

# Helping Hands

## Newsletter Spring 2018

Edited by Stephen Hardy

### Welcome



We are very pleased to offer a warm welcome as new phone holders our volunteers Andrew Bonnett and Alex Berthon. Our phone holders are the key to our success. We also welcome Hugh Hedges who has joined our stalwart volunteers.

### New Handbook

The new version of the Volunteer Handbook will soon be produced and we shall supply a copy to every volunteer. It will set out the changes we need to make to ensure that we bring our data protection policy up to date to comply with the new regulations – the General Data Protection Regulation. [A PDF will be available for those who prefer an online version.]



### Jobs Done



Over the last six weeks, as a snapshot of the jobs we get asked to do, it is interesting to note that whilst the largest number is, as expected and as usual, requests for driving (17) there have also been the following requests:

- ❖ 5 for advice
- ❖ 2 for dog walking
- ❖ 2 for dealing with paperwork
- ❖ 3 for help with practical tasks
- ❖ 1 for befriending

This means that we are keeping up our average of jobs with between five and six per week. Thank you all, yet again!

We also have regular drivers' rotas for:

- ❖ a social knitting group
- ❖ the monthly WI meetings
- ❖ a 17 week strength and mobility course in Battle

### Finances



As you are aware, there are a few expenses which we have to cover. The most important for everyone's peace of mind is our public liability insurance, which is also the single most expensive item in our annual budget. Fortunately our current insurance, with an absolutely reliable provider, has been secured more cheaply than last year, by finding a more competitive broker.

However, we have other expenses, such as creating the Welcome Packs (see below), and so a plea to all our volunteers. We are able to exist on a budget of c.£400 per annum, which is quite remarkable for all the benefits for the community we create. Do you know of any possible funders to whom we could apply? Please speak to Stephen Hardy on 881309 or via email to [stephenhardy1948@gmail.com](mailto:stephenhardy1948@gmail.com) with any ideas.

### Glottenham Nursing Home Rota

We have now after several months had the chance to review the operation of the rota of volunteers who are willing to go to Glottenham to spend an hour with one of the residents.



Now that some of the early wrinkles have been ironed out, the feedback from the home is that it is wonderful to have people from the village up there, just sitting, talking and simply being with a resident. If you feel that you would like to join in with this valuable work – volunteers usually go up there in pairs, which is good for all – please let Sue Prochak know [881309].

### Welcome Packs

These welcome packs, delivered to each new resident in the village, contain a wealth of information about what is going on in our vibrant village. They are truly welcomed (!) by the recipients, and to date we have delivered 101 of them!



### Drivers

As you can see from the tasks list above, driving villagers remains our core activity, and to spread the load we would love to recruit more drivers. If you are currently a driver for Helping Hands, please do your best to recruit your friends to join us. If you are not currently a volunteer, either think about signing up yourself, or again, talking to a friend to enlist them into our happy band of volunteer drivers. Stephen Hardy would love to hear from you - phone him on 881309 or email [stephenhardy1948@gmail.com](mailto:stephenhardy1948@gmail.com).

### Volunteer Get-Together May 9th

Please put the date into your diary for a volunteers' get-together up at Darvell, commencing at 7pm. Further details to follow.



### 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](mailto:annecwells@gmail.com) or Sue (881309) [cllr.susanprochak@gmail.com](mailto:cllr.susanprochak@gmail.com).

On behalf of everyone you help, the Committee

Thank

You