

## **Annual Report for Good Neighbours 20/21**

At the beginning of last year we were very busy collecting prescriptions and some shopping, for those isolated or still not completely happy with venturing out. This has now waned with the Good Neighbours phone only receiving a minimal number of calls per week and we have also noticed a decline in volunteers as people return to work.

The befriending side has at present fifteen volunteers matched with people providing a friendly voice on the phone, meeting up in gardens and as restrictions have lifted they are able to go into homes. However, again we have plenty of people who would benefit from this, but do not have enough volunteers.

We currently run Coffee Mornings once a month in Pontesbury at the Plough Pub, we have over fifty people attending each month sometimes more. They all seem to enjoy the gathering and we really do have to guide them to the door an hour and half later. We have just recently started up a coffee mornings in Minsterley.

We have also recently started some support groups for specific aspects of the community – a Gentlemens club has been created as we pinpointed a need for men to meet to together in a safe environment and connect through playing cards and dominoes or just chatting. Particularly vulnerable individuals have been invited to a “coffee and chat” forum where matters such as bereavement and family breakdown can be discussed in a confidential environment, with others who have been through similar experiences.

The fundraising group raise money through different events such as holding a Christmas Market, bingo and our very successful ‘100’ club which has over two hundred members.

The group organised a Christmas Dinner at Shrewsbury Golf Club where even in December, when Covid was quite virulent locally, over sixty people attended and had a lovely time. A further trip for afternoon tea has been planned for March this year with over seventy people paid so far to join us. We are also planning an afternoon of Country and Western music at The Plough on the 1st April and if this is successful it will become a monthly event.

We are also working with Age UK to try and organise a hot meal for people who may be struggling financially or may need some support. At the moment we are just gathering information and looking at venues.

We are always looking for volunteers and without these the group would be unable to run.

We have many events planned for 2022.