

Helping Hands

Newsletter Autumn 2015

Edited by Stephen Hardy

Welcome



We welcome Angela Tidmarsh, who not only has volunteered, but she has become both a Phone Holder and a member of the Committee. Great to have you at the heart of things, Angela, and if anyone else feels so motivated, we always welcome new people to play whatever role they want in Helping Hands.

Thank You

**Thank
You**

We need to mention the absolutely indispensable role that Helping Hands volunteers have played in the distribution and collection of the Neighbourhood Plan questionnaires

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group had the daunting task of delivering the NP Questionnaire to every household in the parish and then collecting them when completed. We are very grateful for all the volunteers who have taken part so willingly in this exercise – to help create a blueprint for the future of our community. We actually got a 74% return for all the areas covered by our street champions; a truly stunning performance. But it has an amazing

spin-off bonus, with our volunteers finding out problems and enabling themselves to be seen as ambassadors for Helping Hands.

A very sincere thank you to you all!

Update on tasks



In the last two months we have been able to accomplish 49 tasks for people in the village. The vast majority of these have been transport (more of which later) mainly to the Conquest or Bexhill Hospitals, but to many other places a lot closer to home.

Gardening has been also a very popular task this time round – perhaps it was in response to the weather, but we have also been asked on a couple of occasions to guide form-filling, which can be a complicated process.

Funding Update



We are all volunteers in Helping Hands, but nevertheless, there are certain costs which we will have to cover to keep ourselves going; eg the bill for our mobile telephone rental and calls, and for our public liability insurance, because we

would not want our willing volunteers to run any risk when they are performing tasks. At our last committee meeting we agreed to have a permanent advertisement in every copy of The Villager, which many folk get and use as a handy guide to different items of information about the village; this costs £45 annually.

Sue Prochak has approached the Police Property Fund, the fund the Police have created with the proceeds of selling off unclaimed stolen goods that they recover, and is very optimistic of success in achieving a grant, but we still need to raise further funds this year. If you know of any fund to which we could apply, please let Sue (881309) have the details

New Idea



Recently we have identified a need for a villager to have certain household items, which clearly cannot be provided by any volunteer's time.

We were able to satisfy part of the need by sourcing items second hand which were given by volunteers. However a recent need was for carpets in a house and this time we were able to source funds for that from a local charity, the Rural Rother Trust set up nearly twenty years ago by David Amies, whom some of you may know.

However, the Rural Rother Trust may not always be able to provide funds for what is required and the Committee wondered whether it would be a good idea to set up a Helping Hands Trust

Fund to be administered by the Committee to provide funds when necessary for needy people within the village. Clearly our work identifies such need, and to have a fund readily to call upon would certainly speed up the provision of help in such circumstances. We could look at organising fundraising events to spread the load of funding even wider.

This is only an idea at present, but we would be very pleased to hear your thoughts about it. Please get in touch with Sue Prochak (881309) or Anne Wells (880832).

More Drivers Wanted



As we said earlier, the biggest call on our services is for driving, so if you know of anyone else who could swell the ranks of our drivers, please let Stephen Hardy know (881309 or via stephen@stephenhardy.org.uk). Many thanks in anticipation.

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

The more, the better, for everyone.