our supporters

Our thanks to the following organisations who have supported us this Christmas:

- Gallagher's Insurance
- Bryn Celynog Comprehensive School
- Y Pant
- App Electric
- Edwards
- April Care Solutions

As well as our regular church, community group, and local charity donors, and our shelf adoptees. Your support will help hundreds of local families this Christmas. Diolch!



## Christmas Opening Times

Our distribution centres will be closed on the following dates:

December 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>  
January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>

They will be open as usual on December 27<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>, and from January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## Our key stats this month:

- We distributed **506** food parcels (so far) to local people in crisis. That's more than **4,500** meals (our busiest ever month)
- **215** of our parcels have gone to local children
- We have distributed **5117kg** of food in the Taff-Ely area
- More than **50** local people volunteered with us



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## A message from our CEO, Andrew Butcher

As 2025 draws to a close, it feels important to pause and reflect on a year that has been as challenging as it has been inspiring. We began the year facing familiar uncertainties, questioning how we would sustain operations beyond March. Despite applying for numerous grants, the first half of the year brought 12 rejections. Yet, we persevered, driven by the knowledge that our community relies on us.



In April, we welcomed Laura to our team as Fundraiser. Her creativity and passion have been transformative, with initiatives such as “Adopt-a-Shelf” exemplify her innovative approach, and her drive has already made a tangible impact on our ability to serve those in need.

June saw a key transition for Matt Stevens, who moved from Campaign Coordinator to Partnership Coordinator. Matt has been instrumental in advancing campaigns such as “Guarantee the Essentials”, and his current focus on the Anti-Poverty Network promises to create meaningful, long-term change in our community.

October brought further strengthening to our team with Matthew Evans, who has been with us since the pandemic, becoming our Operations Coordinator. Matthew brings dedication, insight, and a keen eye for improving our operations. His commitment, along with his subtly witty humour, makes him an invaluable member of our team. October was also a landmark month as we received over £134,000 in National Lottery Grant Funding, celebrated with a visit from A.J. Odudu.

We have also been fortunate to retain Charmaine as Support Manager, whose expertise and compassion ensure that everyone leaving our centres feels supported, understood, and empowered. Her work is truly at the heart of our mission. Our work has also gained recognition through appearances on Loose Women, BBC Radio Wales Breakfast, ITV News, and BBC News, proof that even a small charity in RCT can make a national impact.

As we approach Christmas, the generosity of our community continues to be overwhelming. Thanks to donations from local businesses and supporters, including 36 fresh vegetable hampers from Down-to-Zero in Mwyndy Cross, chickens from Hauelli Hotel and Restaurant, and £1,000 worth of toys from Luke Phillips at LJP Photography, we are able to bring joy and relief to families who might otherwise go without. To all of our supporters, your contributions make a tangible difference every day.

From all of us at Taff Ely Foodbank, we want to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year. Together, we look forward to continuing to support our community in 2026 and beyond.

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## Fundraising Review (Laura Harrington-John, Fundraiser)

2025 has been a landmark year for fundraising at Taff-Ely Foodbank, and we are incredibly grateful to everyone who has supported our work. Our biggest achievement was securing a **£134,000** National Lottery grant, which will play a vital role in strengthening our services and ensuring we can continue supporting local people facing crisis.



We also celebrated the success of our Aviva Community Fund Crowdfunder, which raised almost **£14,000** for our Baby Bank. This support means we can provide essential items to families with young children at a time when demand continues to rise.

Alongside this, we secured **£35,000** through successful grant applications and through the generosity of our first four Adopt a Shelf sponsors: **Hepworth Blinds/Lantern Roof Blinds, Hogfather Café, Klean & Tidy 4 U and The Grey Hare**. Their support is helping us keep key items stocked throughout the year.

Thank you to everyone who has donated, partnered with us or championed our work this year. Your generosity has helped ensure no one in Taff Ely goes hungry.

## Campaigns and Partnerships Review (Matthew Stevens, Partnerships Coordinator)



2025 has been an immensely busy year for our campaigning and partnership work. In April we organised **Community Conversations** events to bring the anti-poverty community together to share our **Guarantee the Essentials** campaign. We have since used this as the launching point for an **anti-poverty network** spanning the whole county, working together to improve our understanding of and response to poverty locally.

Meanwhile, we have visited the **UK Parliament** and the **Senedd** to share our work and call for an essentials guarantee, and worked with Bridgend and RCT County Councils to pass motions supporting the campaign. We've built relationships with local elected officials, and appeared in the press and on the radio countless times (including recently hosting **BBC Radio Wales**), raising awareness for the vital work we do and our fight to ensure no one needs a foodbank.

We've also been working with local people with lived experience, encouraging them to share their stories, get involved in the essentials guarantee campaign, and shape the foodbanks services to ensure we are doing the best we can. Thanks to everyone who has shared their story or worked with us, and everyone who supported our calls for an essentials guarantee this year! We have no doubt 2026 will bring with it much more!