

## Winter Fuel Allowance Do you really need it?



Surviving harsh winters, like the record breaking cold in 2010, is incredibly challenging for the 6 million+ people living in fuel poverty in the UK. *In Oxfordshire there were more than 170 excess winter deaths related to the cold weather conditions, and for every winter-related death there were also dozens of people suffering illness and hardship.*

If you qualify for a state pension you receive an extra annual payment automatically, regardless of your income, to help with the added heating costs incurred over the cold winter months. Some people don't need this extra help, but there are others, whose income is below the poverty line, who can't afford to heat their homes adequately, even with this bonus.

Are you among those fortunate people who don't need this allowance?

Would you like to donate it to someone who does?

**Abingdon and District CAB Friends** is running a pilot project whereby you can donate your allowance to them and it will be passed on by the Citizens Advice Bureau at Abingdon to someone locally who really does need it.

- ◆ How do I donate?
- ◆ How can I be sure the money will go to the people who really need it?
- ◆ What is a Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)?

**Find the answers overleaf**

## How is this scheme being administered?

**Citizens Advice Bureau at Abingdon** (AbCAB) will collect the money on behalf of the Friends, and their advisers will see that the money is paid out where it is really needed.

## What is the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)?

**Citizens Advice** is one of the UK's largest voluntary organisations. It helps people to resolve their legal, money and other problems by providing free, confidential, and impartial information and advice. The national association sets standards and supports local bureaux with information, training and other services. All CAB advisers are fully trained.

Citizens Advice is also a respected source of influence on local and national social policy.

## Abingdon and District CAB Friends

is a local charity set up to raise funds to support the Abingdon Bureau.

## How can I be sure it will go to someone genuinely in need?

CAB trained advisers will conduct the interviews and make the decisions. Potential recipients will be people who have been referred by agencies such as Social Services and Age UK, or they will be people who are already being helped by AbCAB's debt advisers.

## What are the causes of fuel poverty?

There are many inter-related factors which will influence how each individual is affected by the cold weather. These include income, housing type and quality, cost of fuel, isolation, and underlying health conditions.

## Where do I send my donation?

Please make cheques payable to: **Abingdon CAB Friends** and send to:  
**Abingdon CAB Friends, C/O CAB, New Abbey House, Abbey Close, Abingdon, OX14 3JD**

Or if you want to pay by bank transfer please email:  
**treasurer.abingdoncabfriends@gmail.com** for bank details