



**Community
Good
Neighbours**
Pontesbury & Rea Valley District

Rea Valley Good Neighbours events and activities 2022

Pontesbury and Rea Valley Good Neighbours Committee have organised a large number of events and activities during 2022, bringing the community together and helping those who are alone, most vulnerable or just in need of a cup of coffee and a chat!

Coffee mornings have been held at The Plough every month during 2022, giving an opportunity for those who do not get out and about very often to meet new people in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. We would like to thank Amy, Derek and Ali for all their support throughout the year and for allowing us to hold the coffee mornings at The Plough.

Several coffee mornings have been held in Minsterley too, to help those who wish to attend in that area. Thank you for the support of Minsterley Parish Hall who have waived the cost for these events.

Smaller “coffee and chat” groups and a Gentlemen’s Club have also been arranged during 2022, with great success and wonderful support from the community. If you have attended, our thanks go to you all.

In addition, the Good Neighbours committee have an “On Call” phone, which has enabled the team to respond to requests for prescriptions and medication, access to help lines for energy issues, mental health agencies and assistance, help with shopping, access to local food banks – even finding a mobile hairdresser for a lady who was unable to leave her home.

A coach trip was arranged for those unable to get out and about themselves, to Charlie’s Stores at Coed-Y-Dinas. This was very well attended and all guests enjoyed themselves on a lovely day out.

The Befriending service has been operating all year, some by telephone and some involving home visits from Good Neighbours volunteers – whatever the individual requests. Matching the individual with a regular volunteer visit or call has helped to break the loneliness and vulnerability that some of our residents are feeling, particularly in the aftermath of the pandemic.

Good Neighbours have been able to organise several “Pop Up Larder” events in both Pontesbury and Minsterley. Offering more than just a food bank, these events have been extremely well received by those who are struggling with the rising costs of everything. The committee would like to say a massive thank you to a local couple who asked for donations to the ‘Pop Up Larders’ in lieu of gifts for their wedding. We were overwhelmed with the donations of food, cleaning items, baby food,

nappies and much, much, more and a generous donation of £150.00. We would also like to thank anyone who has donated food via Hignetts or Pontesbury Co-op to the Pop-Up Larders held during 2022 and to both Minsterley Parish Hall and Pontesbury Parish Council for waiving the costs.

The first Luncheon Club event has taken place, which was a roaring success, with 31 people enjoying a superb hearty two course hot meal, for only £5. We would like to welcome our volunteer 'chef Jolly' without whom this event would not have been possible. The next luncheon club was held on the 20th January 2023, this is in conjunction with Age UK. Thank you to the Public Hall for their continuing support.

Following the success of the "100 Club" this year, the committee will be running the club again in 2023. For a cost of £12 per year, each member of the club is allocated a number, and monthly draws give cash prizes to those whose numbers are drawn from the hat. Should you wish to become a member and purchase your own lucky number, please get in touch with the Good Neighbours.

Our Christmas Lunch event at Conover Golf Club was fully booked, with 80 guests travelling by coach over to Conover all organised by volunteers.

None of this would take place without the generosity of Pontesbury Parish Council, the community, local businesses, Severn Rotary Club and our devoted volunteers on the committee.

The committee would like to say a huge THANK YOU to all our volunteers, who give their time and energy selflessly throughout the year.

To contact the Good Neighbours, to get involved in any of the above events or clubs, to volunteer your services to help us, please call 07944 891953.

We are also very grateful to receive donations to The Pontesbury and Rea Valley Good Neighbours, whether this is food or money. Without these donations and support we would not be able to operate. Please join our '100 club' this brings in much needed funds to support our activities.

The Committee and Volunteers look forward to 2023.