

COLC Report. February 2026.

With long, dark and very wet days, the Pantry has seen an increase in the number of customers, including quite a few new faces. People do seem to be 'feeling the pinch' at this time and we are aware of an ever-increasing need. Our donations continue, for which we are very grateful, and we have been discussing the possibility of changing our opening times in order to ensure that we do not waste short life items. If we can spread our opening times more evenly across the week, food that has a limited life won't be sitting in the fridges for too long or even have to be thrown away. After approaching the RVHMC, we were only able to partially alter our times, but we hope that it will still benefit our clientele. Consequently, we plan to open Mondays 11.30-1.30, Wednesday 9-12 and Friday 9-12, beginning in March. With our change in hours, we will also have to evaluate whether our volunteers are able to help as regularly as they do. So, we are very much in a state of flux currently but hope things will work out sufficiently well for us to continue with the new regime. RVHMC have also said they wish to re-evaluate the scheme at the end of a three-month period.