



Oakington and Westwick Neighbours Update 15, September 2020

After the holidays.....

Schools have returned and the government has been encouraging people back into their workplaces, but with the rising number of Covid cases nationally, the brakes have been put on and social groups of more than 6 are no longer permitted. OWN is very much aware that the pandemic is by no means over, but at the moment daily demand on our volunteers is very low, and many have now returned to work. This means that more notice is needed if help is required. We are also continuing to manage the Hardship Fund in case of future needs, such as redundancy when the government's furlough scheme ends, or if there is another period of lockdown. To contribute to it, please go to:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/own-hardship-fund>

We're delighted to report that the Hardship Fund has provided valuable, practical help to five households in Oakington. Most of our help has gone to families with young children. Everyone we helped had their income cut as a result of lockdown.

We spent some money topping up the food bank so that the boxes included a balanced range of items, and also bought some baby items such as nappies and baby milk. We made one small grant to enable someone to make contact with agencies who could help them, and have made a referral to a specialist charity which is continuing to provide help.

If there is anyone in the village who is struggling financially, please get in touch:

Ben 07342 945373 or Jo 07714760582 or email oak.west.hardship.fund@outlook.com

Our support is confidential and personal information is not shared beyond the three people in the Hardship Team. We will listen to all requests, and only act with the agreement of the individual concerned.

Over the past 6 months about 294 food parcels have been distributed, so a huge thank you to all who have contributed. Use of the Foodbank is now much less, and the donation box is being removed from the village shop unless the situation worsens. Existing stocks will be distributed, and the Hardship Fund used to purchase food or vouchers tailored to individual situations.

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