

July 2026

Together



Thrives
with a strong
social security
system

Help us grow a better
future together



Hope



Growth



Care

Blossoms
with stronger
communities

Help us grow a better
future together



Hope



Growth

Growing connections

Reaching new audiences at RHS Chelsea Flower Show

Above: Comedians Aisling Bea and Lolly Adefope spread the message at Chelsea

Together we are:

1,400

food bank locations

40,000

volunteers

100,000+

community groups and
schools, and millions of people
around the UK

Your support matters.
Together, we are many.

All working to ensure
no one needs a food
bank to survive.

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Ending hunger
together

Thanks to smartphones and social media, we live in a truly connected world.

But nothing can replace **the power of human connection** – our theme for this issue.

On page 3, you'll see how we reached new audiences, at RHS Chelsea Flower Show.

On page 10, discover how our pre-election campaign brought people and candidates together in Wales and Scotland.

And, on page 8, take a sneak peek at a new book that shares ideas for building a future where no one needs a food bank to survive.

As ever, thank you for staying connected with us. **You are a vital part of the Trussell community.**

Happy reading



Hannah-Mae Trow
Supporter Manager

Growing the conversation

How we spread
the word about
Trussell's work
at Chelsea

In May, Trussell took the conversation about hunger and hardship to the RHS Chelsea Flower Show – through our Gold award-winning garden, fully funded by Project Giving Back.

Above: Cheryl, who received support from a food bank, meets Together Garden designer Rob Hardy

A blooming marvellous event!

Arriving at the show grounds in glorious sunshine, visitors were instantly transported to a botanical world of colour and smells. And, just a short stroll from the entrance, stood Trussell's Together Garden.

Tens of thousands of people explored the garden, designed by Rob Hardy and Co. Our smiling volunteers mingled with the public, sharing the story behind the space and the vital work our community of food banks do every day.

Visitors delighted in the garden's harmonious planting, and its award-winning self-supporting arch structure and water feature.

These elements represented the interconnected community of support needed to ensure everyone thrives – and the importance of safe spaces where people can be heard.

Our Gold award-winning garden featured an impressive 73 varieties of plants. You can find our full plant list, as well as more info on the show, at trussell.org.uk/chelsea



From top: The interconnected arch, Deborah Meaden, and Rob with his Gold award certificate



So what does Trussell have to do with gardens?

For some food banks, gardens and green spaces are much more than a nice extra. They are places where people feel welcome, build confidence, connect with others and take pride in their community.

What's so special is how you got involved in the journey. Hundreds of you joined us for our first ever supporter webinar, while 7,000 supporters entered our giveaway for show tickets, and thousands

more voted online, resulting in our garden winning a prestigious RHS People's Choice award!

We've been so fortunate to have your support – and that of the media, and public figures, during this amazing event.

You are helping to keep poverty in the public conversation, driving decision-makers to take action on policies that tackle the underlying causes of hardship.

Above: A choir of volunteers and people who have been supported by Chichester Foodbank came together to perform at our show garden

Famous faces

Celebrity visitors to the garden included Trussell Ambassador Levi Roots, *Dragon's Den* star Deborah Meaden, *Drag Race* star Tia Kofi, *The Traitors* winners Stephen and Rachel, plus comedians Rosie Jones and Aisling Bea. "I'm surprised there's no food growing in the garden," said Aisling. "But hunger is not about a lack of access to food – it's about a lack of compassion, and proper government regulations to look after people."



“Community is so important in terms of ending hunger. If we all thought a bit more about other people, the world would be a better, happier, and kinder place.”

”
Rosie Jones
Comedian



Clockwise from top: *The Traitors*' winners, Rosie Jones, Tia Kofi with Chelsea Pensioners, Levi Roots

A garden to connect – not just for show

This project is more than a one-off moment. After the show, our garden will become the first Chelsea exhibit to be relocated to Northern Ireland, rehomed permanently at Strabane Foodbank, thanks to funding from Project Giving Back. We spoke to Project Manager Ursula (pictured, left) to hear about their work – and what the garden means to them.



Can you tell us a bit about Strabane Foodbank?

“Strabane Foodbank is part of the Strabane Community Project. We’ve been running our food bank services since 2014. Strabane’s one of the most deprived areas in the UK, with high unemployment. Our food bank provided over 400 emergency food parcels last year – and more than half of these were for children.”

You have a thriving green space at the food bank. What happens there?

“We deliver community initiatives, focusing on improving people’s health and wellbeing, by changing their environment and bringing them into the garden.

We have horticultural workshops for families to grow their own food,

wee glamping pods in the garden for Tai Chi and meditation, and an over-50s programme combining nature with outdoor exercise and social interaction. Summertime is our Kids’ Retro Club, with hopscotch and beanbag races. It’s the one we all get involved in – because we’re the biggest kids, aren’t we?”

Wow, that’s a lot of activity! How did you feel when you heard that the garden would be coming to your food bank?

“Sheer joy! So, so blessed that part of the world’s most famous garden show is coming to our wee town, which has lacked investment for decades. It gives us inspiration and hope – and a dignified space we can all be proud of. Everyone is so excited. When we walk around town, they call us the Chelsea Girls!”

Food for thought

How can we create a future without the need for food banks?



We all want a future without the need for food banks. But how do we get there? An inspirational new book by Trussell's Social Change Advisor, Heather Buckingham (pictured, left), asks the crucial questions – and suggests some solutions for building a better tomorrow.

We caught up with Heather to hear why she wrote *A Taste for Change: How to Build a Food Bank Free Future* – and why everyone should read it.



What inspired the book?

“Where other media might provide brief moments of connection, a book takes people on a journey. Readers can explore a range of ideas, perspectives, and experiences in their own time. I hope it enthuses new audiences around a vision for the kind of society we need to become if we are to build a food bank free future.”

What can readers expect?

“I want to engage people’s hearts and minds, weaving together data, personal stories and perspectives together with a bit of political philosophy and social science – hopefully in an accessible and warm-hearted way! Readers hear directly from people who have used food banks, and from the people who run them. Their voices ensure the book is rooted in real life.”

What’s the key takeaway?

“At its heart is a simple premise – everyone matters. High levels of food bank need show us that too many people aren’t being treated

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At the heart of the book is a very simple premise: everyone matters.

”

as if they matter. But we can change this if we choose to. Building a food bank free future requires action by everyone – including businesses, communities, charities, and governments.”

How can we all help create change?

“One way we can all make a difference is through how we talk about the problem of people being unable to afford the essentials – whether that’s with work colleagues, friends and family, or elected representatives. I want people to feel more confident about having those conversations. Not everyone will agree with everything in the book, and that’s OK. The point is to get people thinking and talking!”

A Taste for Change, featuring a foreword by Gordon Brown, is published by Policy Press on 29 September.

Pre-order from major bookshops, or via the QR code.

Author royalties will go to Trussell.





Above: Cara Hilton and a Trussell colleague at the launch of our election manifesto for Scotland



Campaigning for change

Setting the election agenda in Scotland and Wales

In May, millions voted for their Parliamentary representatives in Scotland and Wales' national elections. And for Trussell's community of food banks, partners, and supporters, this was a chance to put the needs of people facing hunger and hardship firmly on the political agenda.



Above: The local community took the chance to quiz candidates at a hustings event in Cardiff

“Many political decisions that could end the need for food banks are made at national level,” explains Cara Hilton, from Trussell’s Policy and Public Affairs team. “So these elections were the ideal opportunity for us – to make our collective voices heard, and demand bolder action on hunger. When we come together as a community, we have a huge amount of power!”



Engaging with politicians

The campaign launched with our election manifestos for Scotland and Wales. Developed alongside food banks and people with lived experience of hardship, the manifestos called on governments to build a society where everyone can afford the essentials. We also encouraged supporters to email local candidates, held a national hustings alongside Citizens Advice Scotland, and helped food banks host hustings in their communities, so voters could meet prospective representatives face to face.

“Our hustings was attended by candidates from five of Wales’ main parties, answering public

questions on social security, minimum wage, housing, and childcare,” explains Matthew Stevens, of Taff-Ely Fodbank in Wales. “They all pledged to tackle the drivers of hunger and hardship, and it was a great opportunity to build relationships with the next generation of Senedd members.”

“Seeing decision-makers meet people directly affected by their policies was really powerful,” agrees Colin Campbell from Edinburgh Food Project, which runs seven food banks in the Trussell community. “One candidate had implied that poverty was just a fact of life – but they came to our hustings, met people facing hardship, then visited a food bank to learn more. They became truly engaged – and definitely went on a journey!”

“

Seeing decision-makers meet people directly affected by their policies was really powerful. They became truly engaged.

”

Colin Campbell
Edinburgh Food Project

Setting the agenda

Ahead of the elections, boosting the conversation around ending hunger was vital. We worked with local and national media platforms in both Scotland and Wales to put the spotlight on the causes of hardship, while social media posts also made sure that everyone heard our urgent call for action.



Above: The speaker panel at Taff-Ely hustings



Above: In Wales, we reached communities with conversation cards printed in Welsh and English

7,500

conversation cards were distributed, empowering voters to talk confidently to election candidates about hardship

Empowering voters

To help people talk to politicians on the doorstep, we hit the streets to distribute prompt cards, with questions to ask if candidates came knocking, and key facts on hunger in the UK. We also created videos encouraging people to vote – making sure everyone had their say on the issues that matter to communities.

The importance of impartiality

Whenever we campaign around elections, our goal is to influence politicians – highlighting the steps required to tackle the need for food banks. We can't (and wouldn't want to!) affect who people vote for, so we advocate for policies – and never for particular parties or candidates.



Find out more

For more on our campaigning and policy influencing work, visit trussell.org.uk/policy

A race to end hunger

Corporate partners take on the challenge

Trussell's corporate partners make a real difference to food banks and the communities they serve - contributing funds, resources, and time to help ensure people facing hardship can access support when they most need it.





In June, some of our incredible corporate partners took part in the first of our 2026 Dragon Boat Challenge events – comprising three thrilling stages taking place throughout the summer in London’s Canary Wharf.

This year, a whopping 55 teams accepted the nail-biting challenge of racing to the finish line, with nine major companies represented, including Tesco, SNG, Chanel, CNA Hardy, and Vodafone.

The competition is a great chance for our partners to come together and unite in their support of Trussell, with the winning team crowned at a prize-giving ceremony and dockside BBQ.

The first event was a huge success, with CNA Hardy rowing to victory.

“

It’s great to be part of something supporting such an important cause.

”

Fintan O’Hagan

Team captain, CNA Hardy

“We were delighted with the results,” enthused team captain Fintan O’Hagan. “We’ve now won for three years in a row!”

Our corporate partners raised an incredible **£23,435 in sponsorship** to support food banks across the UK.

A huge thank you to every organisation that took part, fundraised, and made the event such a success. Together, you are helping food banks support people when they need it most.

Fancy a challenge of your own?

For the latest info on our fundraising events, please visit trussell.org.uk/fundraise

Coming together through churches and communities

Our annual carol concert

We're excited to announce that our annual evening of Christmas carols will be held this year at London's iconic St. Paul's Cathedral. The date is set for Tuesday 15 December, so look out for more info on how you can join us there!



Harvest activities

If Christmas seems a long way off, why not support your local food bank at Harvest time, by donating food or volunteering your time? Many food banks run Harvest appeals, with community groups and churches also holding events.



Stay in touch

Many food banks depend on support from local churches and faith groups. For updates, please sign up to our monthly church emails at trussell.org.uk/join – or browse our free resources at trussell.org.uk/churches-items



Painting a brighter future

We're honoured to celebrate the life of David Wynn Millward, proud Welshman (Cymro), artist, illustrator, and teacher. He was also the loving husband of Jenny, father to Myfanwy, Ianto and Gwenhwyfar, and Taid (Grandad) to Rhiannon, Max, Seren and Louis.

Not only did he capture the Welsh landscape and create beautiful worlds through his paintings and illustrations, but he and his wife

Jenny ran the Summer School of Painting and Drawing at Henllan Mill from 1982 to 2022.

Jenny bequeathed £3,000 to Trussell in memory of David, raised through an exhibition of his artwork. We are deeply honoured to remember a man who gave so much back to his community, and who was so proud to show the world the beauty of where he lived.



Above: David Wynn Millward and his wife, Jenny, enjoying the scenic Welsh countryside

“

David captured the Welsh landscape – creating beautiful worlds through his paintings and illustrations.

”

Our deepest thanks and condolences go to Jenny and her family. We hope to live up to David's memory and help build communities that can paint the future we all want to see – a future without the need for food banks.

Remembering your loved one

Giving in memory, or leaving a gift in your Will, can help look after your community long into the future, supporting people facing hunger for years to come.

To find out more, visit trussell.org.uk/gifts-in-wills or email giftsinwills@trussell.org.uk

We are an anti-poverty charity and community of food banks. We work together to ensure no one in the UK needs a food bank to survive, while providing emergency food and practical support for people left without enough money to live on.

With your support, we're ending hunger
– today, together, and forever.

trussell.org.uk

    **trussellUK**

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