



"Making a real difference in our community"

Wantage & Grove Energy Support Fund

With the cost of living crisis causing energy bills to double and food prices to spiral out of control the TRCCT are extremely concerned about local residents not having enough funds to buy food and falling into debt, destitution, hardship and possibly homelessness causing physical and mental well-being issues.

We know families will be suffering, children will go to school hungry, parents will go without food so children can eat something and residents over 65s will go without eating and heating as they are so worried they will get into debt.

We can not and will not let this happen!

We have teamed up with Vale Community Impact and together we are launching an appeal for funds for the **Wantage & Grove Energy Support Fund**.

Our aim is to supply **up to £200 of energy vouchers** to local households most in need in our community. VCI will handle all the applications and help applicants fill out the forms. There will be a strict criteria to make sure only those that need help the most receive it. The Ray Collins Charitable Trust **has set aside £20,000** a huge amount for us, and this has sadly wiped out our Xmas hamper fund plus other activities we had planned. However we feel we can't wait and must act now after the latest fuel cap rise will heap more misery on hundreds of households in our community forcing people into fuel poverty.

Our donation will kickstart the appeal so we can help people straight away but we fear these funds won't last long.

The fund is only available to residents in Wantage & Grove and the surrounding villages within five miles. These funds will help ease the financial burden on local families on benefits and over 65s & vulnerable adults living in isolation, releasing funds to purchase food and stay warm this winter. Please help if you can.

To Donate please visit our website www.raycollinstrust.org

We are also hoping to set up a warm area for people to gather in the warm, have hot drinks and hopefully hot food plus friendly company.

**If we join together, if we work together, if we give together,
we will get through this together!**

OVER 65s ARE YOU MISSING OUT ON PENSION CREDIT ?

Alongside this fund we are also promoting an awareness campaign to promote Pension Credit for residents of state pension age, **many are entitled to Pension Credit but don't realise this**. Please help us raise awareness so these residents realise they may be entitled to this support. It could make a huge difference to them, especially with winter approaching and their finances will dictate **whether heating or eating is more important**. All they need to do is contact VCI and their very helpful volunteer and staff team will provide help and advice for claiming the pension credit.

We are asking our community to **donate to our appeal if you can** so we can support as many households as possible. Our aim is to and keep our community warm, healthy and well over the coming months. All you need to do is get in touch, everyone will be dealt with in complete confidence.

To Donate please visit our website www.raycollinstrust.org
or for more information contact info@raycollinstrust.org.

You can also contact the VCI for help, application forms and information at help@vci.org.uk or call 01235 765348

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Save money in your home and keep warm!

In the kitchen

- only boil the amount of water you need for hot drinks, use a slow cooker, batch cook and freeze
- use the right sized pan when you are cooking, and keep the lid on turn your electric oven off 10 minutes before the end of cooking time. It will keep the same temperature
- fridges and freezers work best when they are full , defrost your freezer regularly. Cook with a microwave, air fryer or George Foreman grill, faster and saves money

Washing and laundry

- wash up in a washing-up bowl rather than under running water
- wait until you have a full load before running the washing machine
- run your washing machine at a lower temperature
- use a high speed spin so clothes comes out of the washing machine almost dry
- dry your washing outdoors when you can; let the sun and wind do the work to save energy and money..

Simple measures to reduce heat loss

- draw your curtains and close your blinds in the evenings to minimise heat loss through windows
 - if you struggle to heat all of your home, make sure the room you use the most is warm throughout the day and heat your bedroom before you go to bed
 - keep radiators clear – use oil filled radiators (cheap to run) to heat the room you are in
 - put thermal reflectors behind your radiators and add a shelf above them to push heat into the room
- If you're sitting down, wrap up with a throw or blanket. Use a hot water bottle or an electric blanket to warm the bed.

