



Griff Rhys Jones adds his voice to Suffolk's Surviving Winter campaign, announcing huge £15k boost for the campaign

Suffolk's Surviving Winter campaign this year has touched the lives of many generous people in Suffolk, including comedian, broadcaster and all round 'good guy', Griff Rhys Jones.

Griff Rhys Jones, who has lived in Suffolk for most of his life and has a deep love for our county, was inspired to step up and support the campaign for its important support of local needs at this time of year.

"The way we care for older and more vulnerable members of our community says a lot about who we are here in Suffolk," he said of the Surviving Winter campaign.

"Raising £10,000 in the first two weeks was an amazing total, but I am pleased to announce that a generous private donor has now offered a £15,000 match fund, meaning that for the next £15,000 donated, this will be doubled!

"This year the campaign hopes to raise £100,000 so please, if you don't need your winter fuel payment, donate it! Please support 'Surviving Winter' if you can."

The Surviving Winter campaign, organised by Suffolk Community Foundation, is now in its fifth year. The Foundation's development director Tim Holder says; 'The people of Suffolk have been consistently brilliant at supporting this important campaign, thank you so much to all that have donated so far and to Griff Rhys Jones for lending his support to the campaign.

"We never want to have to say no to helping an older and vulnerable person in need and that's why we are hoping to beat last year's record amount raised.

"It's a really simple idea that will make a huge difference to the lives of older people in our community who are vulnerable and most in need. Please support us to raise our £100,000 target this winter."

Winter Fuel Payments are received by people over the age of 62 in November and December each year, with payments ranges from £100 to £300.

TV presenter, journalist, author and expert on well-being of the older population Christine Webber, with broadcaster and sports journalist Stuart Jarrold, helped to launch the campaign on 2 November, with support from the East Anglian Daily Times, Ipswich Building Society and the East of England Co-op.

Suffolk Community Foundation is asking you to pledge your **Winter Fuel Payment** to help those desperately in need of extra support during the winter. You can do this online at www.suffolkcf.org.uk or by calling 01473 602602. You can also visit your local branch of Ipswich Building Society.

The money raised is distributed in partnership with Age UK Suffolk and last year went a long way in helping vulnerable older people in Suffolk keep warm throughout the winter. To find out more about receiving financial support contact Age UK Suffolk on 01473 359911 and a member of the team will be happy to offer advice.

As has always been the case with the annual Surviving Winter campaign, every single penny given is used to deliver payments to vulnerable older people who need additional financial help to heat their homes adequately this winter 2015/16. The campaign will run until March 2016.