

Great Shelford Mobile Warden Scheme 2020-2022

This is a brief review of the Great Shelford Mobile Warden Scheme's (GSMWS) activities over the last two years while we have been living through the pandemic.

The GSMWS was established in 1996 to provide help and support to the vulnerable elderly community of Great Shelford village to enable them to continue living independently in their own homes. Our Scheme is supported by two part-time, paid wardens as well as a Chair, Treasurer and Secretary all of whom are volunteers. We also have a small number of volunteers who help out on a regular basis.

The Scheme has good relationships with the local chemist, the surgery and other related medical services.

During the last two years the scheme has faced a number of changes and challenges. In March 2020 when lockdown was announced, we held a number of emergency meetings to decide how things could operate safely on a day to day basis without losing vital contact with our members. I circulated the government guidelines each week as they changed and were updated so we could act accordingly and plan ahead. We did a wonderful job in keeping contact with members and providing them with the reassurance that they would still have their phone calls, prescriptions, shopping etc.

During the lockdowns, most house visits were replaced with longer daily phone calls both by our wardens and our amazing group of volunteers. The wardens continued to carry out welfare and emergency visits and some doorstep visits to maintain contact with members and monitor their wellbeing. As the weather improved, face to face social distancing garden visits became the norm.

The number of shopping trips carried out by the wardens increased, prescriptions and pensions continued to be collected, delivered and managed and the Scheme focused on trying to help members engage in activities at home. We bought and distributed puzzle/word search books and jigsaws as well as ordering hobby supplies online. We also ensured pet supplies were kept up to date. I was lucky enough to get a new Aran jumper as one member was keen to keep occupied with knitting!

Alongside the challenges of Covid, we experienced a number of changes in staffing within the Scheme. We said goodbye to three of our wonderful long serving members of the team including our Treasurer, Secretary and a warden. Since then, we have recruited replacements for these roles but we are currently recruiting a warden again.

We said a sad farewell to four of our members including the eldest member of the scheme who passed away aged 103!

We accompanied many of our members to have all three of their vaccines at various sites and we arranged for housebound and shielding members to be vaccinated in their own home.

We have been lucky to have received financial contributions from The South Cambs District Council, The Great Shelford Parish Council, The Great Shelford Parochial Charities, The Shelford Feast, The Cambridge Care Home and the Shelford Village News Magazine, as well a couple of private donations.

We always mark special occasions on the warden scheme. We celebrate Christmas, Easter and Valentines day with a card and a gift and if it's your birthday you always get a birthday balloon.

We are extremely grateful to everyone who supports in this wonderful Scheme.

Thank you.