

PRESS RELEASE



LEAFIELD PARISH COUNCIL'S HELPING HAND PROJECT

Early in 2010, Leafield Parish Council were made aware of how important it is to have a plan in place should the village be cut off during severe weather. We received information from West Oxfordshire District Council along with 'Are You Ready' booklets with useful information about dealing with all sorts of emergencies including fire, flooding etc

Leafield Parish Council then began think about how we could support and help the elderly and vulnerable in our community over the winter months. Leafield is particularly hard hit by bad weather and can become isolated very quickly and we felt it is essential to look after those who would benefit from a little '*helping hand*'.

Jane Denton, Clerk to Leafield Parish Council has been co-ordinating a supplies box system for anyone who registered as needing support over the winter. The boxes would consist of donations including :-

- Jumpers and cardigans (both mens and ladies)
- Clean blankets
- Tinned produce i.e. potatoes and soups, fruit
- Dried produce i.e. crackers and biscuits, teabags, milk powder

These boxes would then be distributed if the weather becomes very severe and the village is at risk of/or has been cut off. All supplies are put together and stored by Jane ready for distribution. Donation boxes were placed in the village shop and village hall for people to leave items. Jane also has a list of 4x4 owners in the village who so very kindly volunteered to help with any of the following:

Distribute emergency food, blankets and wood/coal

Collect prescriptions from doctors and chemist

Drive emergency patients to doctors or hospital or help ensure ambulance is able to access village

Leafield Parish Council have also purchased a quantity of grit and snow shovels and distributed these to Leafield Community Shop, Leafield Village Hall and Leafield Primary School. Clerk Jane Denton also has a supply stored at her home to ensure the village does not run out. Jane has also been busy distributing more grit bags as needed and ensuring some elderly residents pathways have remained clear and well gritted.

Obviously the level of help we can provide to the community is not enough to ensure residents can get in and out of the village if the main access roads are too dangerous but we can help to ensure that the community itself is safe and well during the bad times.