

# GRETTON GOOD NEIGHBOURS SCHEME (GGNS)

**PRESENTER: TREVOR SMITH  
VICE CHAIR**

# Gretton Good Neighbours Scheme

## October 2022 - Present

- ▶ End of 2021 the Parish Council proposed an initiative to support the community of Gretton during the Cost of Living Crisis. Volunteer agencies were invited to come together to identify how they could help.
- ▶ Rising fuel costs led to volunteer groups in Gretton offering warm spaces for people who were struggling with heating costs to spend time in.
- ▶ Those offering warm spaces included The Hatton Arms, Village Hall, Sports & Social Club, Lydia's Café, Gretton Primary School, St James Church and Gretton Baptist Church.
- ▶ These spaces were used and as people came together it became clear that there was enthusiasm for creating a group that would be able to assist in a wider way.

# Gretton Good Neighbours Scheme

- ▶ The Parish Council approached Northamptonshire ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) and a set up grant was awarded.
- ▶ February 2022 GGNS was created, as a stand-alone group, supported by the Parish Council.
- ▶ April 2024 GGNS became an independent self funding community group.
- ▶ The intention was to continue to build on the way in which villagers supported each other during the pandemic

# Gretton Good Neighbours Scheme

- ▶ Transport to appointments and shopping, small repair/DIY/gardening jobs and befriending
- ▶ Skills Cafes, small repairs made to clothing and small household items, receive IT help, have knives and garden implements sharpened and minor bicycle repairs undertaken
- ▶ Craft Workshops bi - annually
- ▶ Social Events: e.g. Afternoon Tea
- ▶ Everything volunteers do is at no cost to the person who is receiving assistance, but a donation is always welcome

# Gretton Good Neighbours Activities 2025-26

- ▶ Calls received: 78
- ▶ Transport for Appointments: 66 (Dental, GP, Hosp, Optician etc.)
- ▶ Transport to Village activity: 2
- ▶ Household DIY 13
- ▶ All request calls actioned

# Gretton Good Neighbours Activities 2025-26

- ▶ Skills Cafes X 3 ( 36 Attendees)
- ▶ Craft Workshops X 1 (12 Attendees)
- ▶ Social Event – Traditional Afternoon Tea X1 ( 6 Attendees)

# Future Activities 2026-27

- ▶ Skills Cafes
- ▶ Craft Workshops
- ▶ Summer Fair
- ▶ Social Event – Traditional Afternoon Tea
- ▶ Christmas Social

# Volunteers

- ▶ GGNS is made up of volunteers over the age of 18 years, all of whom have an Enhanced Disclosure & Barring certificate; essential for those undertaking 1:1 work with potentially vulnerable adults.
- ▶ The volunteers are not vetted to work with children.
- ▶ Anyone who wishes to volunteer is welcomed and if they do not wish to undertake the above, they can take part in other activities where those who have DBS clearance are in attendance.
- ▶ GGNS funds the DBS process and provides ID badges and logo' d T-shirts or Fleeces. The scheme is self funding through donations.

# Volunteers Wanted

- ▶ Any Skills
- ▶ 18 years and above.
- ▶ Client facing volunteers (DBS)
- ▶ Associate volunteers (Non- DBS).
- ▶ If you are interested in joining, please contact us on:
- ▶ [grettongoodneighbours@gmail.com](mailto:grettongoodneighbours@gmail.com) / **0751 861 3684**