

## **Stowupland Good Neighbours – Report to 2022 Annual Parish Meeting**

Stowupland Good Neighbours is still running – some 16 years since its inception. Along the way we have benefitted from the generosity of a small and dedicated band of villagers who have willingly given their time, expertise, and offers of transport to an ever-increasing number of requests. To these volunteers I would like to say a huge thank you.

Among the requests for help, we have undertaken small household tasks, gardening projects, watering flower gardens, vegetable, and asparagus plots. We have walked a few dogs in the last 16 years. We have continuously helped at the weekly Baby & Toddler sessions in the Village Hall. We try and help with most requests but by far the most frequently asked for are prescription collection, surgery, or hospital visits.

During the first lockdown we were quite literally inundated with offers of help from villagers who had been furloughed or were able to work from home. Stowupland Falcons also offered their help. This was invaluable as we received requests for click and collect food deliveries and emergency shopping at the local Co-op and Tesco's. For these temporary volunteers, another huge thank you.

We rely completely on voluntary donations from the people we help. Our outgoings consist of a pay as you go mobile helpline and insurance for our volunteers. Our volunteers give their time and car running costs for free.

Going forward Good Neighbours is facing a worrying challenge. Recruits are hard to come by and we are seeing an increase in requests for help. If anyone knows anyone who might have an occasional hour or two to spare helping our villagers, please could they contact me, Cathy Welham on 673185.

**Cathy Welham**

**Stowupland Good Neighbours**