



Community Good Neighbours

Pontesbury & Rea Valley District

Community Good Neighbours have had a very busy year although our volunteer numbers have dropped, we do have a core ten people who help when required.

We made the decision to close the phone line towards the end of last year as we were getting calls that we felt were no longer a priority and family members could collect prescriptions etc.

We continue to run our Monthly Coffee Mornings at the Plough Pontesbury and thank Amy for her continuing support, she is often called down to help if we are busy. We average anywhere between 25 and 40 people coming along and even in some of the awful weather they have turned up.

Rob runs a successful gentlemen's club once a month at The Pavilion and this is well attended and Rob has a waiting list of men who would like to come along, it's a time to play cards, read the paper and chat with men who maybe widowed or are carers – so it's a welcome break.

Amanda runs a small group 'Coffee & Chat' twice a month in the Pavilion, this is for ladies who cannot face a large group of people at the Coffee Morning or recently bereaved – we have found after a couple of sessions they come along to the coffee morning.

Good Neighbours group continue to support the Carers' Event once a month, and we also provided funding for coffee and cake on two occasions in recognition of Carers' Week.

Good Neighbours still has three volunteers befriending vulnerable individuals in their homes.

Our successful luncheon at the Public Hall is run for six months of the year from September – March, we feed on average forty people and lately have become a meals-on-wheels delivering to some who can't attend, or we know would benefit from a warm meal. We make a small a charge as we are lucky enough to be supported by the Public Hall who do not charge for the room. The event does not make any money so this helps greatly and enables us to keep our prices down. I would like to thank Neville for all his support and the trustees of the Hall, and I would also like to thank Ali & Kim Catering for cooking the food this year.

In December Good Neighbours had a tombola stall at the Plough Christmas market in Pontesbury, raising funds and allowing the purchase of 40 boxes of biscuits, which were donated to the Rea Valley Food Bank to go out with the Christmas Hampers.

Also in December, we organised a Christmas Meal at The Corbet Arms, where over seventy people came along for a three-course meal. We organised a singer to entertain them after for an hour or so and transport was paid for by Good Neighbours. The event was very much enjoyed, and we have organised a date for this year.

We have been fortunate to have been chosen by the Coop as their local cause this year and last and have been granted over £3,000 this has enabled us to help out on other Community Projects where we have felt the Community as a whole would benefit.

The GN Committee would like to thank the Parish Council for their on-going support.

Whilst the need is there, we will carry on supporting the Community.