

# Helping Hands Newsletter Summer 2015

Edited by Stephen Hardy

## Date for your diary

2015

January	February	March	April
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September	October	November	December
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Everyone is welcome to come to our AGM. This year it is on Thursday 18 June at 7.30pm. It will be

very kindly hosted by the Darvell Community in one of their spacious rooms.

Whilst we will be having some formal business, as you would expect, we feel that it is as important that we can get together as the amazing group of people we are, to talk about what we have done in Helping Hands and what we can do in the future.

We hope you have already heard about the work that is going on to create a Neighbourhood Plan for our community. It is all very exciting and Helping Hands has a part to play in it too. So Stephen Hardy, who is chairing the Steering Group leading the plan, will talk to us about how Helping Hands fits into the Plan and the future life of the village.

And another reason to come is that we will be able also to have a look round the Darvell factory and showroom where they make the most amazing furniture and equipment which is most prized by our schools and pre-schools nationwide.

And there will be drinks and biscuits as well – and even a birthday cake! You can't miss that, can you!

## What have we been doing since the last Newsletter?



We felt you would like to know what all our volunteers have been up to. The biggest call

on our resources continues to be transport, more of which later. Shopping tasks also figure strongly but over the last two months we have been asked to do some more unusual tasks; dealing with computer problems, drawing money from the bank for house-bound people and translating documents from a foreign language.

## Helping others

Helping Hands is not just an organisation looking inwards within our village; it also looks outwards



too. Members of the Committee continue to help a similar organisation to ours which has been set up in Ticehurst, and two of our Committee recently attended the AGM of Bodiam Community friends to give help, advice and encouragement based on our own experiences.

## Funding



At the AGM we will be approving the first set of accounts for Helping Hands, from when we

started in October 2013, up to the end of March 2015. We were lucky when we started to be able to not only tap into the resources of Rother Voluntary Action and Amicus Horizon to get practical support and advice, but we also obtained grants to enable us to set up from the Police Property Fund and the Darvell Community.

This has enabled us to carry on in the way we have so far.

Our funds have recently been boosted by a donation of £250 from the Gaby Hardwicke Foundation, which the local firm of solicitors support admirably. Thank you to all those who have helped us financially.

All our time is given freely but we do have running costs, such as the very necessary public liability insurance and the costs associated with the phone itself. We also have publicity costs, such as the general leaflet and the fridge magnets we produced. By the way, the stock of these has all been taken up and we trust are being displayed prominently in places where people need them.

### Directory of drop-in events



We still would welcome any news of such events to create our own directory. So contact Anne (880832) or Sue (881309) if you have any.

### Drivers

Stephen would like to remind you that we would welcome more volunteer drivers,



particularly those who are able to drive during the day. Understandably for many people needing this service, (for hospital visits and the like) the day is the time when we have to respond. So please let Stephen know (881309) if you can think of anyone else who may wish to help. Don't forget – as a driver you must ask the villager to pay according to our published rate of 45p per mile.

### Phone Holders – please note



Please check the Villager Database when getting a request for assistance. Sometimes our volunteers need more information about particular villagers before accepting tasks - the database gives you the necessary information.

### Welcome to our new volunteer

Since our last newsletter in the Spring, we are pleased to welcome Rosalind Hedges to our growing number of volunteers. Ros is a driver too, so is especially welcome. Ros, we trust you will find your Helping Hands time fulfilling and rewarding. Also welcome back to Charlotte Davies, who has recovered remarkably from her operation on both knees.



### 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 annecwells@gmail.com](mailto:annecwells@gmail.com)) or Sue ([881309 cllr.susanprochak@gmail.com](mailto:cllr.susanprochak@gmail.com)).

The more, the better, for everyone.