

## Claydon & Barham Good Neighbours Scheme

### Chairpersons Report 2026

It doesn't seem possible that another year has passed since our last AGM but here we are!

We have continued to support the residents of Claydon & Barham with our call handling service 5 days a week. It has been a quieter year and we have still undertaken 24 tasks in the year. We don't really know the reason for this and have done some extra advertising but we are still helping people so it's worthwhile. Tasks provided include Gardening, signposting calls, prescription collections and even getting a dog to the groomers!

Our Community Cuppa held each month has continued to thrive and we are regularly getting 15-20 attendees. We have a lot of regular attendees now and new connections have been made. Our Christmas Cuppa was particularly popular and we had chocolate bingo and festive refreshments. Donations received from the attendees are helping us offer a bit more and have paid for things like a new banner to promote what we do at events.

We are also still running a monthly litter pick and the number of volunteers attending these has increased. On regular monthly picks we've seen 83 hours of volunteering time (up from prior year) and in March we again did an extra long pick to support the Great British Spring Clean when we had 13 people who collected 6 large bags of rubbish. It's sad that it's still necessary to do this but it's still clearly needed!

We also added a monthly walking group to what we offer which has come from the Cuppa – people asked if there was a group running so we started one! We are getting 6-10 people attend this through the summer months only. This helps with both physical and mental health.

Our team of volunteers (many of whom are here today) are amazing and the Good Neighbour Scheme could not exist without them. Whether they are call handlers, making cuppas for you or picking up litter – every bit of time given makes a difference. A big thank you to them.

I would also like to thank the people who have helped fund our organisation this year; the InTouch volunteers, Claydon & Whitton Parish Council and Barham Parish Council. We believe we offer good value for what we do and hope support will be available in the future to continue our work.

Lastly, I would like to thank my fellow Committee Members - Paula Gardiner, Roger Colthorpe, Gill Chapman, Fran Askew and Graham Holmes.

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