

The Community Fridge continues to open for 3 sessions a week with the outside cupboard accessible at all times. In the last few weeks we have seen a significant increase in the number of customers attending each session with some new customers as well as people attending more than once in the week. For example in March the total number of customers for the week were 30-40, whereas in the last week of April there were 60 customers. We assume the increase is due to the pressure on finances and increase in costs and have sensed an anxiety among customers, with many arriving 30-60 minutes before opening time in order to try and be first in the queue. This has caused a difficulty with people queueing within the centre, particularly when the centre is being used for other activities and limiting the space for people to move freely in the foyer area. We are now asking people to queue in the garden and will be asking households to only attend once a week to try and reduce some of the queues. Where possible the fridge will operate from the storeroom and training room in order to serve more people and enable people to be served more quickly.

We hope the Community Centre can host some drop-in sessions in the near future with local organisations attending who can support people who are concerned about their finances - such as citizens advice and Farnham Frontline.

We have recruited a few new volunteers for collecting food from local supermarkets and have had some more interest recently. We are now able to collect from 12 different local stores but need more volunteers to help collect food, put food away and serve within the open fridge sessions due to the increase in customers and increase in food we are collecting. In April we collected approx 246 crates of food!

We have been successful in recruiting a co-ordinator to take over from me in overseeing the Community Fridge. Kelly Lees started at the end of April and I will be handing over to her over the course of the next few weeks.

**Katie Burnhams**

Community Fridge & Cupboard  
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