

Holiday Hunger Report

The Deputy Clerk met with Jessica Popplewell and volunteers from the Eckington Community Pantry on the 24th January 2023.

The group agreed that the two projects run by the core group, the Community Shop and the Holiday Activities are running well.

Community Pantry

The volunteers who run the Community Pantry have reassessed the terms and conditions of the project. 6 customers who did not meet the criteria have been signposted to the food bank at Westfield. The shop is now only open on a Wednesday but for a longer period and this has resolved lots of issues. On average there around 20 customers per week.

There is a good selection of produce from Fareshare, donations from Co-op supermarket and orders from Sainsbury's supermarket. A local resident has donated £150 to the shop providing that some of the money is used to purchase cat food.

With HAF funding, 50 hampers were distributed to families with school age children and 30 hamper handed out to regular pantry customers needing extra help at Christmas. The hampers were packed with Christmas goodies which were really appreciated and lots of positive feedback was received.

Rural Action Derbyshire has donated two laptops, customers can use these to search for jobs and find out what benefits are available. Citizens Advice Bureau are available 2 days per week in the Business Centre.

Activities

Agreed to run 6 cooking sessions at Eckington Civic Centre, first one to start 13th February. People will be shown how to cook a simple, healthy and cheap meal using a slow cooker and other cooking equipment. The ingredients used will be what there is a good supply of in the community shop. Rural Action Derbyshire, Feeding Derbyshire are providing free slow cookers to all families who have school aged children in receipt of free school dinners. Rykneld may be able to provide additional slow cookers if there are not enough for everyone.

When the food has been cooked everyone will eat together. Each family will be given a small food parcel and recipe that they can cook a meal at home. Sessions to be held monthly. The first session will be on a Monday lunchtime the next sessions will be held 3.30pm until 5.30pm on a Tuesday, there will be crafts run alongside the cooking sessions. The project is aimed at adults and children (all welcome) and will be called the Tuesday Teatime Club. Volunteers will be needed.

Each family will be given a food parcel, recipe, and a slow cooker so that they can cook the meal at home. The first two sessions will be on a Monday lunchtime the

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Christine Gare is to apply to Derbyshire County Council Warm Space funding to facilitate a Coffee Club at Green Lawns. So that the project can be promoted without delay Rykneld Homes will underwrite the cost to operate for the first month. The Coffee Shop will start on the 9th February people can drop in between 1pm and 4pm for a free drink and light refreshment. Ashgate Hospice have kindly agreed to donate jigsaws and games to the project. Susan is to ask the local newsagent if they would donate newspapers. There will be an opportunity to exchange books and magazines.

Jess Popplewell has agreed to apply for HAF funding for the Easter, Summer and Christmas events. Eckington Parish Council have agreed to underwrite the cost of this year's events so that arrangements can be made.

February Half term, 10am until 12 Monday 20th February at Eckington Civic Centre there will be a pizza making event aimed at children aged 5 and above (maximum 48 children). There is adequate funding set aside for this event. Children will weigh the ingredients and make the dough, chop the toppings and the staff will cook the pizzas. The name of the child will be written on the grease proof paper at the side of their pizza Whilst the pizza is cooking the children will make a side salad and chop some fruit into pieces. The children will eat the pizza they have made followed by fruit and ice cream.

Monday 20th February 2pm until 4pm at Green Lawns a local author will providing storytelling aimed at ages 3 – 8-year-olds (maximum 60 people). The library are to be approached to ask if they will provide craft sessions themed around books. A free book and a picnic bag will be handed out to all the children.

Easter event Thursday 13th April at Renishaw and Spinkhill community hall, Samba Sports, Bouncy Castle, crafts and games. Picnic bags provided for children.

May Half Term no event planned.

5 Summer Holiday events to be held on a Monday at Renishaw similar to last year's activities. Due to Eckington Civic Centre not being available there will not be any events held at Eckington during the summer. The times of the events are to coincide around the bus times. Jess not available on the 14th and 21st August.

October Half Term details not confirmed yet.

Christmas events similar to 2022 events.

Further meetings required to discuss the programme of events in detail.