

Pontesbury and Rea Valley Community Good Neighbours review of 2024-25

2024 has been another very busy year for the Pontesbury and Rea Valley Community Good Neighbours organisation, with fifteen dedicated volunteers and six committee members working extremely hard on a wide variety of activities to support the community.

The monthly Coffee Mornings at the Plough inn Pontesbury is very well supported and continues to be a success.

The smaller groups “Coffee and Chat” meetings and the Gentlemen’s Club provide support to those who prefer to meet in an environment where it is a smaller group of like-minded individuals. Often those who attend the smaller groups then have the confidence and the desire to attend the larger Coffee Mornings and the Luncheons, which is great to see.

We are delighted that the ‘Gentlemen’s Club’ has grown and is now running twice a month offering support to men in the community.

The Luncheon at the Public Hall in Pontesbury has had another successful year, with around forty + people attending.

The Committee would like to thank the volunteers who work tirelessly either cooking, serving, helping behind the scenes, setting up the hall, clearing up afterwards – the Luncheons would not be possible without the time given by these individuals especially our cooks Ali & Kim.

The Good Neighbours group have supported the Carers’ Event this year with the provision of a donation for a buffet lunch and some musical entertainment, which was well received by those who attended.

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

Other events and activities in 2024 included the provision of Easter Eggs for the Severn Hospice, donations of biscuits to the Rea Valley Food Bank at Christmas for hampers, provision of emergency food parcels for specific families under special circumstances, and additional support for vulnerable families with further food bags being created and provided.

Mary Webb School were supported by GN providing bags of compost for a garden project & Pontesbury Sports Association have also been supported by the Good Neighbours group this year with flooring and equipment.

This year’s Christmas Meal was held at The Gates at Ford, where 56 guests and nine volunteers enjoyed a three-course meal. The Good Neighbours committee organised the post-lunch musical entertainment and provided transport to and from the event. The feedback from those who attended was tremendous, with some describing it as “the best one yet”.

The “Festive Friends” Christmas Lunch was supported by the Good Neighbours group where we made a donation to enable several individuals who would otherwise

have been alone at Christmas were able to share a festive meal with others on Christmas day.

2025 promises to be just as busy as previous years. With regular meetings, luncheons, coffee mornings and smaller groups continuing to provide the support to the Community that is so desperately needed.

The Committee would like to record its thanks to the Pontesbury Co-Op, Pontesbury Parish Council, Pontesbury Public Hall, Hignett's, Pontesbury One Stop, Amy, Derek & Ali (The Plough) & Age UK.

A special thank you to all members of the community who have made donations to the Good Neighbours group, and to those from the community who help out in so many ways. The ongoing activities of the Pontesbury and Rea Valley Good Neighbours group would not be possible without the support from all these individuals, groups and companies.