

Community Food Link

Summer Newsletter 2024



CFL is a volunteer led project based in Basingstoke & Deane. We collect fresh food that cannot be sold from our partner supermarkets and sort, repack and deliver it to our distribution partners, charities, schools and playgroups to help the most vulnerable in our society.

Spring and Summer at CFL

What a busy few months we have had! Since the spring we have replaced the smaller van with a newer, larger van. This allows us to make larger collections in 1 trip and gives us the benefit of a more reliable vehicle. We currently make around 120 regular collections a week from 24 supermarkets and food outlets. The stores are aware of our drivers and we are building good relationships with them to help keep the process running smoothly. Most collections happen in the evening which are then taken to K18 where a team of volunteers sort it ready for distribution to up to 7 hubs the next day.



We couldn't keep this level of collecting and sorting going without our amazing volunteers (around 80 people). **Thank you all** for your commitment to this project.

A Day in the Life

David has been volunteering with CFL for 5 years. Here is his perspective on how the project has grown since he joined:

"On a Saturday evening, I used to collect from two supermarkets using my own car, take the food back to the United Reformed Church (navigating around numerous Deliveroo drivers), sort it all myself and pack it into the three or four freezers and fridges. Now, on Saturday evenings, I collect from eight supermarkets in the fantastic "new" van and take it all to K18 where at least two sorters process it all and store it in rooms full of freezers, fridges, and tables. One thing I definitely don't miss is lugging the crates and boxes up and down the stairs at the URC – K18 is such a great resource for us and makes the whole process so much easier and more efficient.

It's been great to see so many new volunteers joining the team too. There were fewer than twenty when I started, and there are several times that number now – it's wonderful to see more and more people "catching the vision".

Some things haven't changed, however. Everyone is still so appreciative of what we do – not just the recipients of our food, but also the staff at the supermarkets and other places we collect from – they are always so glad to donate to us. And although there's inevitably the odd hiccup, CFL continues to be really well organised and fun to be a part of!"

Thank you David for your commitment to CFL and for helping others to catch the vision!

Community Food Redistribution Centre

We updated the team at the annual team BBQ in July about our new title as a 'Community Food Redistribution Centre'. With this title has come a raft of updates that we need to complete. These include nominating and training for shift leaders and other further training. Legislation has also moved on in the past year again requiring some tweaks in our practices.

Thank you for bearing with us as we implement these changes and being flexible to accommodate them.



This was the Magna Hub which ran over the summer holidays in Brighton Hill.

We are looking for someone to help us with fundraising & for 5/6 new drivers.

If you are interested in volunteering or want to know more please contact:
admin@bcfd.org.uk

Scan here
to donate:



CFL Hubs – August 2024

Monday Melrose Community Hall, Popley—11am

Monday Salvation Army, Wessex Close—10.30am

Tuesday Basingstoke Baptist Church, Brighton Hill—10.30am

Wednesday St Peter's Church, South Ham—12.30pm

Thursday Church of the Good Shepherd, Winklebury—12noon

Friday Oakridge Methodist Church—1pm

Saturday United Reformed Church (URC), London St—12noon

Food Pantries—a small charge may apply

Popley Fields Community Association—Wednesday – 1pm to 5pm, Thursday & Fri – 10am to 2pm

Inspiro Community Shop—Tuesday – 10am to 1pm

Westside Community Pantry, RG22 6QB—Tues & Thurs – 10am to 2pm & Wednesday – 10am to 12pm

St Mary's Kingsclere, Swan St, RG20 3RW—Thursday 2.30pm to 4pm

Community Food Link is proud to be registered with FareShare and Neighbourly. Details can be found at:
www.fareshare.org.uk
www.neighbourly.com



The Community Food Link Project is run by a group of volunteers based at Festival Place, Basingstoke and is part of Starfish Enterprise Trust Ltd, Basingstoke.

Community Food Link Basingstoke
www.bcfd.org.uk