

Bodmin Way Community Larder

Year 1 report

A year ago today we opened our doors to the community larder for the very first time. I had two pieces of racking in the corner of the office and a small table in the middle of the room with a few vegetables on. I'd cautiously had 100kg of food delivered from FareShare thinking it would be far too much. And as I have said before my goal was 100 members. I honestly never expected the larder to be the success it has become. A project that has come to mean so much to many members of our community. Not just to be able to have access to affordable and fresh food but also friendships have blossomed and help and support has been given to people struggling with many different issues. If we couldn't help them they were sign posted to people or organisations that could help.

So here is the all-important data for you to look at and consider. From our starting point of that first delivery of 100 kg I can now tell you we have received possibly a little more than 45 metric tonnes of food into the larder over the last year. The vast majority from FareShare but also from the Gleaning Network and Martin Henderson the community champion from Morrisons. We had a pallet of pasta which was heading to landfill from Total produce, a pallet of eggs from St Ewe which after packing as many as I could into my mini we could share with many other community larders. And a large donation from Proper Cornish of pasties and tinned biscuits.

We have also received financial support from Feeding Britain which I believe was in the region of £4000 plus they bought us a commercial fridge, Mo one of my lovely Time Together volunteers has raised £1000 in sponsorship when she bravely had her head shaved, £750 from the community chest fund, £500 from a very kind lady who wanted to support us and £250 from the Rotary Club. I'm sure I have forgotten a few other sources of income.

We also open for Priory Toddler Group and when we have plenty of vegetables and fruit and I can get it in my mini we take a small part of the larder to Time Together in our attempt to make the larder accessible for as many people as possible.

I would like to thank the Bodmin Way staff who are involved with the larder. Sara who has been supportive and assisted me in running the larder, Alistair for helping to bring in the very large deliveries each week and Dave for keeping the queue in order and chatting to our larder members. This baton has now been passed on to our volunteers.

I am hugely grateful for the commitment and selflessness of my two volunteers: Helen Love who has supported me with the larder from the very beginning and Margaret Bonney who joined the team a few months into the project. And now we have the addition of Jay Clemmow who joined us a few months ago as part of his Gold Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. This really highlights just how important our volunteers are and also how much they are part of the Bodmin Way team.

I would also like to acknowledge the support we received from Wildanet, predominantly my husband who works for them. For just over 6 months they collected and delivered food from FareShare. This enabled us to significantly increase our delivery by 300kg each week. This made a huge difference and increased our capacity so many more people could join the larder and have access to affordable food. We have also received 3 Android phones from Wildanet for Bodmin Way staff to use within their role.

The larder took an incredible amount of hard work to set up. Week in week out we work hard to maintain the standard, source more food and funding. I look forward to another successful year and to do my very best with the team to grow the larder.

Abbie Cavalera, Larder Manager