

Welcome to our second Bishop's Stortford Food Bank Newsletter.

Inside, you will find:

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DATES FOR THE DIARY

**Thursday 21st November,
Friday 22nd November and
Saturday 23rd November
2019**

TESCO Collection – if you are able to give an hour or two of your time, to help collect donations from the public at TESCO, Bishop's Park, please contact the Food Bank for further details.

Bishop's Stortford Food Bank continues to help people in crisis in our local community ...

Between January and July 2019, the team at the Food Bank have given out almost 240 boxes boxes and they have provided much needed non-perishable goods to well over 400 people.

The winter months were very busy and we were grateful to everyone who helped us maintain our supplies of non-perishable goods when the cupboards started to look a little sparse.

Community News Part I

Over the summer, we were delighted to receive donations from a range of businesses and local community groups. Thank you to everyone for giving both food, toiletries and financial support over the last few months.



The Community Church runners raised just over £300 by running in the 5K St Albans Mud Run. Well done to everyone involved and thank you for your support!



The Interact Group at Bishop's Stortford Boys High School raised £800 for the Food Bank by organising a Christmas Variety Show - thank you to Mr Etheridge and all the pupils involved.

Bishop's Stortford Summer Carnival

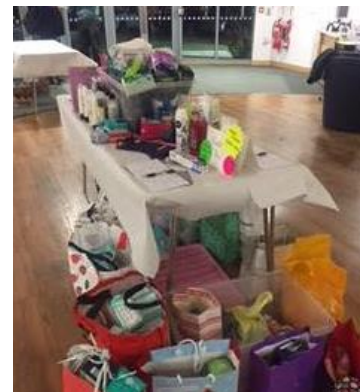
It was great to see so many people at the Bishop's Stortford Carnival in June. Lots of children came to play the Food Bank game and we enjoyed talking to members of the local community about the work we do in our town to help people in crisis.



Community News Part 2

Ladies 'Big Night In' - Thank you to Nicola S and all of the other ladies at Bishop's Stortford Baptist Church for supporting the Food Bank at their recent 'Big Night In'.

They raised invaluable funds for us to purchase reusable water bottles for the homeless, and they donated a fabulous supply of much needed toiletries.



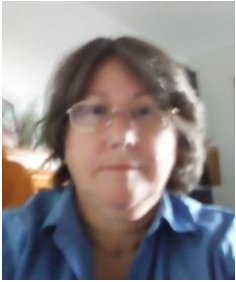
Bishop's Stortford Food Bank Schools' Open Afternoon

One afternoon in June, our team at the Food Bank welcomed 29 pupils from 5 different local primary schools, to our first ever Open Afternoon. Children (and teachers) looked around our facilities and took part in a range of interactive activities including date checking and box sorting!

Our next Open Afternoon is to be held in September and we look forward to welcoming more children from more local schools.

Harvest 2019

OUR COORDINATOR JOCELYN



Contact Jocelyn by phone or by email if you have any enquiries about the Food Bank in Bishop's Stortford

Tel: 07432 785976
Email:
bsfoodbank.coordinator@gmail.com

As we look ahead to Autumn, our thoughts quickly turn to the **Harvest Season**. The donations we receive from local churches, schools and others in the local community are always a true blessing.

To help us co-ordinate the large number of donations that we often receive, please can we ask you to contact Jocelyn by email to let her know when your Harvest collections will be taking place.

We can then try to help you with transporting non-perishable goods and toiletries, and put dates in the diary so that our team at the Food Bank can look forward to welcoming you if you pop in.

Financial gifts are also gratefully received at this Harvest Time – you might consider a 'Can & A Coin' Appeal' or similar.



Financial Giving

We are so very grateful to everyone who helps us raise the £12,000 - £14,000 that we need every year to run the Food Bank in Bishop's Stortford. It's not an easy task!

Please do consider making a 'one-off' financial donation through **Just Giving**. You might like to consider us as your '**Charity Of The Year**', or host a **fundraising event** on our behalf such as a Quiz Night, Sports Challenge or Talent Show.

Thank you to all those of our friends who make a small monthly donation through our **Standing Order** scheme. These donations make a **HUGE** difference to the work we do in the community. If you would like more details about our Standing Order scheme, please contact Jocelyn at the Food Bank.

Facebook

Don't forget you can find lots more 'up to the minute' information about events we run and requests for help on our Facebook page.

Click on the icon to view our page. Please follow us for regular updates on Bishop's Stortford Food Bank.



GETTING TO KNOW THE TRUSTEES

Chairman of Trustees
Bill Macdonald

Vice Chairman of Trustees
Norma Symonds

David Scott
Jim Tatchell (Treasurer)
Alan Sutherland
Christine Haines

Secretary To Trustees
Vacancy

School and Community Volunteer
Jane Towns

VACANCY - The Trustees are looking for a new SECRETARY ...

After three years of serving as the Secretary to the Trustees, Louise has decided the time is right to step down. The Trustees are grateful for all the work she has done to help support the work of Bishop's Stortford Food Bank and we wish her all the very best as she starts her new job.

So, the Trustees are looking for a new Secretary. The position is voluntary, but we serve good cups of tea and there are always plenty of biscuits! ☺

The Trustees meet 4 - 5 times a year, and our Secretary works in partnership with our Chairman to: prepare an agenda; take notes at meetings; present minutes etc. Our Secretary does need to be well organised and he/she needs to be IT literate. Other than that, we just ask for a friendly and willing spirit - and someone who has an interest in the work of the Food Bank in the local community.

We are looking for someone to start in September so if you are interested in joining our team, please contact Bill via email on bill.macdonald@hotmail.co.uk

Finally ... Thank You and Au Revoir to Mione Goldspink

Mione has served as Chairperson of the Food Bank Trustees since the Food Bank opened in 2013.

She has spent hundreds, probably thousands of hours, working behind the scenes to ensure that the Food Bank can successfully help the people in our town that most needs its help.

THANK YOU Mione! Everyone involved with the Food Bank wishes you all the very best for the future. Our new Chairperson will be Bill Macdonald ... a little more about him in our next edition of our newsletter!

We are hosting an 'Afternoon Tea of Thanks' for Mione and her husband George on **September 10th 2019**. If you would like to drop in at the Methodist Church for a cup of tea and a slice of cake, you would be very welcome. Please let Jocelyn know if you would like to come and say thank you to Mione.

