

Helping Hands Newsletter Spring 2015

Edited by Stephen Hardy

Welcome to our new volunteers



Since our last Newsletter in the Autumn, we are pleased to welcome to our growing number of

volunteers:

- Sheila and Brian Brazier
- Charlotte and Peter Davies
- Anthony Ellis

We hope you enjoy being part of our happy band- thank you for joining us.

How many jobs have we done?

At our last Committee Meeting we were able to reflect on some statistics for 2014 – a recorded 365 jobs done for the villagers of Robertsbridge in the year. A magnificent achievement and a clear tribute to all the hard work and dedication put in by you, the volunteers – well done indeed.

Phone holders' get-together

We had a really good meeting of phone holders in early January to exchange ideas and experiences after 15 months of operations. A great turnout, and thanks to Darvell as ever, for hosting our meetings. We will revise the handbook to incorporate the ideas and good practices that we shared on that productive evening.



Rotas

2015

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The biggest call on our resources is for driving villagers; several of these tasks have developed into rota-type operations, now expertly managed by Anne Wells, our co-chair.

So a plea to you all – if you know anyone who might wish to swell the ranks of our volunteer drivers, or if you have already said you will drive and want to help out with these regular very local runs, please let Stephen Hardy know (881309).

Drivers – note please

One specific “please note drivers” – following a



suggestion of good practice from Ken Hunt, Stephen has produced blank receipt-type forms which drivers may use with volunteers. He will be distributing a supply of them to all drivers on our database. Quite apart from being a helpful record, handing over the note overcomes some of the unease felt by drivers in asking for the repayment charge.

We will also produce a handy guide on mileages to commonly used destinations.

Please remember that drivers must ALWAYS charge, even if the journey is short and within the village.



Helping Hands is NOT a free taxi service.

Helping Hands goes digital

Helping Hands is becoming media friendly. We already have our website - www.robertsbridgehelpinghands.co.uk.



The Committee decided they would feed information into the village Facebook page

– family info – if you want to join this page, please let Anne Wells or Sue Prochak know and they will sort things out.



We now have link to our website from the Parish Council website, which is also full of good and important things - www.salehurst-pc.org.uk.

Helping Other Organisations Too!

Thanks to the Helping Hands of our IT Wizard (Rosemary), and our Admin Team (Judith and Mu) we have been able to use data gleaned from the excellent Helping Hands database to assist in advising fledgling community friends projects, as well as



supporting Rother Voluntary Action in their funding bids.

Drop-In sessions for villagers to chat

What the Committee decided at its last meeting was to pilot a drop-in afternoon at Judges. The idea is that people who just want a chat can drop into Judges, where one of the Helping Hands volunteers will be there ready to talk and to listen. The time we have chosen for our pilot is 2.00 to 3.30 on a Friday afternoon. We will circulate publicity about this when we are ready to start. If you want to be involved in this, please contact Muriel on 880504 or Lynda on 880639.

Directory of Drop-In Events

Inspired by our idea for a drop-in session, we are looking to compile a directory of all the drop-in events that happen around the village. You may already take part in one, such as the coffee morning at the Community Church on Thursdays, or the Health Walk starting at 9.30 on Tuesday mornings. There are a lot more, and so that we can be sure of not missing any, please let Anne Wells (880832) or Sue Prochak (881309) know about any you are aware of. We want to be as helpful as possible – as ever!

As ever, more help needed

If you do know anyone who would like to join our band of volunteers, do encourage them to get in touch with Anne (annecwells@gmail.com) or Sue (cllr.susanprochak@gmail.com).

The more, the better, for everyone.