



BRUNDALL & BLOFIELD GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME

Background

MAY 2016 – Trevor Plater (then Chair) wrote an article in the Church magazine asking for volunteers to help establish a GNS in Brundall. An initial meeting was arranged and a number of people turned up including Pat (now 90) from Blofield. It was agreed that the scheme would cover Brundall and Blofield. BBGNS was then launched on 1st August 2016.

BBGNS would offer:

- Small jobs in the home, such as bulb changing, light DIY and flat pack assembly etc
- Small, usually one off jobs in the garden
- Dog walking for those with mobility issues
- Shopping
- Transport to appointments, such as the Dentist, Surgery or hairdresser etc
- Assistance to complete forms or a letter
- Befriending, or just a chat and company
- Other little things that help to make a difference, like posting a parcel

Present Day Service

BBGNS will also cover out of area delivering prescriptions, transport to health appointments, visits etc. These are all subject to volunteer availability and adequate notice. Also, we work with Brundall Medical Practice helping with traffic and parking for vaccination clinics and Acle Food Bank to deliver food parcels in Brundall & Blofield.

Covid 19 – upping gears!

COVID 19 hit the UK in early 2020 followed soon after by a lockdown. With the support of both Brundall and Blofield PC's BBGNS was able to obtain appropriate protective masks, gloves and anti bac hand gel. BBGNS completed a full risk assessment to establish appropriate, safe working practices while still supporting people. Although we would not be entering people's homes at that time, we could still safely assist with prescription and shopping deliveries etc. We had to learn new ways of working, such as ZOOM for recruitment and committee meetings and although many of our volunteers were shielding, we managed to recruit people on furlough and students who helped us through 2020 and 2021.

During 2021 we covered over 530 requests covering over 600 tasks. Roger, Maz and Nick share a Duty Officer role to take the requests and look for an appropriate volunteer to carry



out the task/s. BBGNS currently have 28 volunteers, all with varying skills and abilities to choose from.

Volunteering Opportunities

Following the end of lockdown and to date, we have seen a big increase in the number of people requiring befriending support. If you feel you could become a volunteer to help us with this for no more than 1-2 hours a week, please call us on the contact info below.

The present Chair is Lesley Ashby, supported by the committee, Roger, Maz, Pat, Trevor, Nick and Yvonne.

To contact BBGNS for support or if you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please call 08006889677 or email: brundallandblofieldgns@gmail.com.