

Helping Hands

Newsletter Summer 2019

Edited by Stephen Hardy

Welcome

We are very pleased to give a warm welcome to the new members of our growing band of volunteers since our last Newsletter:



- Beryl Finbow
- Joan Hoad
- Georgina Morris
- Johannes (Hans) von Thoor

Our success depends on you, so thank you very much for coming on board.

Number of Volunteers



We think it is time for celebration, because we believe that we now have a record number of volunteers on our database – 71.

Our top volunteer has so far completed 84 tasks – brilliant! However, this is but one part of the success of Helping Hands.

Celebration of our Volunteers

On 30 July we are holding a thank you 'do' at the Salehurst Halt. Please let Judith know, so that we can tell the Halt how many are coming. Her email address is:



judithpantiles@gmail.com .

Tasks Undertaken

In the last three months we have collectively for the benefit of villagers performed the following different types of task:



- transport jobs
- gardening
- shopping
- befriending
- practical jobs
- dog walking

All these, of course, were in addition to our normal driving rotas.

However, the Glottenham rota is temporarily suspended as their Activities Co-ordinator has left her post.

Rother Village Action Group



Sue Prochak, as co-chair of Helping Hands, has been asked to be part of this new group, formed at the inspiration of Rother Voluntary Action, and whose aim is to see if it will be possible to launch further community friends groups like our own, across Rother.

We have already supported similar groups starting up in Northiam and Ticehurst.

Robertsbridge Surgery



You may have heard that our local surgery has re-launched its Patient Participation Group, whose aim is to provide a constructive link between users and the surgery. It has regular meetings, and Helping Hands has become a member, so someone from our committee will attend the regular meetings, if at all possible.

We hope this will enable us to provide feedback on any initiatives or developments. One thing to emerge already is that for the new surgery, they are planning to make it both dementia- and autism-friendly.

Phone Holders

Almost a full complement of phone holders met in George Close in May to be updated on the use of the computer, the database and related matters. We currently have 15 phone holders.



The evening was both practically useful, with a full exchange of ideas, and enjoyable – with pizzas to keep everyone happy.

Community Church Food Bank



Our own Community Church has started running a food bank collection point in the village – you can leave donations at the Community Church coffee mornings, which are held at the village hall on

Thursdays, or there is a box at the Village Hall you can use on other days.

For more details please contact Jan Vidler on 07733 044 027.

Hygiene Bank

In addition to the village's contribution to the Food Bank organisation, we also now have a contact with the Hygiene Bank



There is contact/drop off point at the Salehurst Halt where you can donate soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, facial wipes, shampoo, sanitary products nappies - in fact any unopened toiletries - and these will all be passed on to the Hygiene Bank for distribution.

Details can be found on their website at www.thehygienebank.com.

Finances

We are in a reasonably sound position financially at the moment, with very close to £900 in the bank, due in no small measure to the generosity of various members, and in particular the Darvell Community, who help out in all kinds of ways, including providing printing facilities and hosting any of our meetings.



Welcome Packs for new residents

Good news for us is that the Sussex Fire and Rescue



Service, in return for our putting one of their leaflets into our welcome packs, have supplied us with the plastic folders we need.

The tally so far distributed is in 2017: 78, 2018: 75, and so far in 2019: 24.

Requests for help



The Committee are concerned that there must be residents who are NOT aware of Helping Hands, or maybe who need encouragement to use this wonderful service.

Please spread the word; perhaps make a personal aim to contact someone who might benefit from Helping Hands

As ever, more help needed

If you do know anyone who would like to join our band of volunteers, do encourage them to get in touch with:



Anne (880832)

email: annecwells@gmail.com

or Sue (881309)

email: cllr.susanprochak@gmail.com.

**On behalf of
everyone you help,
the Committee**

**Thank
You**