

WICKHAM MARKET GOOD NEIGHBOURS SCHEME

REPORT FOR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 11 APRIL 2025

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 34 volunteers, which includes 7 phone holders and 27 drivers. We do need more volunteers, particularly drivers and befrienders, so if you can support us do let us know.

In the past year we have completed a total of 1,417 tasks which consisted of 288 lifts to medical appointments in the medical centre, local hospitals, dentists, or opticians. We delivered 20 prescriptions and completed 80 tasks of getting people to social activities or care homes. We also have made 18 trips taking people to the hairdressers and there were 22 other miscellaneous tasks completed. There are 3 residents in the village to whom we provide a befriending service, without which they would find it very difficult to remain in their homes. Some 989 tasks assisted those whom we befriend. Unfortunately we are currently unable to extend this service to others who may benefit from befriending as we lack sufficient volunteers.

This year we organised our annual Befriending Tea Party in September in the village hall. The specially invited guests were elderly members of the Wickham Market community who live on their own, together with their befrienders.

We also held two self-funding events: one for the volunteers and one committee social. Many of our volunteers attended a safeguarding training course held in the village hall committee room. We also had a stall at each of the markets organised by the Parish Council.

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 of £150 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.