



OWN Update 22

February 2021

Dickens wrote a novel called *Hard Times*, and that's a good description for many at the moment. Not only are we coping with a pandemic, and the financial and employment implications of that, but the combination of harsh winter weather and lockdown is tough.

If you are finding it hard to pay your fuel bills or keep warm enough, please consider getting in touch with PECT (<https://www.pect.org.uk/projects/warmhomes/>), an organisation which can help in a range of ways, including funds to pay bills in an emergency, help with changing supplier or tariff, problem solving with energy companies, and help with home improvements such as insulation. Or get in touch with the Hardship Team: Ben 07342 945373 or Jo 07714760582, or email oak.west.hardship.fund@outlook.com

Thank you to the Monday Café for their recent donation of £50 to the Hardship Fund. Among other things (for instance supermarket vouchers instead of foodbank parcels), the fund has been used to purchase 3 Raspberry Pi sets, and 2 iPads have also been sourced to help local children access online learning. The JustGiving page for donations to the Hardship Fund will only continue for the next couple of months (incredibly it's been running for nearly a year), although it will still be possible to make donations directly to the fund after that by contacting OWN as below.

Another successful Mental Health Awareness Training course took place in early February with very positive feedback. Many such activities are now taking place online, and your group or organisation can take advantage of the Community Association's Zoom licence by contacting oakington.westwick.ca@gmail.com.

The White Horse continues to offer take-away food. Contact Ferdan on 07415308172.

Don't forget - OWN volunteers can still fetch prescriptions, do shopping or run errands if you can't get out and about, or offer socially-distanced company if you are feeling isolated.

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