

Banc Bwyd Taff-Ely Monthly Newsletter

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Ending hunger together

A message of thanks from our CEO, Andrew Butcher



As our friends across the Atlantic marked Thanksgiving last month, it prompted me to reflect on what we at Taff Ely Foodbank have to be thankful for. The answer, quite simply, is: **a great deal.**

Our Community of Donors - To the incredible individuals who continue to give—whether food or financial support—even while navigating the pressures of the cost-of-living crisis: thank you. Your generosity ensures that no one in Taff Ely goes without food, and we are deeply grateful.

Our Staff, Volunteers, and Trustees - To our dedicated team and board: your selfless commitment is the foundation of everything we do. The work of the foodbank would not be possible without your time, energy, and compassion. Thank you for being the glue that holds us together.

Our Business Supporters - A heartfelt thank you to all the businesses that have adopted a shelf. Your support is outstanding. Because of you, we can focus on strengthening our services, as the funds normally spent on food can now be redirected to areas where they are needed most.

Our Supermarket Partners - We are extremely grateful to our local supermarkets—especially Tesco and Sainsbury's—for hosting collection bins and welcoming us into stores for regular collection days. Your partnership makes an enormous difference.

Our Referral Partners - To all our frontline partners: thank you for the vital work you do every day. Your dedication, compassion, and persistence make you invaluable to the people we collectively support. It is a privilege to work alongside you.

The BBC - We extend our thanks to the BBC for visiting one of our centres, speaking with our volunteers, and broadcasting the BBC Wales Breakfast Show live from our warehouse the day after the budget. We look forward to continuing this relationship.

Sally's Angels - Finally, a special thank you to Sally's Angels for choosing Taff Ely Foodbank as their charity of the year. We are excited about this new partnership and eager to see the impact we can make together.

If I have unintentionally missed anyone, please accept my sincere apologies. Taff Ely Foodbank is not run by a handful of people—it is powered by an entire community. For that, and for all of you, we are truly thankful.

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Urgently Needed Items

- Tinned Meats
- Tinned Tomatoes
- Squash
- Sugar
- Multipack Crisps
- Christmas Treats



Christmas Opening Times

Our distribution centres will be closed on the following dates:

December 24th, 25th, 26th, 30th
January 1st, 2nd

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

Story of the month (Charmaine Walsh)



Hopefully you've all seen the news by now that the **two-child limit** has been lifted! This is amazing news, and families should feel some of the weight lifted off their shoulders in the coming months.

Currently, **32%** of our parcels are provided to families with three or more children - higher than the Wales average of 28% - so this really will be life changing for the families we support.

Michelle and Joanne have told us about their struggles. Michelle says: "The Foodbank has helped me out so much, and without their support, it would be very hard. They are very helpful and friendly. We are very thankful for all your help and support."

Joanne echoes a similar story: "We're grandparents looking after three young children. We haven't received child benefit for the last year, which has meant we've needed the Foodbank to feed ourselves."

Hopefully, people like Michelle and Joanne will soon have more money in their pockets to help afford the essentials, and fewer children will face hunger and hardship in our community!

This month in numbers:

- We distributed **343** food parcels to local people in crisis. That's more than **3,000** meals
- **147** of our parcels went to local children
- We distributed **2878kg** of food in the Taff-Ely area
- More than **60** local people volunteered with us



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Fundraising Update (Laura Harrington-John, Fundraiser)



It's been another busy and encouraging month for fundraising at Taff-Ely Foodbank! First, we want to say a heartfelt thank you to our four new **Adopt-a-Shelf** sponsors: Hepworth Blinds/Lantern Roof Blinds, Hogfather Café, Klean & Tidy 4 U, and The Grey Hare. Their support helps us keep key items stocked on our shelves and ensures families in crisis can access the essentials they need.

We're also delighted to announce that we have been awarded a grant from the **Local Giving Community Matters Fund**. This funding will support a new Warmth and Wellbeing project across our hubs this winter, providing both practical help and a welcoming space for people facing hardship during the colder months.

Finally, our **12 Days of Giving Christmas** campaign is now live. Throughout December, we are aiming to raise £3,000 to provide a full Christmas dinner for families in our community who would otherwise go without. If you're able to support or share our campaign, please visit:
<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/12-days-of-giving>

Campaigns and Partnerships Update (Matthew Stevens, Partnerships Coordinator)



Another busy month as we approach the end of the year - we're continuing to collaborate with and champion the voices of people with **lived experience** to fight the stigma surrounding foodbanks and ensure we offer the best support possible for local people in crisis. If you have lived experience and want to be involved, get in touch!

Meanwhile, we appeared on **BBC Wales News** and **BBC Radio Wales Breakfast**, and joined Trussell in the Senedd as they launched their **2026 Senedd Elections manifesto**. We also launched our mid-year stats, which you can view on our website.

Finally, progress is still being made on growing our **RCT Anti-Poverty Network**, to improve our collective understanding of and response to poverty locally. Get in touch if you want to know more!

Connect with us online:



Taff-Ely Foodbank



@taffely.foodbank



Taff Ely Foodbank



www.taffely.foodbank.org.uk