



# The Hub@BA15 Newsletter

Issue 14 Winter 2023

Please feel free to pass the Hub newsletter on

## Avril Retires



The guiding force behind the Hub@BA15 has retired after 8 years of selfless voluntary service.

Avril Clarke was one of the founding members of the Hub back in 2014 when a group of charitably minded people decided to set up a Foodbank in Bradford on Avon. It officially opened in March 2015 with Avril as Co-ordinator.

It now offers so much more to Bradford-On-Avon and the local area including Winsley, South Wraxall, Trowbridge, and Studley Green. It's a thriving Community Hub providing Debt Advice, help with benefits applications and appeals, a drop-in centre for sign posting and advice, and a hot lunch on Thursdays through the winter months for anyone who needs it. It also offers a meeting space for the AA, CA, Ukrainian refugees and the Julian House Homeless Project.

The warmth and welcome has been developed in large part by the energy, drive and commitment of Avril. It's a huge logistical exercise that relies on a team of dedicated volunteer drivers and packers.

Avril has been the guiding light in developing the Hub's reach and her service to the community will be sadly missed. From a kind chat and cup of tea with the lonely or distressed, to her tireless dedication to inclusivity of anyone in need, she will be a hard act to follow.

## A New Face at the Hub

Cathy Hearn joins us as the new Hub Administrator. With 30 years of experience in education she is passionate about making a difference to peoples' lives.



Cathy has lived in BOA for 20 years and is thrilled to be a part of the Hub team. She believes the Hub is an amazing place with lots to offer our community and has been warmly welcomed and supported by the Trustees and the volunteers.

Do pop into the Hub and meet her – we are open weekdays from 10am-1pm

## Hot Lunches

Hot lunches are served on Thursdays 12pm-1.30pm

Everyone is welcome.

Please ring 01225 920748 to let us know you are able to join us.

## Financial Giving

We have many generous donors and an increasing number are making use of our card reader at the Hub.

A huge thank you for your generosity!

It really does help ensure that we can continue to provide food wherever it is most needed.

## Debt & Benefits Advice

Chris Sanders now heads the team of trained advisors and runs **Hope Debt Advice**. For an appointment, call direct on freephone **0800 840 2298** or email [hopedebtadvice@uwclub.net](mailto:hopedebtadvice@uwclub.net)

In these difficult times, it is sometimes hard to know where to start when dealing with money troubles.

The team can help contact your creditors, and maybe able to postpone any action by them to recover debts until things are more sorted! They may also be able to help maximize your income and with budgeting

## Hub Volunteering Opportunities

We have over 24 regular volunteers at the Hub, with a range of roles and skills:

**Foodbank** – helping to sort, weigh, date and shelve donations, packing food parcels and holiday boxes

**Drivers** – collecting donations from local pick up points, delivering parcels to those unable to get to the Hub

**Enquiries** – helping visitors with issues such as form filling for benefits, housing or job seeking

**Events** – helping out at coffee mornings or other fundraising events throughout the year

*If you're interested in joining our friendly team of volunteers then we'd love to hear from you. Drop in or call us.*

## The Hub Space

Available for hire for groups at a very reasonable rate

### Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting

Saturday - Start time: 11.00 - duration 1hr

### Cocaine Anonymous Meeting

Bradford-on-Avon Worn Out Party People:  
Wednesday - Start time: 6.30 - duration 1hr

## Coffee Mornings

Our regular monthly coffee morning, are held on the **second Friday of the month**. We offer coffee, tea and a selection of home-made biscuits and cakes.

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May



### Pleased come and join us

Your local Wiltshire Library has free Warm Packs which include a blanket, hot water bottle and thermal mug. Just pop in to your local library and ask at the counter – there are no eligibility rules. Please pass this on to anyone you feel would benefit.



## Food Donations

We have distributed Feb half-term holiday food parcels for families through our local schools and nurseries and are now thinking about Easter parcels. As well as staple food items, we would welcome donations of savoury snacks, biscuits, small Easter eggs and other treats as well as Instant / microwave meals, pasta, washing powder, washing up liquid, shampoo, shower gel. The QR code will take you to current needs.



Thank you!

**More information can be found on the Hub website [www.boahub.co.uk](http://www.boahub.co.uk) or follow us on Facebook**

Charity no. 1160807

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