

## **Chairman's Review of the Year Rodmell Good Neighbour Scheme 2017-2018**

- Rodmell Good Neighbour Scheme is now two years old! We have continued to build on our inaugural year. We have a band of 33 volunteers and every one of them has willingly cheerfully and successfully put themselves through the bureaucratic rigours of the DBS checking system.
- I am indebted to all the Committee members for their help and support in keeping everything on an even keel. Clare for the accounts and DBS register, Carolyn for administering the phone rota, Catriona for minutes and agendas and Caroline for her much admired design talent, responsible for producing our logo and flyers. I would also particularly like to thank Jean Twohig and Sandra Webb who help the committee out by partaking in the phone rota.
- We are on the cusp of logging our 100th call for assistance and we also do quite a few routine repeat tasks that go unrecorded, so our level of assistance is in fact significantly higher than this. Our most popular category remains lifts (hospitals, clinics, surgeries, dentists and railway stations etc). A strong second is help with modern technology ... be it computers or TVs. We are lucky to have a few very talented 'techy' volunteers who we are very grateful to and slightly in awe of!!
- Requests it is fair to say have been on the quiet side since the summer. ...it is interesting to note we experienced a similar lull last year.
- We have continued to be diligent attendees of the AIRS networking meetings and indeed I will be helping them by chairing the forthcoming quarterly meeting. It is important for us to try to help support other local communities who are at the early stage of setting up GNS; we would have been lost without similar early support ourselves. The events also help to alert us to any changes in legal requirements, best practices etc.
- In the Summer AIRS also arranged a celebration of volunteering and Clare attended this event as our representative.
- We have been fortunate this financial year to secure some very welcome funding. We received £370 from Waitrose, Lewes and £150 from our friends in Rodmell Open Gardens. We were also invited by ESCC to apply for a small grant from their dedicated GNS Grant Fund and were successful in our bid for £250 which equates to approximately one year's running costs for us.
- We are extremely grateful to all concerned for these funds. We are mindful that we do have a healthy bank balance. We have agreed to pay for an annual advert in the Parish Magazine for the Strength and Balance Exercise classes ... this has already had the desired effect of attracting some new attendees. We have also recently funded the splendid flyers that jointly promoted the launch of a new Residents' Lunch Club, the ongoing Coffee Club and the Film Nights. All these very much tick the 'befriending' box for us which is one of our aims but is tricky to address. It is possible, following an approach from the Parish Council, that we may become involved in the NHS free Health Check initiative.
- Last winter our volunteers combined forces with the Parish Council to help with the distribution of salt supplies during icy weather. We continue to seek any activities we could usefully and realistically add to our portfolio and welcome any suggestions from all our residents.

**Judith Bradbury,  
Chair, Rodmell Good Neighbour Scheme**