



New Forest Basics Bank

Churches Together, Lymington



Newsletter Spring 2011

We at Basics Bank have been amazed and delighted by the generous support we have continued to receive over the last six months. It is this support alone that has enabled us to respond to the many requests for help that we have received.

*Since 1st September 2010 we have supplied **300** parcels to help **645** needy people in our local communities. In February alone 62 parcels were given out. So you can see that we are kept busy at Basics Bank, often being called upon to provide 10 – 12 parcels in a single day.*

It does not go unnoticed that, in spite of rising prices and various other financial pressures, large amounts of food and basic toiletry items are still being given. Extremely generous money donations have also been made; new supporters have joined us; and our loyal volunteers continue to give many hours of selfless service.

But just now our shelves look rather empty and we are doing lots of shopping.

In our last Newsletter, Autumn 2010, we appealed for your help at Harvest Time, so "thank you" for your wonderful response: *24 churches, 12 schools and a nursing home* all donated so generously that our shelves were overflowing for weeks, and cash donations helped us to go shopping when those supplies ran low.

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Christmas Extras:

Many people gave very generously over the Christmas period: biscuits, mince pies and Christmas puddings were plentiful and made a most welcome addition to the parcels that went out in late December and early January.

Our hard-pressed agencies asked us again this year if we could supply some special parcels of Christmas 'goodies', and a small team, headed by Clare and Peter Bassett, worked hard to purchase the items and then pack 188 Christmas parcels for people in particular need. These were widely distributed within our New Forest area. *Two local refuges* were also provided with a full Christmas dinner for all their residents.

Fund-raising:

For the past two years Basics Bank has been fortunate enough to have been given a generous grant of £2000 by the New Forest District Council, together with additional financial support from individual District Councillors. This year, Cllr Pat Wyeth, Chair of NFDC, has made us one of the charities she is supporting. However, with the current financial restraints, we are very unlikely to be so fortunate in the future and we need other sources of support.

We were therefore very pleased to be given an offer of help by the General Manager, Jean-Marc Poumel, of Macdonald Elmers Court Hotel and Resort on the outskirts of Lymington. So on the afternoon of Sunday, 5th December, we held a successful "FILL A SACK FOR SANTA" event in the warm Christmassy atmosphere of the hotel. Santa received a generous supply of food and toiletry items and some cash donations; the children enjoyed 'face-painting' and a bouncy castle; and delicious refreshments, generously provided by our hosts, were enjoyed by all.

On this occasion we were very grateful to have the support of Dr Julian Lewis, our New Forest East MP; Cllr Pat Wyeth and fellow District Councillors; Lymington Town Mayor, Cllr Jan Hawker, and other Town Councillors.

The success of this venture has encouraged us to plan a further fund-raising event at Elmers Court for EASTER MONDAY afternoon, 25th April, from 2.00 – 4.00 pm.



ENJOY AN EASTER "EGGS-TRAVAGANZA"!



Come along with family and friends to enjoy a bit of fun for everyone –
Egg hunt, egg and spoon races, and lots more, we hope!
Take a stroll round the grounds, enjoy light refreshments -
All for the cost of a voluntary donation to Basics Bank funds.

Once again we are indebted to Jean-Marc Poumel and his staff for their generous hosting of this event. *Outdoors if fine But indoors if wet!*

IN THE NEWS!

ON 1ST February 2011, Basics Bank had a visit from "Meridian TV", who spent part of the morning talking with clients and staff and filming the day-to-day work of the food-bank. An item appeared on that evening's news programme. *Did you see it?*

We are always grateful for the helpful publicity we receive from time to time and we offer our thanks to "The New Forest Post" and "The Lymington Times".

Finally! *Thank you once again to all those who continue to support our work in so many different ways. We can't do it without you!*

New Forest Basics Bank...Tel: 01590 610008 Website: www.basicsbank.org.uk

Further financial support has come from:

Hampshire County Council:	£1500
Hordle Walhampton Charitable Trust	£1353
All Saints, Milford on Sea:	£ 968
St Thomas' Lymington Trust Fund	£ 500
Lymington Lions Club	£ 400
Lymington Rotary:	£ 350
Brockenhurst Parish Link	£ 300
Lymington & Pennington Town Council	£ 200

We extend our heartfelt thanks to ALL our generous donors.