

CLAYDON & BARHAM GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME

CHAIR'S REPORT

Welcome to the second AGM of the Claydon and Barham Good Neighbour Scheme (hereon to be referred to as GNS).

A Good Neighbour Scheme is a voluntary initiative run by a group of local residents who want to help people in their locality to enjoy a better quality of life by offering them support with everyday tasks. This helps to build a stronger and more resilient community where people know each other and help out where needed. They are part of a larger network of schemes supported by Community Action Suffolk.

This report details the work of the volunteers associated with the GNS from April 2021 to March 2022.

This year has been our first full year operating under the 'Good Neighbour' umbrella. As we were originally set up, evolving from the 'Coronavirus support group', part of our challenge, was to inform people that we were here to stay, and not just for Covid. Regular articles in the 'In Touch' magazine and sending out a postcard along with word of mouth, helped some of those in our community to reach out to us this year for help, when they may have had nowhere else to go.

We were pleased to welcome onto the committee in 2021 seconded to the positions of secretary, Paula Gardiner, as Vice Chair, Gail Cornish and a new fellow member, Tracy Westley. I would like to thank Laura Payne for the part she played as vice chair in 2021.

We have been very grateful for the support, by way of funding received from our two local parish councils. It has allowed us to continue helping others in the community, as for example we have been able to continue with our insurance and carry out any necessary DBS checks. As we move forward, we hope to have the continued moderate financial support from the two Parish councils, which aids us in utilising the ongoing community spirit. All funds will be detailed within our Treasurer's report.

It goes without saying that the scheme would not run without our volunteers. I am happy to report this year, we now have 15 registered volunteers. The volunteers carried out 45 practical tasks within our community, some of which were temporarily unable to carry out things that they were able to do before being in hospital.

Our volunteers make it possible for us to operate the Good Neighbour telephone line 365 days a year between 9am and 5pm, offering help up to 9pm.

This year we gave everyone we have helped so far, a 'check-in' phone call when the weather started to get much colder. This was also an opportunity to remind people that we were still here to help. We also rang those that were more vulnerable when we had a power cut. Keeping them informed about when this would finish and kept them up to date. They expressed their thanks to the scheme's volunteers for being there when they needed them, and continue to bear in mind the offer of help should they need help again.

It was lovely to get involved with the first local litter pick and see it grow into a regular monthly 'litter pick' initiative. This was started by Laura Payne (previously mentioned in this report). Laura and her father have, in all weathers led those who came along, making sure everyone had their equipment. The 'pickers', hi-vis jackets, bin liners and holders were obtained for free from the district council. Kindly, a local resident put our name on the back

of them, and more recently we have had a donation of some more jackets by another local resident. It was great to see around 25 people join in on the 'Great British Spring Clean'. We joined with 'Barham Womblers' and put on a litter pick across the two villages as part of the 'Keep Britain Tidy' campaign. We had people of all ages and enjoyed tea and cake together too.

The GNS will continue to offer help in the local community and we look forward to looking at other initiatives in 2022, so that we can adapt to the needs of the local people in Claydon and Barham.

Kerry Overton

Chair. Claydon and Barham Good Neighbour Scheme.

'We may not live next to each other, but you are all my neighbours.'