

This is Daniel Evans' story

Distributing food to local people in Reading during Coronavirus



“Coronavirus has affected everyone's lives in some way by now and for the past three months I have been a volunteer in Reading packing and delivering food parcels to needy people in the town.

The food center has been set up in the Hexagon Theater in the town center, and I have been working there for the last three years until the effect of COVID-19 forced us to close the theatre back in March.

The Hexagon is owned by the local Council and with its size and town center location it makes it an ideal place to serve the people of the community.

People can ring with their needs through the 'One Reading Community Hub', set up between the Council and local charities. The Hub then contacts the theatre where a team of us pack food parcels for individuals and families who have no means of getting food or who are self-isolating.

Each person is given a box containing dry food such as pasta, cereal, eggs, milk, soup, bread and also fridge food such as butter, cheese and yoghurt. They also receive a box containing vegetables and fruit. We also have to look after the different needs of people such as vegetarians, halal food, medical necessities and so on. The Council pays for the food but many companies including supermarkets have sponsored much of the food. After packing the food a team of Council drivers pick up the food parcels and then distribute the food locally.

The 'Hub' has been running for over three months now and already over a thousand parcels have been distributed. Although we are less in need now we are still working every day and will continue while there is a call for the service.”