

Helping Hands Newsletter Winter 2017/8

Edited by Stephen Hardy

Happy Christmas to Everyone!

Welcome



A very warm welcome to all the new volunteers who have joined us since our last newsletter; Erin Innes, Diane Knight, Chips Bishop, Rachel Webster, Pauline Hillier, Carol Fife, Donna Newton, Diane Took, Andrew and Celia Bonnett – hope you are finding your time as a volunteer fulfilling!

New Handbook

The Committee have spent a lot of time revising the Volunteer Handbook. This is therefore the Third Edition(!) and takes advantage of all the experience we have acquired since we launched back in 2013. Hard copies will be available for all the volunteers and we know you will find it helpful. [PDF available for those who prefer an online version]



Robertsbridge Welcome Pack



Earlier this year we launched our Welcome Pack for people new to the village. Local estate agents Freeman Forman have promised financial help for the production costs. Apart from telling newcomers about Helping Hands, the Pack contains useful information, such as bus and train times, a copy of the Villager, and the Robertsbridge Arts Partnership newsletter. So far we have delivered this year over 60 of these packs, which shows what a popular village Robertsbridge is!

Glottenham Nursing Home

Following a request from our local nursing home at Glottenham for Helping Hands volunteers to spend some time with residents on a regular basis, the Committee has been able to arrange a rota, ensuring a weekly visit by at least one volunteer. Though just for an hour, we know that our visits make a real difference to some folk at Glottenham who do not see anyone from outside the home itself. If you feel you could spare some time to take part, please Sue [881309] or Anne [880832] know.



Driving



The greatest demand on our services is for giving lifts, so if you are able to join the happy band of volunteer drivers, please let Stephen Hardy know (881309 or via stephen@stephenhardy.org.uk). It is amazing the chat you can get through even, say, on a short drive to Battle, and we are convinced that these conversations, as well as the trip itself, are extremely valuable.

New Phone

We have responded to some of the calls you made about the difficulties with the Helping Hands phone; so during this year we have replaced it with a basic mobile, which we trust will not prove as troublesome as the previous model.



Insurance



Please be reassured that Helping Hands take out public liability insurance every year to protect our volunteers and those we serve when performing any Helping Hands tasks. After seeing our premiums rise quite dramatically in previous years, this year we have found a new broker, sympathetic to what we do, and now pay a much more competitive premium for the same cover as previously. Great news!

Food Banks

Not surprisingly, given the interest generated by food banks, we at Helping Hands were approached to see if we could set up a food bank in the village. The Committee discussed it, but not having any permanent premises, decided that it would be too difficult for us to run such a venture in the village. Please let us know if there is anyone who needs a lift to the nearest food bank, which is in Battle.



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 (880832) email: annecwells@gmail.com or Sue (881309) cllr.susanprochak@gmail.com.

The Committee wish you not only a Happy Christmas, but also a prosperous and helpful New Year.



On behalf of everyone you help, a huge

**Thank
You**