



24th April 2023

Galloway Cheddar's 'Gathering Project' initiative to be rolled out across Scotland following successful pilot.

10,000 free meals to be provided to Scottish residents throughout May

Galloway Cheddar is rolling out its ambitious "Galloway Gathering Project" initiative across Scotland to help support charities tackling food poverty and loneliness.

The Scottish cheddar brand has partnered with food distribution charity, FareShare Scotland, part of FareShare, the largest charity in the UK fighting hunger and food waste.

Working with FareShare's network of community kitchens and cafes in Central, South East, Glasgow and West of Scotland, Galloway Cheddar will provide the equivalent of 10,000 meals throughout the month of May to residents at community gatherings across Scotland – something that has never been done on this scale before.

As well supplying 1.2 tonnes of cheddar to make the meals, Galloway Cheddar will also donate an additional £19,500 in support FareShare's work across Scotland through its partners FareShare Central and South East Scotland (Cyrenians) and FareShare Glasgow & the West of Scotland (Move On).

The Scottish cheddar brand has been at the heart of Scottish family gatherings since it began in 1959, inviting families to get together for their favourite recipes. And now, in the midst of the cost-of-living crisis, it is wanting to help Scottish communities who need it most by inviting them to its local community gathering where they can be assured of support, friendship and a hot meal.

Heloise Le Norcy-Trott Group category and Marketing Director at Lactalis UK and Ireland said: "It may seem a simple gesture to provide someone with a hot meal but our pilot last year demonstrated just what an impact these local kitchens and cafes can make to people's lives. The food is just the starting point, it is the community support that comes along side this, chatting with a friend, or sharing a cuppa with that can make the word of difference.

“We are delighted to be partnering with FareShare Scotland to help Scottish families and people who need it most and hope this initiative will help to build stronger communities.”

Each community kitchen or cafe will also be given packs which as well as Galloway Cheddar’s red cheddar, include materials to decorate the venues such as posters and t-shirts to ensure a warm and friendly atmosphere. Galloway Cheddar’s donation will cover the cost of management and distribution by FareShare Scotland.

FareShare Scotland is part of the FareShare national network, with four regional centres in Scotland dedicated to fighting hunger and food waste. It distributes good quality surplus food to charities and community groups across all 32 local authorities in Scotland.

Jon Molyneux from FareShare said: “We’re incredibly grateful to the support from Galloway Cheddar. The increase in the cost of living, including food and soaring energy bills, has had a disproportionate impact on people already struggling to make ends meet. Providing food to make meals, as well as a generous donation to cover operational costs, will help us support more people impacted by the cost of living crisis in Scotland.”

Galloway was formed in 1959 and is the no.1 Scottish Cheddar brand. The company works with 118 farms located within 75 miles of its Stranraer factory to produce the cheese which is made using 100% Scottish milk. It also holds the Red Tractor endorsement which means its cheddar is produced to high standards and is assured at every step of the production process from farm to fork.

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Pic caption: L-R: Martina Stocchi, Senior Brand Manager Lactalis UK & Ireland, and Clare O’Keeffe, FareShare Commercial Officer – Scotland.

Pic caption2: Staff at Galloway Cheddar factory in Stranraer with Martina Stocchi, Senior Brand Manager Lactalis UK & Ireland, and Clare O’Keeffe, FareShare Commercial Officer – Scotland.

Notes to Editor

Lactalis UK & Ireland

Lactalis UK & Ireland is the UK subsidiary of Lactalis Group, the global dairy #1 and the global cheese #1. In the UK, we market a range of leading cheese brands, including local brands: Seriously, Seriously Spreadable, Galloway & Orkney and the iconic global brands; Galbani, Président and Leerdammer.

Lactalis has a strong presence in the UK, with three wholly-owned manufacturing sites.

- In Stranraer, South West Scotland, **The Caledonian Cheese Company** manufactures award-winning Scottish cheddar and is the home of the Seriously & Galloway Cheddar brands.
 - **Seriously** was a proud recipient of a 2021 Great Taste Award, thanks to its distinctive, complex taste that's tangy, with a hint of caramel that's simply unlike any other cheddar. One of the hallmarks of Seriously Cheddar is the calcium lactate crystals that develop during the long maturation process, giving a tantalizing crunch
 - **Galloway** has been the family's favourite Scottish cheddar brand since 1959. Made only with 100% Scottish milk and Red Tractor endorsed it has a smooth, creamy flavour that's loved by Scottish families
- **McLelland Cheese Packing** is our state-of-the-art packing facility, also in Stranraer, Scotland, packing block, grated & sliced cheddar
- Whilst in Cricket St. Thomas, Somerset, there is the **Lubborn Creamery** manufacturing & packing artisan British Brie, Camembert & Goat's Cheese under the Cricket St. Thomas brand

We employ 425 people in the UK across our offices in Redhill, Surrey and our 3 manufacturing sites. We give our people the time, space and support to shine in a dynamic and fast paced working environment plus the potential for international mobility within the Lactalis Group.

In June 2022, Lactalis UK & Ireland and Lactalis Nestlé Chilled Dairy jointly unveiled a Sustainability Progress Update. The update shows our continued commitment to build sustainable businesses that look after people and the planet, with high standards of animal welfare. We have developed four key Areas of Focus for action: People, Procurement, Products & Packaging, and Planet. Find out more here: <https://www.lactalis.co.uk/sustainability/>

Lactalis Group

About Lactalis Group

Lactalis Group is a third-generation, family-owned business founded in France in the 1930's. Today, Lactalis Group has over 85,500 employees and 270 dairies in 52 countries. Our products are sold in 150 countries around the world and we are committed to bringing consumers an increasingly broad range of products in all dairy categories under well-known brands like Président®, Galbani®, Leerdammer®, Parmalat® and many others.

About FareShare Scotland

FareShare Scotland is the leading Scottish food redistribution charity, and part of the FareShare UK network, with four regional centres in Scotland dedicated to fighting hunger and food waste. We save surplus food from going to waste and redistribute it to frontline charities and community groups, which support vulnerable people across

Scotland. By doing this not only help the environment by reducing the carbon and water impacts of wasting good to eat food, but we provide a lifeline to vulnerable people, including homeless hostels, children's breakfast clubs and lunch clubs for older people. We work closely with the Scottish Government, Scotland Food & Drink, Zero Waste Scotland and Food & Drink Federation Scotland.