

WICKHAM MARKET GOOD NEIGHBOURS SCHEME

REPORT FOR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 12 APRIL 2024

The Wickham Market Good Neighbour Scheme supports Wickham Market Parish residents by providing a service to give lifts or do small tasks to enable those in need to cope. We also provide a befriending service for three individuals within the village.

If people need assistance they ring the Wickham Market Good Neighbours phone (07914 494108) and the phone holder then coordinates with the volunteers to get the task done. Currently we have a total of 35 volunteers, which includes 8 phone holders and 27 drivers. We do need more volunteers, particularly drivers, so if you can support us do let us know.

In the past year we have completed a total of 977 tasks which consisted of 277 lifts to medical appointments in the medical centre or local hospitals. We delivered 34 prescriptions and completed 116 tasks of getting people to social activities or care homes. We also have made 25 trips taking people to the hairdressers. There are 3 residents in the village to whom we provide a befriending service; without this service they would find it very difficult to remain in their homes. Some 470 tasks assisted those whom we befriend.

This year we organised a summer garden party for those we assist and also held two self-funding events: one for the volunteers and one committee social. Some of our drivers attended a manual handling training course and individual volunteers update their safeguarding training via zoom as necessary.

Our income consists of donations, grants and bequests. Our expenditure is on the phone contract, insurance, DBS checks, training and the events that we run. We are finding that the cost of mandatory training for our volunteers is increasing. The grant from the Parish Council goes towards paying for the cost of the phone and our insurance, without these we could not function. So, we really appreciate the grant from the Parish Council.

Dick Jenkinson
Chairman
Wickham Market Good Neighbours Scheme