



Top: Bread is donated by Lidl to the Foodbank 3 times a week.

Issue 9: Spring/Summer 2021

Ringwood Foodbank is only one click or phone call away

Ringwood Foodbank has always been ready to help those in financial difficulty by providing a food parcel. This year because of COVID-19, individuals and families have been put under unprecedented financial strain due to being laid off, redundancy or decrease in income. The pandemic is affecting those who never thought they would have to count their pennies or make choice between food and heat. Ringwood Foodbank, which serves Ringwood, Verwood and Fordingbridge areas is here to help.

One Click... Either scan the QR code opposite with your phone's camera or search 'Ringwood Foodbank' on your computer or device and follow the '**COVID-19 Update Learn More**' link.

One Phone Call... The web page explains how to get a voucher from one of our partner organisations such as Citizens Advice by making just one phone call. We even deliver the food to you. At all times we assure you of confidentiality, compassion and support.



Citizens Advice New Forest 0808 278 7860: Citizens Advice Dorset 0344 245 1291

Donation point in Lidl Ringwood

A Huge Community Response

We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of our communities in and around Ringwood, Verwood and Fordingbridge manifested by the huge number of very generous donations of food and money that we have received. **Thank you all so very much!**

Over the past year there has been huge support for our efforts to help those in need. Although some of our volunteers



had to shield themselves many continued to staff our distribution centres and warehouse often doing more hours than they had previously. Some of those shielding worked remotely on many of the challenges that our new ways of working presented.

Ringwood Foodbank delivers to you.

In early April 2020 in the interest of everyone's safety we moved to a system where all our food parcels are delivered to clients. We are incredibly grateful to the following organisations for carrying out deliveries on our behalf:

British Gas, Ringwood Coronavirus Assistance, Burley Good Neighbours, Bransgore Community Church, Fordingbridge in Need, Alderholt Chapel, Churches Together in Verwood, The Branch: Fordingbridge, Fordingbridge and Ringwood Volunteers.

When it is safe to do so, we intend, to encourage clients once again to collect from our Distribution Centres where we can provide the personal support and signposting that is valued by so many of them.



Need in our Community

In the early months of the pandemic demand for our help soared. In April and May 2020 we saw a 132% increase in the number of people requiring food compared with the same months in 2019. The rate of increase in demand later reduced and over the whole of 2020 we provided 3 meals per day for 3 days for 3186 clients which was a 26% increase over 2019.



Fuel Support

We recognise that poverty not only impacts on the ability to put food on the table but also on the ability to cook that food and eat it in a warm home. Supported by a grant from **New Forest District Council** and working with the **Fuel bank Foundation** we are now able to provide food bank clients, with pre payment meter top up payments, for about 2 weeks' worth of usage, for their gas and electricity supplies.



Ringwood Foodbank at Christmas

In addition to our normal food parcels we were able, at Christmas, to give every client a Christmas hamper. We provided over 2.25 tonnes of Christmas fare to Churches Together in Ringwood and to Schools in Verwood and Ferndown. This was used to provide children at Schools in Ringwood, Fordingbridge, Verwood and Ferndown who were in receipt of free school meals with a Christmas hamper to take home. None of this would have been possible without the exceptional generosity of those communities.



On Christmas day Ringwood food bank volunteers delivered 21 Christmas lunches, generously provided by the **Old Beams Inn at Ibsley**, to people who would have otherwise gone without. Thank you!

500 Club

Our 500 Club enables donors to support the work of the Foodbank and allows us to claim gift aid from the taxman which increases each regular donation by 25%. Gifts of £2 or £5 a month by standing order make a real difference to our financing. If you or your friends would like to join the 500 Club the necessary form can be downloaded from our website; see front of this sheet. Alternatively phone us (01425 600134) and ask us for a form.

Have you seen this button on our website?

→ Donate

Clicking this button on the Homepage is another way to support our work. You'll find it quick and easy. Any donation that you make, large or small, will help us to continue our worthwhile cause.



What type of food can I donate?

We currently have lots of pasta, cereal, biscuits, tea, baked beans and soup.

Check out our website or Facebook for items we are running low on and an up to date shopping list.



Where can I donate food?

We have collection points for donating food at:

- | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Ringwood: | Verwood | Alderholt |
| • Waitrose | • Co-op | • Co-op |
| • Sainsburys | Ferndown | Fordingbridge |
| • Lidl | • Tesco | • Co-op |

We would be grateful for larger donations to come direct to the warehouse. (Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 9:30-12). Please phone ahead.

Fareshare Larder

In January a new initiative led by Fareshare in partnership with Ringwood Foodbank, **New Forest District Council** and **Citizens Advice New Forest**, made its first appearance.

From 8th January every Friday between 1.30 and 3pm there will be a **Fareshare Larder** in the Ringwood Health and Leisure Centre car park.

Anybody in the community will be able to purchase weekly membership for a sum of up to £5 and for that they will receive a parcel of store cupboard and fresh food to a value considerably in excess of the cost of membership. This is an important facility for those in our community who despite not needing the free food supplied by the food bank still find it a challenge to put food on the table.



Another Fareshare larder

All Saints Church Church Road Three Legged Cross BH21 6UJ
EVERY Monday between 9.30 and 11am.

This Fareshare Larder is funded by Dorset County Council and the car park provided by All Saints Church.

Price's Fish and Chips

Throughout the pandemic Price's Fish and Chip shop have generously provided two free family fish and chip meals a week to clients of Ringwood Distribution Centre. Our grateful thanks to them.