

## **WICKHAM MARKET GOOD NEIGHBOURS SCHEME**

### **REPORT FOR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 10 APRIL 2026**

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.

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 36 volunteers, which includes 6 phone holders and 29 drivers. We do need more volunteers, particularly drivers and phone holders, so if you can support us do let us know.

In the past year we have completed a total of 502 tasks which consisted of 299 lifts to medical appointments in the medical centre, local hospitals, dentists, physio and opticians. We delivered 28 prescriptions and completed 121 tasks of getting people to social activities or care homes. We also have made 23 trips taking people to the hairdressers and there were 31 other miscellaneous tasks completed.

We began holding monthly coffee mornings, starting in September, on the first Tuesday from 10am to 12 noon in the activity room upstairs at The George. Everyone is welcome to join us for a chat and refreshments.

This year we organised our annual Befriending Tea Party in December 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. Afternoon tea was provided by a local caterer and the entertainment by a local singing group.

We also held two self-funding events: one for the volunteers and one committee social. We also had a stall at the spring, summer and Christmas markets organised by the Parish Council on the Hill.

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.