

KAFS Chairs Report

KAFS AGM October 26

Figures February to July 26

February

88 bags

March

91 bags

April

111 bags

May

81 bags

June

70 bags

July

77 bags

These are made up as follows

For the 6 month period, we provided

Family Bags 231

Single bags

177

Couples bags

50

Street sleepers

32

This totals 490 bags, which is less than the previous 6 month period, when we provided 634 bags of food. However, there are a number of considerations.

We are always busier in the winter months, when customers have heating bills to cover. We had a long spell of very hot weather in July, when people in vulnerable groups were being advised to stay indoors. People were also eating less of the kinds of food we provide, which is mainly ingredients for hot meals. This period contained our slowest ever day, on a particularly hot day, when we only had 7 customers.

We always provide a bag of fresh fruit and vegetables for our customers, together with whatever dry food they need. Perhaps we need to consider how we might vary the food content of our bags to make them more suitable for our customers during warmer months.

Independent Access

In February we were offered a move to Keswick Town Hall, by Cumberland Council, and we spent the next few months investigating this possibility. We were advised that Cumberland had plans to develop all Libraries into Community Hubs, and that at some stage, the premises we currently occupy would be needed for Cumberland services to use.

I arranged meetings of all Volunteers, Committee Members and Trustees, to advise of the proposed move, and to give everyone the opportunity to visit the Town Hall rooms to assess their viability.

We also met with representatives from Cumberland Council on a number of occasions to discuss the alterations we would need to the proposed premises in order for this to be a workable space for the Food Share. There were some complications in this, with different personnel from Cumberland involved at different times, and having to cover the same ground several times.

There was general consensus amongst all involved with the Food Share that there were some difficulties with the proposed premises, the major ones being the lack of a discreet entrance for our customers, and the difficulty in receiving deliveries in that location.

The issue became complicated, and I arranged a meeting with Committee members and Trustees, and invited Richard Foster, Cumberland Council, Head of Community Services, and Sally Lansbury, Cumberland Councillor to attend.

At that meeting, we were informed that we could stay in our current premises if we wished to do so, and we would be offered a renewed Licence to Occupy. This was welcome news, as this was the preferred option for all involved.

However, it was a somewhat fraught few months, with a lot of running around, arranging meetings, arranging visits to the premises, meeting with various personnel from Cumberland, exchanging emails, and trying to pull everything together towards a final decision.

It had also been an anxious time for our customers, many of whom were concerned about the move.

We were advised that we may need to have a degree of flexibility to accommodate the reconfiguration of some Cumberland Community Services, who may need to use Keswick Library premises at some stage.

We were very relieved to have the option to stay where we are, which was very much our preferred option.

Following this, we were approached by Rachel Atkinson, Head of Libraries, to ask if one of our store rooms could be used as an interview room for the member of staff from Allerdale currently housed upstairs at the Library. There was a need for level access for some customers who couldn't use the stairs.

I met with Rachel and we conducted a tour of our premises, where I pointed out that we were struggling for storage space, and were in the process of fitting additional shelves in our back storage room to accommodate the overflow from our food storage room, which I was concerned was becoming an unsafe space for volunteers to work in, with much stock having to be stored on the floor.

It was agreed that the space she had in mind would not be suitable, so I have offered the use of our reception area, at times when we are not open. This area has seating, and level access direct from the street, and provides a space where confidentiality can be assured.

We have had to accept that we cannot have independent access to our premises, and although it is an inconvenience at times, we are pleased to be able to secure our current premises.

Volunteers

We have recently had a couple of resignations from Volunteers, who have moved jobs or homes, including a Committee member, Debs White.

I circulated information to all current volunteers, asking if anyone would be interested in joining the Committee, and Elaine Needham has volunteered and been duly

accepted. Elaine is a long standing and experienced volunteer and will be an asset as a Committee member.

I also advertised for new volunteers, through our Facebook page, and posters in the Library and Post Office.

We have had a good response and now have 5 new volunteers, who are all keen to join us.

Welcome to

BJ Bekker, Hazel Horsfield, Lucy Magrin, Judy Rowe and Junie Barrow. Great to have you all on board.

Market Stalls

We have taken advantage of Keswick Council's offer of a market stall in Market St during the Keswick Convention weeks, which is free for local charities.

We have had a stall each week, and it is a great opportunity to spread the word to Keswick residents about our service, and also to collect donations from both tourists and residents.

We have also booked a stall again for the Victorian Fayre in December, and have started collecting items for our Lucky Dip boxes, which were very popular last year. Dawn Titley has kindly agreed to provide mulled wine and mince pies again, which were a great hit last year. We are in the process of organising as many volunteers as possible to help in the organisation of the day, and also to assist on the day.

Ongoing work

We need to refresh our publicity, and I suggest we get leaflets and A4 posters professionally printed, and then circulated throughout our catchment area, probably with the assistance of our volunteers. I suggest we use a local printing firm for this.

Additionally, we are aware that there are a number of families in need who, for various reasons, feel they cannot come to Food Share in person, but some of whom reach out to us for help. Sometimes, a friend or family member comes to collect bags for them, and on the odd occasion we have dropped bags off for people we know are in dire circumstances. However, this is not a service we can offer on a routine basis. We need to find a way of reaching out to residents in need, and to consider how we can best help them. Any ideas or suggestions about how best we can move forward with this are most welcome.

In conclusion, thanks must go to all of our Volunteers, who show up, week in, week out, always willing to engage and turn their hand to whatever needs doing. We are so grateful to you for your commitment and enthusiasm.

We can only continue with this valuable service with your help and assistance and you are all very much appreciated.

Thanks go as always to the Keswick Library staff, unfailingly supportive and warm and welcoming, and always willing to help in any way they can. You always brighten our day.

Jean Murray

Chair

Keswick Area Food Share

KESWICK AREA FOOD SHARE - ACCOUNTS FROM 01-09-25 to 31-08-26

The table below records in column E the bank reconciled summary of income & expenditure to **31-08-26**
Columns B-D shows the accounts for three prior periods.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT				
PARTICULARS	**23 TRIAL**	**23/24**	**24/25**	**25/26**
BALANCE B/F	**0.00**	**13,893.12**	**23,683.83**	**19,391.47**
INCOME				
I1 GRANTS	13,500.00	9,400.00	1,243.98	5,000.00
I2 DONATIONS IN <£20.00	142.00	467.40	1,144.00	573.55
I3 DONATIONS IN >£20.00	1,834.80	5,606.36	6,513.00	11,165.00
I4 BAG CONTRIBUTIONS	518.16	1,445.10	1,761.00	1,785.00
I5 BANK INTEREST	0.00	0.00	0.00	769.09
TOTAL ANNUAL INCOME	**15,994.96**	**16,918.86**	**10,661.98**	**19,292.64**
EXPENDITURE				
E1 DONATIONS OUT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
E2 ADVERTISING	-317.40	0.00	-87.32	0.00
E3 FACILITIES HIRE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
E4 ADMIN COSTS	-340.00	-204.36	-1,067.32	-484.12
E5 FOOD PURCHASE	-1,319.34	-6,448.61	-13,653.87	-10,256.46
E6 NON FOOD ITEMS	-125.10	-475.18	-145.83	-412.15
TOTAL ANNUAL EXPEND	**-2,101.84**	**-7,128.15**	**-14,954.34**	**-11,152.73**
YEAR PROF/-LOSS	**13,893.12**	**9,790.71**	**-4,292.36**	**8,139.91**
BALANCE C/F	**13,893.12**	**23,683.83**	**19,391.47**	**27,531.38**

TOM RENNIE
TREASURER.