

Please feel free to pass the Hub newsletter on.

Christmas 2021



It looks as if the Christmas activities can now go ahead. Look out for our tree at the Holy Trinity Tree festival. The Hub will be open for a fundraising event with stalls, raffle and music during the Bradford "Switch on of the lights", this will take place on 26th November. There will be mulled wine, non-alcoholic winter punch and Christmas refreshments. The BoA Fairtrade group in conjunction with the Co-op will be working with the Hub for this event.

The monthly coffee morning has re-started and we look forward to seeing you all for a drink and cake or to browse our themed sale table- all the donations are used to help with running costs of the Hub. Some homemade jams and chutneys will be available to purchase at the November coffee morning.

If you would like to donate something for the Christmas school boxes any of the following items would be brilliant.

- Christmas goodies – chocolates, biscuits, mince pies, Christmas puddings, cakes, etc
- Tinned hot dogs & tinned ham
- Toiletries
- Stocking fillers and gifts

The Foodbank and Referrals

The generosity of our local community is incredible. Food is given in at the Hub and through some the churches and schools, particularly through harvest gifts. There are food collection points in Bradford on Avon at Sainsbury's, Co-op Bridge Yard, Co-op Winsley Road, Westwood Stores, Winsley (relocated back to St Nicholas Church), and South Wraxall, where the bins stand on a specially designed frame in volunteer Frank's front garden on a newly surfaced drive!



Therefore the foodbank is well stocked at the moment and this allows us to concentrate on getting Christmas items and the few items we have less of. If you wish to refer anyone to the Hub for food you can be sure they will not be turned away.

For some this referral process has been made easier by an e-voucher system which allows agencies to log on to a secure database and create a foodbank voucher online. This voucher can be printed off and given to a client; alternatively the code created can be texted or emailed to client. The Hub will pick up the e-voucher created and sort an appropriate food parcel which can in most cases be delivered direct to local addresses using our lovely volunteer drivers. If you need more information regarding access to this system just contact the Hub.

Counselling



Mental health has been discussed by the Media, NHS and local groups and charities. The need to support those in crisis, which has often been made worse by the pandemic, is undeniable. In August Enigma Counselling offered its service to the Hub. Lyn Green (BACP) and Mal Smith both with many years of experience and recently having retired from working at Earlstoke Prison are available to work with one to one and group sessions on Wednesday and Thursday mornings. They can offer support with depression, stress management, anxiety and even panic attacks. In addition there is the offer of help to those struggling to cope with various additions. Contact can be made through the Hub and details are passed on. An assessment will be made and the initial sessions are free / low cost, but overheads do need to be covered. Those looking for self-help for addiction can also be signposted and supported through Smart-Recovery which is available online <https://smartrecovery.org.uk/> and may suit some clients.

Hope Debt Advice Service

Hope Debt Advice continues to work from the Hub. Jim Clarke & his team of trained advisors are available for clients with debt issues. The free phone number to make a debt advice appointment is 0800 840 2298 or contact the Hub on 01225 920748, alternatively email them at hopedebtadvice@uwclub.net.

Appointments for budgeting help where support to manage finances are also available.

Drop-in welfare support and other basic Internet and form filling enquiries including PIP are available Monday through to Friday mornings, using volunteers of which there are six who have been newly trained.

Additional information about The Hub can be found on the website www.boahub.co.uk or follow us on facebook.

Finances

This year there have been no social/fundraising activities such as coffee mornings, sales, raffles or street fayres. However we have received grants and been donated monies which have ensured we can continue to purchase food and keep the door open – albeit on a chain! Some of the money has come from donations in our collecting boxes, handed in at the Hub or sent by cheque; other monies have been put directly into the bank. Thank you so much to everyone who has donated money and signed gift aid forms. As many of us now use the Internet to purchase items partly forced on us by the pandemic; you may be interested to know there are two ways to support the work in this community whilst shopping online:

- You can register on-line for Give As You Live (www.giveasyoulive.com) which gives you access to buy from over 4000 retailers and make a donation to The Hub at the same time.
- You can also register with Amazon (www.smile.amazon.co.uk) using your existing amazon account to designate The Hub@BA15 as your chosen charity, enabling a donation to be made with every eligible purchase at no extra cost to yourself.

In the Hub itself we now have a contactless card reader which allows us to receive money donations at the swipe of a bank or credit card.



There is a meeting room that can be hired and the Trustees would be happy to make the room available to groups at a very reasonable rate - Covid 19 dependent of course.