

Welcome to Foodbytes, Autumn 2025! It has been a busy few months since our last issue of Foodbytes! Read on to find out about our partnership with many local schools and some of the recent events we have been part of, including the Place to be Proud of Awards.

We would also like to thank you for your generous donations and let you know about other ways you can support us.

School Holiday Support

While school holidays are an exciting time for many families, they can present additional challenges for households already managing tight budgets. When schools close, families lose access to free school meals that many children rely on during term time. Parents also face increased childcare costs, adding pressure to household finances.

To help address these challenges, we provide food parcels throughout the holidays to families who need extra support. Working closely with local schools and family support services, we encourage referrals for families who would benefit from this assistance. Our fortnightly food parcels contain enough nutritious food for the family for at least three days, along with essential toiletries and household items.



This support is designed to help ease financial pressure during school breaks. By providing these practical resources, we aim to help bridge the gap between term-time support and holiday periods, making the school holidays a more manageable and enjoyable time.

Stats: May - July 2025

Food Received
14.8 Tons

Food Distributed
16.4 Tons

*Thank
You!*



ASDA Food Drive Success

Customers generously supported our ASDA food drive in June, donating food and essentials to help ensure we have the stock to provide food parcels to those in need in our community. Throughout the day, volunteers were stationed at the front of the store, greeting shoppers and providing shopping lists of our most needed items.

Some of these volunteers were students from Tadley Court School (a local school which provides specialist education for learners with learning difficulties). The students were an enthusiastic help in handing out shopping lists and packing up the donations we received. We were delighted to work with them to both support our food drive, and give students an opportunity to experience community volunteering and their involvement was much appreciated! They even organised a collection with the rest of the school after the food drive!



ASDA customers donated a total of 48 crates of food and essential items, which weighed 447kg! This is approximately 1063 meals for those in need in our local community!



We also extend our heartfelt thanks to Carole, ASDA's Community Champion, who worked tirelessly to make this food drive possible. Her ongoing support and partnership enabled the food drive to take place and the foodbank to receive much need donations.

Thanks again to everyone who took part by volunteering or donating!

Supporting Basingstoke Foodbank

Your donations continue to be essential to enable us to continue supporting locals facing food insecurity. Thank you for your support!



A summer donation from one of our local churches

Currently Most Needed

Tinned Meat (eg chilli, stewing steak)
Desserts (eg jelly, sponge pudding)
Savoury Spreads (eg marmite)
UHT Milk
UHT Fruit Juice
Tinned Fruit
Shopping Bags



Harvest

Harvest is a wonderful time at the Foodbank as we see the generosity of the community through harvest collections and events. Last year schools, churches and other groups raised just under 8500kg of food with their harvest collections providing a much needed boost in our stock levels.

We are pleased with the response of local schools already beginning to arrange assembly visits and collections with our Schools Team. This year, more schools than ever are requesting talks by the team encouraging us to look forward to another great harvest season.

If you are planning on collecting for us again this harvest, we would love to hear about your events and see photos of your collections, email us about it at admin@basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk. We can also send you posters, shopping lists and other resources for your collection.

Tesco Prepacked Bags



Tesco Chineham is continuing to support the Foodbank by offering pre packed donation bags for customers to purchase until the end of August. These bags contain the items we most need and are a simple way for shoppers to donate a little extra.

We want to say a big thank you to Jane and a small team of volunteers who are working behind the scenes to fill new bags each week. We have already seen the impact with a noticeable increase in donations from Tesco shoppers.

Allotments

Do you have any surplus home grown fruit or veg? We love seeing the variety of produce many of you bring in, and that it allows us to offer a wider choice of fresh food to our clients! If you grow any surplus that you would like to share with us, please donate it by bringing it directly to our Houndmills warehouse and, not other collection points, so we can pass it onto clients while it is still at its best.



Celebrating our Community Recognition

We were delighted to make it as finalists for two **A Place to be Proud of Awards** this year!

The A Place to be Proud of Awards, organised by Destination Basingstoke, is an annual event that recognise and celebrate individuals, groups, organisations and initiatives that make our borough a vibrant community and a great place to live.

Community Project Award

Basingstoke Foodbank was recognised as a vital community lifeline, providing essential food supplies and comprehensive support to residents facing hardship. Beyond food distribution, offering compassionate guidance, debt advice, and mental health support through partnerships with local charities, businesses, and schools, fostering long-term resilience and collective well-being.



Charity Champion Award

Our Development Manager, Paula, was recognised for leading Basingstoke Foodbank since 2012, overcoming challenges and developing the Foodbank into what it is today.

These nominations wouldn't have been possible without our incredible team of dedicated volunteers and our supportive local partners. While we didn't take home the awards this time, being recognised as finalists is a tremendous achievement. Well done to all involved and thank you to everyone who continues to support Basingstoke Foodbank. Together, we're making Basingstoke a place to be proud of.

Congratulations to all the worthy winners of this year's A Place to be Proud of Awards.

Disability Awareness Day Event



We joined many other local charities and support agencies in The Malls at the Disability Forum's Disability Awareness Day Event on the 27th June. We chatted to both the shoppers and the agencies on other stalls about all that we could offer to help make ends meet.

Stay Connected with Us!

Follow, like and share us on Facebook to stay updated on our latest news, events, and community efforts - and to help us spread the word and make an even bigger impact!

Sign up to our Foodbytes mailing list by visiting our website at basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk/stay-in-touch/ or by scanning the QR code:

