



CASE STUDY 2

CHRISTMAS PARCELS FOR KEGWORTH GENTLEFOLK



Not everyone has family and friends who look out for them at Christmas - it can be a lonely and emotional place if you are living alone and particularly during the Covid Pandemic Lock down. Our solution was to seek out villagers aged 75 and over and share with them a small festive parcel, personally delivered around Christmas.

Kegworth is a village of over 4000 people living in 1900 homes. We have a large % who study at the nearby University and our older population is unrecorded! Gathering the names was our first challenge and we started with a list of 144 names recorded from an Afternoon Tea provided during the summer of 2021. Word was discreetly sent out to local VCSE groups to help. It worked and we built a 'register'. Keeping up with this is always a challenge with names popping on and popping 'off'. Many volunteers were encouraged to make homemade mince pies, Christmas cakes and we also had small gifts donated to fill the bags. 240 Terry's Chocolate Oranges - a must for every Christmas - 240 Clementines, a Kegworth Calendar, 'keeping warm leaflets', cuppa soups, crackers and cheeses, chocolates were just a few of the items that made their way into the bags through generous donations. A team of 20 volunteers made up the bags, a further 30 went out to deliver them and ensure everyone was greeted with a smile, a word and some festive cheer.

For 2023 we have been able to develop this event by hosting a Christmas Tea party. It will be held in the local village Hall with transport for all in need from the local volunteer centre. There will be light entertainment from the nearby Sutton Bonington Campus, a Christmas Singalong and a game of bingo- helping keep all the cognitive senses alive and create a fantastic afternoon to remember

Sponsorship for this has been overwhelming, with thanks to East Midlands Airport Community Fund, LCC SHIRE grant, Dr Gerrard's Benevolent Fund and Kegworth Co op. There are also many volunteers who will give up time and energy to make this a new Kegworth tradition.

The Christmas Parcel is so lovely and the Santa that brings it makes me smile. JB