

News from the Hub

ISSUE ONE

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Update from the South Locality Response Hub for the Leys – Produced in association with Leys News



Agnes Smith Advice Centre leaflets have been distributed to every house within Blackbird Leys

Thank you!

The South Locality Response Hub has delivered leaflets through all the doors of homes in Blackbird Leys to share the support available to its residents. This would not have been possible without the help of volunteers, City and Parish Councillors.

The Hub has also been incredibly proud to be working with **Agnes Smith Advice Centre** and moved by the amazing support they are offering residents. Agnes Smith specialises in helping people who have issues with money and debt, welfare benefits or housing and their leaflets have also been distributed to every house within Blackbird Leys. If you would like support from Agnes Smith please contact them on **01865 770206 / 07702 919182**

How can we help? Delivery of food boxes

In response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, Oxford City Council and Oxford Hub set up a city-wide series of Local Response Hubs to make sure the needs of local people are met, particularly the most vulnerable residents.

Since March 27, **Blackbird Leys Community Centre has been the South Locality Response Hub**, offering support to people who have received a letter from the NHS identifying them as high risk, anyone who needs food bank support, people without local support from friends or family, those with physical and mental health needs and vulnerable people and their families.

Residents who need support are urged to call our central number 01865 249811,

between the hours of 9am–5pm to discuss any of the following areas of support:

- Urgent supplies of medicine, food, sanitation or products for a baby or infant
- Picking up shopping
- Feeling lonely
- Connection to a support group
- Reminder call to take medicine

The charity SOFEA has been supplying all of our food boxes which have been personalised for the recipient, and distributed to addresses in The Leys from Rose Hill Community Centre. These boxes contain store cupboard essentials, dried and tinned food, plus a bag of vegetables or fruit. The boxes are delivered by Oxford City Council employees directly to your door; the driver knocks, leave the items at your door and steps 2 metres back until they are confident that you are home and have taken safe delivery of your food.

Government food parcels are still being distributed to those who have received a shielding letter from the NHS. If you have received a letter and would like to receive a free food parcel, or alternatively, you are currently receiving one and no longer need it, you can request or cancel the box online by registering at www.gov.uk/coronavirus-extremely-vulnerable or by calling **0800 028 8327**. Once registration is complete you will also receive priority shopping slots with your chosen supermarket.

Welfare checks

As well as collecting and distributing food, collecting prescriptions and liaising with volunteers, staff and local volunteers at the Hubs have been going out and visiting any residents who may be shielding, vulnerable or elderly and could not be reached via alternative methods to carry out welfare checks. As with the food deliveries, these welfare checks adhere to social distancing guidelines but offer an opportunity to check, in person, whether shielding residents need additional support.

Amy Smith (*photo overleaf*), one of the South Hub super stars, usually works for Oxford Direct Services as a Parks and Open Spaces Support Officer based in Cutteslowe. During the COVID-19 pandemic she has been redeployed from her 'normal' role to support the team at the South Hub based at Blackbird Leys Community Centre. Amy has been the lead on distribution of leaflets as well as taking care of all the many prescription collections and



South Hub super star Amy Smith

deliveries. Amy, born and bred in Blackbird Leys, has loved the temporary change in job role. She really enjoys helping her local community.

Who are we working with?

Your Hub is lucky enough to be working in partnership with Oxford Together, who have organised a city-wide network of volunteers to support our hubs and the needs of our communities by picking up shopping, prescriptions or providing a regular telephone call.

If you think you might like to volunteer to help you can sign up at oxfordtogether.org

Ewa Gluza, Chairperson of Oxford Polish Association and Councillor of Blackbird Leys Parish Council, signed up to Oxford Together as a volunteer and has been helping four elderly residents in Blackbird Leys.

Ewa said "As soon as the pandemic started I wanted to help as much as I could. I saw Oxford Together were needing volunteers through a post on Facebook and thought it looked a great scheme to get involved with that I could trust and liked that it was linked to Oxford City Council. I applied online and the process was very easy. You can volunteer for as much time as you can manage and there is no expectation to do more than you can take on. I was given telephone

numbers for my matches and we made arrangements to have their shopping lists sent over on a Monday and I go out on my day off on a Tuesday to do the shop. I have built up a really nice relationship with all four people, I will call them if they don't have the specific item they have asked for and ask if alternatives are acceptable. I understand that people have brands or types of foods they prefer, one elderly lady is quite particular about her red wine!"

Information on the Oxford Polish Association and how they are also helping those most in need can be found on their website www.opaoxford.org

News from our partners

BLAP is closed right now but doing some interesting things online for young people including online cooking tutorials and challenges. The team is also encouraging young people to get involved by sending in videos and art work for their website. <http://blap.org.uk/>

Leys CDI in partnership with the **Wolvercote Young People's Club** are currently running daily

workshops for young people, aged 13 to 19. Young people who formally join the project will receive one to one mentoring from a dedicated youth worker. Leys CDI also run an amazing older peoples service called the Clockhouse Project. Contact them on **01865 395908** for more information.

Other key contacts

National 24 hour Domestic Violence Helpline:
0808 200 0247

Oxfordshire 24 hour Mental Health Helpline:
01865 904997

AGE UK support and advice line:
01865 411 288



Ewa Gluza, Parish Councillor and Chairperson of Oxford Polish Association

Wolvercote YOUNG PEOPLE'S CLUB

CREATIVELY CLEVER ONLINE WORKSHOPS!

TUESDAYS
COMIC CHARACTER WORKSHOPS
4PM ON FACEBOOK / INSTAGRAM

TUESDAYS
ZOOM YOUNG WOMEN'S LIVE FORUM
6PM . FOR AGES 13-19

WEDNESDAYS
INTRO TO PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS
4PM ON FACEBOOK / INSTAGRAM

THURSDAYS
T SHIRT DESIGN WORKSHOP
4PM ON FACEBOOK / INSTAGRAM

FRIDAYS
LET'S COOK WITH SIENNA AND MAYA
4PM ON FACEBOOK / INSTAGRAM

FRIDAYS
WEEKLY ZOOM LIVE MUSIC WORKSHOP
WITH LOGIC . 6PM . FOR AGES 13-19

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT THE YOUTH TEAM 07572 440 459
TO SIGN UP - WWW.TWMC.KNACK.COM/WYPC#NEW-CONTACT-FORM

CREATIVELY_CLEVER
LEYS CDI / WOLVERCOTEYPC

Partners: