

## Claydon & Barham Good Neighbours Scheme

### Chairpersons Report 2024

It's hard to believe that it's a year since I agreed to take over as Chairperson and I'm writing my first report for the AGM but here I am!

We have continued to support the residents of Claydon & Barham with a 7 day a week call handling service and have undertaken 47 tasks in the period 1 May 23 – 30 April 24. These included some check in calls with previous clients. Tasks provided include Garden Clearance, signposting calls, waste removal, prescription collection.

Our Community Cuppa held each month has really taken off after a slow start and since the December meeting, numbers have increased significantly and we are regularly getting between 20-30 attendees. We have a lot of regular attendees and some are bringing along games to play and there is a real buzz of conversation. This is helping with loneliness and isolation.

We are also still running a monthly litter pick and we have a few loyal regular volunteers collecting litter around the villages along with the Barham Wombles. On regular monthly picks we've seen 44 hours of volunteering time and in March we joined with the local Parish Councils and The Barham Wombles as part of the Big Spring Clean and had a week of litter picking and general tidying of the villages. Another c40 volunteering hours were given by GNS Volunteers and around 30 large bags of litter collected concentrating on high litter areas like Old Ipswich Road, the two Church Lanes and Station Road.

None of these things would be possible without our volunteers – people giving up their time to help and support their neighbours. I would like to thank each and every one of them – whether they are helping with call handling, doing the jobs for people, helping at the Community Cuppa or doing litter picking. They are all wonderful!

I would also like to thank the two Parish Councils who continue to fund the work we are doing. It is appreciated by the residents who have needed our help. There is nobody else doing what we do so it is an important service to continue and I hope that this support is ongoing.

Lastly, I would like to thank my fellow Committee Members - Paula Gardiner, Roger Colthorpe and Becky Whitefield. Becky has decided to step down from the Committee and Call Handling duties and I would like to thank her for all her dedication to the GNS. She was instrumental in getting the original Covid Support Group up and running and subsequently the Good Neighbour Scheme. She will be missed.

Looking forward, we have need to recruit more call handlers (we may need to reduce our call availability if we don't) and more committee members. I would ideally like a committee of 6 people. If you are interested in finding out what either of these entails, please speak to me!

I have expressed my interest in continuing as Chairperson for a further year so I look forward to continuing to lead the work that the GNS does in Claydon and Barham.

Tracy Westley

Chairperson