

Orford, Gedgrave & Sudbourne Hall Good Neighbour Scheme (OGNS)

Report for Orford Parish Council AGM, May 2021

The OGNS was launched in February 2020. This report covers activity during the months of February 2020 to April 2021 inclusive. It is managed by a Committee of 5 and has 30 volunteers.

In total the OGNS has helped 119 residents. The calls received by task type are as follows:

Task	Volume
IT help	7
Transport	22
Medication Collection	368
Shopping	13
Gardening	2
Befriending	10
Queries	21
Misc - personal alarm installation	9
Total	452

The medication collection figure reflects the activity to support the village during lockdown and when the Orford dispensary was closed. This involved volunteers collecting medication from Alderton twice a week (sometimes as much as 40 prescriptions at a time) and distributing it across the village.

In December 2020, the OGNS was recognised by the Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk and awarded a certificate of merit in recognition of outstanding service to the community in Suffolk.

The Committee try to respond to the challenges faced by Orford. In October 2020 we opened a Community Larder in the King's Head car park, supported by Ian and Suzanne Ballantine. In February 2021, the Orford & District Surgery Charitable Trust gave us a grant to support the provision of personal alarms and key safes which have so far been delivered to eight residents. Future activity is likely to include raising the awareness of scams and frauds that particularly target the elderly and recruitment of more (younger) volunteers.

The OGNS is funded by the New Orford Town Trust, who provided a set-up grant and who pay the helpline costs. Prior to its launch it received financial assistance from the Flower Show.

Corinne Lusher
Secretary to the OGNS