



Annual Report for 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023

Nourish has had another successful year working in the community. We have provided more meals than ever before and are reaching out to those in the community who need our support the most.

Key achievements for the period 1 April 2022 -31 March 2023 are as follows:

We provided a warm space from 1 November 2022 until 28 February 2023. This allowed members of the community to come into the warmth of the Guildhall for three hours every Tuesday to enjoy hot drinks, toast and crumpets and each other's company. During this period we saw a total of **130 people** who all enjoyed the warm environment.

In the period under review we held **13 standard community lunches** at the Guildhall, plus **five special event lunches** for the Cherry Fayre, The Jubilee and Christmas feeding a total of 624 people. This doesn't include the Christmas Hampers that went out to **78** of our clients on Christmas Eve.

Picnics in the Park for children during the school holidays – summer and half terms - were a success and we managed to feed **330 children**.

We ran an easter egg hunt in all the parks in Axminster with a selection of top prizes either being donated by or purchased from local businesses in Axminster.

Our business-as-usual cooking continued, and we successfully cooked **2,492 meals** for our freezer which have all made their way out to the community either through the HUB at Pippins or through clients collecting food directly from us at the Guildhall. This number is over 700 more meals than the previous year.

We continue to cook at the Guildhall twice a week and are very pleased to have recently been awarded a 5 star food hygiene rating from the EDDC Environmental Health Officer.

Finances, Grants, Donations and other Support

We received a total of **£21,771.06** in financial contributions. This has been through grant funding from Axminster Town Council, Devon County Council, South West Water, the COOP and Tesco. We also received donations from Axminster Drama Club, Symonds and Sampson, the COOP and some generous private donations. We currently have £11,000 in our current account and we will use this money carefully during the forthcoming year.

Grants received from Axminster Town Council helped us to pay our rent at the Guildhall for a year, it funded our warm space initiative and allowed us to put on a celebratory Jubilee Lunch. Devon Count Council's grant helped us fund our fortnightly lunches. South West Water's support enabled us to cook over 400 meals for the freezer. The support from Tesco and the

Coop provided us with the ability to continue with our holiday picnic initiative for children in Axminster and enabled us to continue to buy good quality food for our frozen meals.

We also continue to receive support from FLR Spectron Ltd who generously fund our 0800 number which makes any call to Nourish free of charge.

Next Year

Our focus for the year ahead is on our outreach work. We have contacted all the local schools in Axminster and the surrounding villages and are working to ensure they are aware of how to refer families to us for food support. We continue to work very closely with PCSO Hayley Widger as this allows us to reach the most vulnerable in our community. Our work in support of the HUB at Pippins will always continue as we recognise the positive impact our food has on those who attend the groups at Pippins.

We have much planned for the new financial year. Our events calendar is very full and we will be making sure we reach as many people as possible to share the work we do and help provide support to those who need it most. We will be continuing with our Picnics in the Park during the half terms, Easter and summer holidays, we have a Grand Finale picnic planned for the end of the summer. We have been invited to take part in local community events and will be working at the Carnival this year with The Railway Kitchen, The Cherry Fayre and Light Up Axminster. We are planning a lunch to celebrate the King's Coronation and another Easter Egg Hunt.

Karen Taylor and Mary Darlow

Nourish, Axminster