

## Volunteers help the Flood Appeal

Thirty volunteers and trustees are answering telephones, helping with the office administration, assessing grant applications and writing cheques. Others like Rob Cairns, Community Foundation Trustee, have been to visit flood victims around the county to hand deliver grant cheques.

"When so many people are experiencing real personal difficulties it is the least we can do." said Clare Edwards, volunteer.

Christine Hughes, Community Foundation trustee, has been out in Keswick visiting people who have been affected, giving out grant application forms and cheques. She said "It's been a very humbling experience to see volunteers from all different organisations pulling together to help people that need it."

"In the fortnight since the floods in Cumbria I have been overwhelmed by the public response to the Cumbria Flood Recovery Fund, which we launched on the morning of Friday 20 November. It has been an incredible achievement to reach £1m within ten days and we now move towards a bigger figure.

"I give special thanks to the staff of the Community Foundation, led by our Acting Director Deb Muscat, for their sterling efforts so far and for the many inputs across the county from our trustees and volunteers.

"I know from the cheques I have presented to victims of the floods that the Recovery Fund is making a real difference and will continue to do so in the months ahead. The more we receive in donations, the more help we can give!"

Deb Muscat, acting director, explained "Our trustees and volunteers help to keep costs down. In our foot and mouth appeal and Carlisle flood appeals, costs were restricted to approximately 6%. However, we have donors that are happy for their contribution to be used to run the appeal. Therefore, all donations from the public will be used for grants to individuals and groups."

The Cumbria Flood Recovery Fund has now given out over £33,000 through 70 grants to flood victims across Cumbria.