

SAXMUNDHAM COMMUNITY FRIDGE



Newsletter
New Year 2026

This is our newsletter to update our growing number of supporters, volunteers and visitors about the past year.

Who are we?

The SAX Community Fridge (SAXCF) was set up to address the issue of local food waste. It also gave a fantastic opportunity to promote sharing amongst the local community. It soon became clear that friendships and support networks were developing naturally and we are now recognised as a real community hub.

SAXCF is part of the Community Fridge Network run by the 'green' charity HUBBUB. We work closely with Community Action Suffolk and are part of the East Suffolk Food Network.

Although we do have a fridge and freezer 'back at base', we continue to operate as an ambient CF holding Monday and Friday town centre sessions. Since September 2025 our venue has changed to The Old Bank Riverside Gardens.

We continue to emphasise that we are NOT a foodbank, a pantry or a social supermarket. We love the fact this is a 'leveller' project. ANYONE is welcome to take the food on offer if they can use it or share it with a neighbour. Our community table offers either good food that is surplus and that would have been thrown away, or that has generously been donated to the community. We are a unique food project in that we are a Community Fridge in a Community Garden setting. Providing this outdoor social session ticks so many well-being boxes!



We now have a core team who help to manage the project in addition to the many volunteers who help to run the town centre sessions and who collect the regular donations.

Once again we want to take this opportunity to express HUGE thanks to our regular supporters who continue to be vital to the on-going success of this project. These include **Tesco** and **Waitrose** (through the FareshareGo scheme), **Heavenly Hair** (gloves), **Pump Street Bakery**, **Munchy Seeds**, **Maple Farm**, **Platt's** and **Harvey &Co.**

Thanks also go to **The Bell** and **At The Crossroads** for making our coffee every week. Joining the list this year has been the **Cornish Bakery**, **Willows** and **Still Good Food**. Thank you all so much. Please be assured you are greatly appreciated by the whole team.

Other businesses have been generous to us including a new banner from **The Black Dog Deli** in Saxmundham. A talk hosted by Steve at the **SocialBar** on Loneliness raised some funds for us. Aarran at **Jennie Jones** also provided us with much-needed replacement airpots and coffee cups.



A SAXCF team of volunteers and visitors thoroughly enjoyed helping with the fruit picking at Maple Farm and joining the Still Good Food gleaning teams.

What has happened in 2025

New Venue

In September we moved to a new venue behind The Old Bank and in the Riverside Gardens. We are extremely grateful to Clare and her team at The Art Station for their wonderful welcome and generosity in providing us with a new home. It was a pleasure to be a part of the Art Stations contribution to the Saxmundham Christmas Fayre.

Tesco National Report

We were delighted to feature in Tesco's 10 year Food Waste report 2025. This is a national Tesco report where we appear as one of the spotlights on p14 – see the full report at

<https://www.tescopl.com/sustainability/planet/food-waste>

(it's the “Read our 2025 Impact Report “ button).

The image is a screenshot of a digital report page with a blue background. At the top left, it says 'Today' and 'Spotlight'. The main headline is 'Offering food and friendship.' Below this, there is a paragraph of text: 'Situating in the market town of Saxmundham, East Suffolk, SAX Community Fridge (SAXCF) launched in March 2021 to help reduce food waste in the area. Marion Lewis, along with a small team of like-minded locals, joined forces to develop the fridge and the project has expanded over the years into its own community, supporting local people with food and much more.' Another paragraph follows: 'While the core goal of SAXCF is to share surplus food with the community, what has developed has become so much more than that. SAXCF has blossomed into the wide-reaching community project it is today, not only offering food, but a place to seek advice and, crucially, friendship.' A third paragraph states: 'Every week, the SAXCF team collect surplus food from their local Tesco, via FareShare, which is then offered to people in the pub car park where they run their fridge.' A quote from Marion Lewis is featured: 'The thing that's really important is the people. Our growing community is just as important to us now as saving items from a waste bin.' Below the quote is a small circular icon with a right-pointing arrow and the text 'Learn more at fareshare.org.uk'. A large red circle contains the text '83%' and 'Feel closer to their local community by having a service like SAXCF to go to'. Below this is a small icon of a recycling symbol and the text 'East Suffolk, England'. The background of the right side of the page shows a woman, Marion Lewis, standing next to a table with various food items, including a large tray of green beans, a tray of tomatoes, and a basket of leafy greens. A banner in the background reads 'SAXMUNDHAM COMMUNITY FRIDGE' and 'PLACE OF WELCOME'. There are navigation arrows in the top right and bottom right corners.

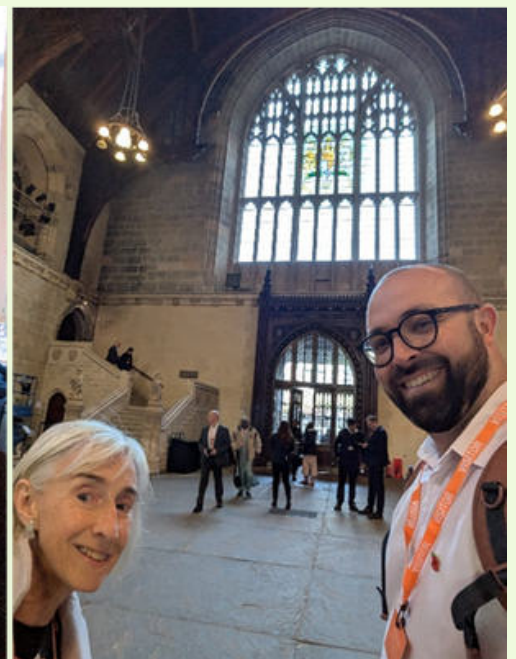
BBC Radio Suffolk Award Nomination

We were nominated in the green category for BBC Radio Suffolk’s “Make A Difference” award. We didn’t win but we did receive a rather nice “Highly Commended” award



RHS State of Gardening Report at Houses of Parliament

Following an introduction from Andy of East Suffolk Council the RHS invited Marion to a reception at the Houses Of Parliament to launch their new reports on the “State of Gardening” and “Space to Grow” on Community Gardening.



Sizewell C Grant

We applied to the **Sizewell C Community Fund** for the difference between our budget and our expected donations – however the panel were so impressed by us that they gave us enough to cover all our on-going costs for the next 3 years.

Christmas Week 2025

Christmas week saw our second SAXCF “Flash Fridge”. This resulted from a large donation from the supermarkets late on Christmas Eve... An amazing **34 people** were able to come to the church hall following a Facebook announcement. The food was also shared with their friends and neighbours.

Foundation Fitness

The “Foundation Fitness” weekly sessions started by one of our volunteers, for volunteers and friends, continues to flourish. This class encourages and educates on movement and flexibility as we grow older. It again has raised a considerable amount of money for Third World projects.

Links

We are delighted to see that our good friends Ruth and Lauren have now launched FramFridge - a Community Fridge in Framlingham! We wish them all the success in their exciting project.



Family Cooking with The Art Station

We have partnered with The Art Station for their excellent new “Family Cooking” Sessions. These are designed to be a relaxed, fun and creative way to cook together as a family. The sessions are run in 6 week blocks and are led by cook Zoe Cosgrove using produce from us to create simple tasty meals.



For more details on these see

<https://theartstation.uk/event/family-cooking-sessions/>

Miscellaneous

This Autumn we were delighted to host 9 students from The Suffolk New College for two sessions and a Slow Cooker Demo day organised by East Suffolk Council’s Centres For Warmth.



Statistics

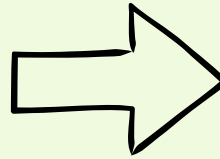
As an example : One Monday in December 2025...

Over 33 Volunteer hours were spent on the project



Over 600kg of surplus food was handled by the team

Additional Charities supported :
Southwold Food Bank, Project 40Seven



62 visitors attended the town centre session at The Old Bank Garden.

Total donations from visitors :
£13.30 (this supports other food projects).



This year

We saved an incredible **30 metric tonnes** going into waste bins - that's over double from that saved in 2024.



that's the equivalent of over 6 average African Elephants!



The total number of visitors increased from **4961** in 2024 to **5924** in 2025



Our FaceBook page also continues to grow and now has over 1,100 members.

Distribution

We continue to hold weekly pop-up CF tables at two local nurseries, and an early Wednesday morning pop-up CF at Saxmundham Primary School as well as our Monday and Friday town centre sessions. See the diagram below for a more complete list.



Summary

And so ends another very eventful year in the life of the SAXCF– we continue to be extremely grateful to our growing family of supporters, visitors and volunteers – many of whom have now become great friends!