

Watton Food Hub has had an incredible first year. It has been a steep learning curve as we didn't know what to expect.

We celebrated the first anniversary of our Grand Opening on Thursday 14th March.

At March 27th, we had 236 members, supporting local residents within the Wayland boundaries. As we do not ask for proof of income, we are able support households that might fall through the net as they are over the threshold for receiving other forms of support. For example, families who are working and don't qualify for benefits can access cheaper nutritional foods at the Hub. Some of our items are free, for example, fresh fruit and vegetables, certain hygiene products (soap and sanitary products), plus we often have bread and other essentials on our free shelf. Other groceries are available at discounted rates.

I am incredibly grateful to have a team of wonderful volunteers to support me in the running of the Hub. They help with roles such as pricing our grocery deliveries and stacking shelves, collecting donations, helping members fill in membership forms, working on the till and cashing up.

We have been able to help people to access food, but the Hub has also become much more. Members like to meet up and have a chat or stay and have a hot drink in the Community Hot Spot. I have also been able to do referrals to Breckland Council for a few households that needed a little extra help, plus we have been able to distribute a few 'tide you over' (emergency) parcels for those in desperate need. We have also been able to make a book corner, plus applied for funding to help our refugee community.

I am looking forward to the next year!

Jo Howe,

Food Hub Supervisor