

WICKHAM MARKET GOOD NEIGHBOURS SCHEME

REPORT FOR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 14 APRIL 2023

The Wickham Market Good Neighbour Scheme has had a successful year despite a drop in the numbers of people volunteering. The scheme is there to support 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 8 phone holders and some 33 volunteers of which 20 are drivers. We do need more volunteers particularly drivers so if you can support us do let us know.

Last year we completed a total of 918 tasks which consisted of 284 lifts to medical appointments in the medical centre or local hospitals. We delivered 45 prescriptions and completed 34 tasks of getting people to social activities or care homes. We also have done 28 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 480 tasks assisted those whom we befriend.

This year we have organised several events. We ran a volunteering event in the village hall in conjunction with the Wellbeing Tree Café with limited success. This event was for all organisations within the village who are looking for volunteers. We have run two tea parties for those we assist, each event was attended by about 30 people and we were only able to do this as we had a grant of £900 from East Suffolk Council. We have also organised two self-funding events one for the volunteers and one committee social.

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 County 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.

Thank you very much for listening.

Dick Jenkinson
Chairman
Wickham Market Good Neighbours Scheme