

Volunteers ready to get packing for Parcel Fund

Cubs from all over the area will lend a helping hand for annual NWN appeal

By JO FULKER

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"WE really enjoyed meeting the Over 80's because they were so excited at receiving their food parcels and it was fantastic to see their happy smiling faces."

That is a quote from a pupil delivering the food parcels last year.

Fundraising is now almost completed, food has been ordered and we are in the process of working with Tesco Superstore on Pinchington Lane to ensure the distribution of the *Newbury Weekly News* Over 80s food parcels runs smoothly.

Mo Osborne, is now kindly rounding up all the Cubs – or Christmas elves, as we like to call them – from Newbury and surrounding villages, who are getting ready for Sunday,



Cubs packing parcels for the Over 80s' Parcel Fund last year

December 7, to come along to Tesco Superstore and start packing the food we've bought.

The Young Farmers have also kindly offered to come on board again to help, plus of course many very kind volunteers and also staff from Tesco who are offering to help.

Tesco Superstore has also

kindly offered to replenish the helpers with refreshments after they have done their stint packing the parcels.

Our thanks go to Sophie, the community officer from Tesco Superstore, who has come on board this year and co-ordinated ordering the vast quantities of food, the packing of the parcels and will be managing the distribution, which this year is happening on December 12 and 13.

So, if you have added your

name to the list make sure you keep your eyes open for all those volunteers who kindly give up their time to help deliver the 1,650 food parcels.

The Over 80s' Parcel Fund parcels are not means tested in any way they are purely a way of the community saying a big thank you, through the *Newbury Weekly News*, supported by Greenham Trust, to our elderly residents for all they have done during their lifetime and for so many of these people it is the knock on the door that will mean so much to them.

This week I would like to give special thanks to the Town and Manor of Hungerford, Newbury Town Council, Thatcham Town Council, Cold Ash Parish Council and many anonymous donations, plus Greenham Trust for match funding.

If you are still able to donate through The Good Exchange, go to: <https://app.thegoodexchange.com/project/21007>.

Keep abreast of the latest news in the *Newbury Weekly News* each week until Christmas.

Anger at break change

■ Continued from front page

"Disproportionate impact on remote stations: Staff at stations located further from hospitals are already more likely to experience late finishes.

"This issue may be worsened if crews are required to take breaks away from base, as this could increase the likelihood of being deployed further from their home station."

No appropriate food storage aboard ambulances, reliance on fast food, loss of team 'cohesion' and reduced quality of rest are also cited as potential issues should bosses press ahead.

More than 260 people have so far added their name to the campaign, with one describing the plan as 'catastrophic' and another hitting out at crews being 'miles from base'.

They wrote: "This isn't being put into place as a welfare issue for crews, this is a money-saving scheme that will see more crews finishing late every shift as they're out of area or miles from base."

Someone else posted: "No care over staff welfare or even a consultation for the staff it affects."

"This is mainly is a negative impact on already over-worked frontline staff that only have a 30-minute meal break."

In a statement, South Central Ambulance Service said the change will not apply to every crew on every shift.



Newbury Ambulance Station

It said: "The proposals are designed to benefit both staff and patients, and we will continue to work with staff and union representatives as we pilot the approach."

"For staff, the change is designed so they are more likely to get their meal break within the allocated window, which is important for their own wellbeing and their ability to provide the best care over the course of a shift."

"The change also supports patient care improvements including faster response times by keeping crews closer to areas of demand and maintaining better coverage across the region, especially during peak periods."

"This will not affect every crew on every shift; but will help us respond more effectively to patient demand."

"The current process means that crews travelling back to their starting point for a meal break are not available to respond to category 2 emergency calls, which reduces capacity and leads to delays in responding to patients."

What's on

FRIDAY

and Saturday, Sunday Kingsclere Players panto *Snow White*. The Fieldgate Centre, Kingsclere, also next Friday, Saturday, Sunday. Directed by Keith Bennett and assistant director Mikey Cloete. Evening and matinee performances. Tickets are available from The Fieldgate Centre or www.kingsclereplayersgroup.com

SATURDAY

Woolton Hill & Highclere Christmas Market At Thorngrove School, Highclere. More than 60 stalls – meat, fish, Christmas gifts and ideas. Father Christmas will be there – free gifts for children, tea room run by Eight Bells for Mental Health, 10am to 1pm.

Christmas Bazaar at St Mary's Church Speen RG14 1SA, noon-3pm, with tombola, Christmas bulbs and wreaths, plants, nearly new, books, bric-a-brac, produce, grand raffle, hot food, tea, coffee and homemade cakes, free admission, ample car parking. Easy access to the bazaar via Pound Lane, Speen.

Aldworth Saturday Market Xmas Bazaar from 10.30am to noon in Aldworth Village Hall (Bell Lane, Aldworth RG8 9SE). Attractions include free mulled wine and Walters Turkey tasting for customers, charity Christmas cards and



St Mary's Church, Speen, Christmas Bazaar

gifts from RNLI, locally grown Christmas flowers and plants, homemade jams and chutneys plus handmade cards and candles. Father Christmas will be visiting the bazaar from 11am onwards. As always, fruit and vegetables, groceries, and tuckshop plus teabar refreshments will be available.

Kintbury Church Christmas Fair, 10am-12.30pm. Visit from Santa plus lots of stalls. Plus refreshments with jams, chutney and cakes for sale. Lovely handmade and decorated wreaths available or to order. Come and join in the fun.

Soup Kitchen fundraiser in Kennet Shopping centre, 2pm-4pm, teaching people CPR and recovery position in return for a small donation to support Newbury Soup Kitchen Christmas appeal.

SUNDAY

Shaw-cum-Donnington Village Hall Table-Top Sale including Christmas gifts and toys and WI cakes, plus refreshments, 10am-noon.

Fundraising for a new hall extension.

Newbury and Thatcham Repair Café at Newbury Methodist Church Hall, RG14 1AN, 2pm to 4.30pm. Last repair check-in at 4pm. Take your items, whether household, textile, toys or garden items for free repairs, save money and reduce waste. Coffee and tea available. Last Newbury and Thatcham Repair Café before Christmas! More details at <https://tinyurl.com/NTRepairCafe>. Unsure if they can repair your item? Email NewburyThatchamRepairCafe@gmail.com

TUESDAY

Kintbury Wildlife Group meeting at the Coronation Hall, Inkpen Road, Kintbury. Leading naturalist and author Peter Marren presents 'Britain's Rare Flowers' in which he will speak about the new edition of his book on this subject. Meeting starts at 7.30pm. All welcome, visitors £3 entry. For information contact (01488) 658435

■ If you are organising a charity or community event and would like to be included in these free listings, please email details – type of event, time, venue, date and contact – to report@newburynews.co.uk



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