

## STOWUPLAND GOOD NEIGHBOURS

Report to the Annual Parish Council Meeting – 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024

During the last year, Good Neighbour volunteers have responded to a growing number of requests from villagers. These continue to be mainly for trips to Doctors' surgeries in Stowmarket and surrounding villages and longer journeys to Ipswich and West Suffolk Hospitals. We do seem to be increasingly involved in befriending as a result of repeated requests for our help.

Our volunteer numbers have shown a slight increase, but we are always on the lookout for more people to join our group.

Unfortunately, the Pre-school's Baby and Toddler Group was closed at Christmas at the behest of the Pre-School. Good Neighbours have helped the Baby & Toddler sessions for over 15 years, and we were very sad at the Pre-School's decision to close it. Our volunteers expressed their willingness to continue to help should the Pre-School decide to re-start the sessions. Watch this space – perhaps next year I can report that we are once again helping with this group.

Our Good Neighbours have been in existence since 2006 and we value our volunteers and their continued commitment to helping Stow upland residents who need our help.

Catherine Welham