

Year Summary

October 2019 to September 2020



This has been our fourth year and as everyone knows that from 23rd March onwards this year how difficult it has been. We now have 51 permanent volunteers but because of Covid-19 we have offered a reduced level of support to the community which consists of only driving jobs for urgent medical appointments and only phone call befriending (229 calls) and then the other jobs which our new temporary volunteers, 18 in total, have been actively involved with during lockdown, 159 deliveries from the Pharmacy and other businesses, as well as 18 errands. I should add the good news is that some temporary volunteers have now become permanent.

We sadly lost our Chairman, Rod Hudson in November 2019, we have really missed him, he always said that he did very little, but it was not true as he was a driver as well as chairing the Steering Group in which he made sure that we did not dwell too long on any subject and it was always done graciously with a sense of humour.

So leading on to a positive note, we started a new service on 1st January to supply wheelchairs to the community. We have four wheelchairs to lend out –one for appointments and the others for loan up to six weeks. These are regularly serviced and also delivered to clients.

A few of us from the Steering Group were asked to attend a meeting in January as Quorn were setting up a new GNS group. There was a Question and Answer Session in which we all spoke about Woodhouse & Woodhouse Eaves GNS. They have since contacted us occasionally for advice.

Cherrie Whatmuff arranged a Moving and Handling course in October 2019 so volunteers and individuals learnt how to help people particularly if they were wheelchair bound. The most important advice being **not** to help someone if they are about to fall or falling, as both people risk injury.

On 10th October 2019 Judith Harrison and Margaret Spooner attended the Rural Community Council (Leicestershire and Rutland) Awards and the wonderful news is.....that we won the Rural Service Award.

This was followed by the VAL (Voluntary Awards Leicester and Leicestershire) awards held on 5th November 2019 attended by Jo Atkinson and Wendy Houlton at which we not only won the Volunteer Led Organisation of the Year but also out of 8 Corporate Sponsorships we were the Overall Charity of the Year.

Nineteen regular users of our GNS attended a Christmas Party supported by Fisher German Property and organised by volunteer Liz Randall, with GNS drivers taking participants to the party.

We had been busy planning an event for May calling it Picnic in the Park- based on an Eden Project Initiative. I am sure we will succeed in doing this when we are in better times

You will see from the yearly Pie chart how much our service have been affected by the lockdown and we are now seeing if we can offer more to the community with the support from our volunteers. This will include driving jobs to medical and social appointments, mini errands, deliveries from village businesses, gardening, DIY jobs and pet assistance – all following social distancing rules.

Thank you so much to all our volunteers from the Steering Group, who without your support we could not be successful with our Scheme. In our report next year we do hope that we will be able to say that we have been as active as in previous years.

Claire Ayres – Secretary of Woodhouse & Woodhouse Eaves Good Neighbour Scheme