

Welcome to Foodbytes, Summer 2026! In this issue we're pleased to share Jack's story — one of our clients who found hope by walking through our doors for the first time. Along with various updates on what we have been doing, we also take a moment to celebrate the success of our recent food drives and the amazing generosity of everyone who made them happen.

Celebrating Our Volunteers

Volunteers Week: 1st-7th June

Every week, over 150 dedicated volunteers give their time to help us feed people in crisis across Basingstoke, contributing an incredible 25,742 hours every year. Without them, we simply could not do what we do.

National Volunteers Week, 1st to 7th June, gives us the perfect opportunity to say a huge thank you to every single one of them.

This year we are especially delighted to celebrate Mary and Sue, who have both recently turned 90, becoming the proud founding members of our Nonagenarian Volunteer Team! Mary's gentle compassion and warm smile light up our St Gabriel's Popley Centre, while Sue's dedication and care for our guests at our Sarum Hill Centre has been an inspiration to everyone around her.

They are a wonderful example of the dedication and heart that runs through our entire volunteer community. To each and every one of our volunteers, across every shift, every centre, and every role, thank you. You are the heart of Basingstoke Foodbank.



Finding **Hope** at Basingstoke Foodbank

Every week, people walk through the doors of Basingstoke Foodbank carrying far more than an empty bag. They carry uncertainty, exhaustion, and often a deep reluctance to ask for help at all. Jack's story is one of crisis, hardship, and the quiet but powerful difference that compassionate support can make.

Jack's Story

When Jack's marriage broke down, the stability he had always relied on disappeared almost overnight. A referral to Basingstoke Foodbank followed, but at first he didn't take it up — he hoped he could manage alone. It was only after addiction cost him his job, and then several more, that he eventually made his way through our doors.

Jack had no idea what to expect, but he did know that he needed help.

A Warm Welcome

Arriving at the Foodbank for the first time, Jack was deeply uncomfortable, feeling guilty and embarrassed, he was worried that he was taking food from people who needed it more. However, the welcome he received challenged those fears. The simple act of a kind welcome made a profound difference.

That first warm welcome made it easier for Jack to accept support from the Foodbank, and to begin accepting the wider help on offer.

Rebuilding With Support

Jack found that the ability to access different support services, linked together through the Foodbank, made a real impact as he worked to rebuild his life. Being able to access advice and food support in a coordinated way reduced the stress and uncertainty he had been living with. Having food in the cupboard again brought back a feeling of security he hadn't felt in a long time.



Moving Forward

Today, Jack has a stronger support network. Now connected to three other support organisations, his journey with us at the Foodbank has been part of building the foundation he needs to work towards a more stable future. He is motivated by the desire to be present for his children and to keep moving forward.

Why it Matters

Jack feels strongly that how people are treated matters just as much as the help itself. Dignity and compassion can transform someone's willingness to seek support. Normalising services and reducing stigma would make it easier for others to reach out before they reach crisis point.

"There's hope and help out there. Asking for support isn't failure, it is the first step forward. Be brave and know you're worthy of support." - Jack

Stories like Jack's remind us why the work of every volunteer, donor, and partner organisation matters so much.

(Jack's name has been changed to protect his privacy.)

Food Drives at Waitrose and ASDA

We are pleased to share that this spring's food drives were a great success, thanks to the generosity of local shoppers and the support of some wonderful community partners.



Our first drive of the spring took place on 25th March at Waitrose, where we were joined by staff from Watch Me Think, who gave up their time to help collect donations throughout the day. Their enthusiasm and support made a



real difference and we were thrilled to have them involved.

Customers donated a fantastic 253kg of food and essentials.

We were touched by the generosity of many customers who donated Easter eggs, which arrived at just the right time for us to share them with our clients before Easter. Thank you to everyone who thought to include them!

We would also like to thank Debbie and Diane, Waitrose Basingstoke's Community Matters Leads, whose support made the day possible.

We headed to ASDA on 8th-9th May for a food drive supported by volunteers from our regular food drive team. Over the two days, customers donated an incredible 615.18kg, of items that we need the most. The total is equivalent to approximately 1464 meals for those in need!

We would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Carole, Community Lead at ASDA Basingstoke, who set up a dedicated display table to showcase the items needed and encourage donations. Her ongoing support and partnership is greatly valued.



Thanks again to everyone everyone who donated or volunteered across both drives. Your generosity makes a real difference to people in our community who need it most.

Looking to donate?

These are the items we are currently most in need of, but don't forget to check out our website or the BanktheFood app for regular updates!

Long-life juice
Long-life milk
Tinned fruit
Tinned pasta

Tinned rice pudding
Tinned tomatoes
Tinned vegetables
Desserts

Meet Our Partners

Behind everything we do at Basingstoke Foodbank, there is a wonderful network of local businesses and individuals who give their time, skills, and resources to help us keep running. Our website partners page shines a spotlight on some of the organisations making our work possible.



From keeping our warehouse safe and our van on the road, to printing thousands of leaflets, supporting our Christmas Hamper Project, and actively promoting the foodbank in the local community, our partners contribute in so many different ways.

We are hugely grateful to Ridtek Pest Control, Harlequin, K-Tech Automotive, and Landscaping Basingstoke, and to every individual and business who supports us.

If your organisation shares our belief that everyone should be free from hunger, we would love to hear from you. There are so many ways to get involved, from running a food drive or volunteering for our Christmas hamper project, to sponsoring equipment or offering your services to us or our clients.

You can find out more about our partners or explore working together by visiting basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk/support-us/our-partners.

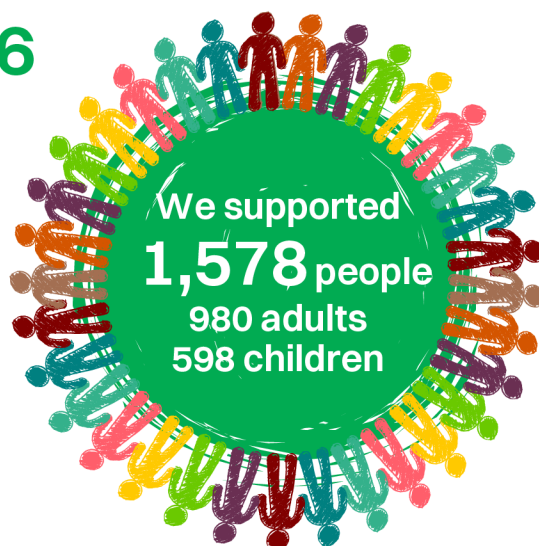


Stats: Feb 2026 - Apr 2026

Food Recived: 15 Tons

Thank You!

Food Distributed: 18.5 Tons



Stay Connected with Basingstoke Foodbank!

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 scanning the QR code:

or visit basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk/contact-us/subscribe-to-our-newsletter

