



## **Caversham Good Neighbours Newsletter**

### **December 2011**

Your Committee (and others!)

Peter Vallance	Chairman
Pat Rawlings	Secretary
Jill Rumble	Treasurer
Richard Heyes	Vice Chairman and "Recruitment Officer"
John Martin	Committee Member and record keeper
Jean Sawyer	Committee Member (long serving)
Stuart Sutcliffe	Co-opted Committee Member – does not wish to stand next year
Anna and Mark Carpenter	helped us with the website, and design of our advertising
Nigel Stanbrooke	helped us with the Constitution Revision
Terry Furlonger	proposed future Treasurer (attended last two committee meetings)
	One vacancy exists, so Committee would welcome anyone who might be interested in standing for next year.

Hello to everybody, - our users, volunteers, and those interested in and supportive of our charity.

Many of you may know something of what has gone on in the last year, but few all of it. Well here is a chance to catch up.

Early in the year our application to be recognised by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) as a charity was rejected. With the help of Julia Stanbrook's husband Nigel, it was re-drafted, and a new one approved at a very, very, short Extraordinary General Meeting. (Thank you all those who turned up to make sure we were quorate!) The new Constitution was accepted by HMRC and approved from the 6<sup>th</sup> June 2011. This means that all those pay tax, which exceeds their Gift Aid donations to other charities, can also add Caversham Good Neighbours by completing a Gift Aid form available from Pat our Secretary, or by downloading the form from our new website, of which more later. Donations include not only those from the people for whom we provide transport, but also those from which the charity benefits, when Drivers do not claim for all, or part of their mileage allowance. If Driver A takes Mrs B to the RBH and drives 12 miles before he gets home, and then decides not to claim, he has effectively donated that sum to the charity. At our current rates he could claim  $12 \times 40p = £4.80$ . If he Gift Aids it, the charity can recover the 25p per £1 tax paid and gets an additional £1.20. Thus the charity gets £6.00 in total. Will all relevant Tax payers please get a Gift Aid form, complete it, and return it as soon as possible to Pat, so that Mr. Osborne, the Chancellor of the Exchequer can add the Government's donation/contribution to the charity!

I mentioned the website, and you may remember that Richard Heyes had an offer to help us set up a website, from Edge Impact Websites, at the Warren and District Residents Association AGM in 2010. Mark and Anna Carpenter have been working with them to produce an excellent and very professional site [www.cavershamgoodneighbours.org.uk](http://www.cavershamgoodneighbours.org.uk) It will be linked to other sites in the area so that it informs potential users or their relatives of our services, and attracts, we hope, potential volunteers.

You may also have heard of another initiative stimulated by an incident when the driver



concerned, needed to know how to contact a user's relative or neighbour at short notice. How would a driver know who to contact if a medical emergency happened during a journey? John Martin came up with a solution - to use the Lion's Club message in a bottle scheme. We now have a supply of these bottles from our local Lion's Club and drivers can offer them to anyone who would like one. In the bottle is a form, on which is entered all the relevant information useful in a Medical Emergency. We would encourage everyone to get one, particularly if they are living on their own. If they carry it with them during a journey, all contingencies should be catered for!!

We had another Get together in early October, in the form of a shared lunch, with CGN providing some liquid refreshment. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and had the chance to meet and socialise with other volunteers, besides the AGM.

This is the opportunity to remind you that the AGM is at 2.30pm on the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2012 (in Church House as usual) All those who are interested in the work of the charity are welcome to attend and join in the discussions. At the AGM our long serving Treasurer, (Jill Rumble) will stand down from the committee (but not as a volunteer.) She kindly gave us 12 months notice, giving us time to find a successor, and I am delighted that Terry Furlonger has come forward. He joined us for our last two committee meetings, and so far we haven't frightened him away. I must thank Jill for all her hard work over many, many years not only as Treasurer but as a fountain of knowledge about CGN operations, and as a volunteer for more years than she probably cares to remember.

Another innovation, possibly not too everyone's liking, is to upgrade our current identity cards to a more professional looking Photo Identity Card. Most people will be familiar with these from their working life. They have become more important recently, with the advent of distraction thefts from the elderly, who fail to ask for proof of callers bona fides. If you haven't sent Stuart Sutcliffe a passport photo by now please do so as quickly as possible, so that the office staff can tell users that Drivers/Visitors will have one to show, if asked.

I would like to remind all those who are members of the various churches, clubs, societies, institutes, guilds etc in Caversham, to remind their fellow members of our existence, the services we can offer and the need for additional volunteers, particularly drivers. We are doing reasonably well at the moment for office volunteers, but as the office staff will confirm, sometimes struggle to find drivers, particularly in school holidays. So please take the opportunity to ask the chairman/person of the groups to which you belong, if you can have 5 minutes about once a year to update everyone about CGN and ask if anyone would be willing to join our team of drivers.

I would like to thank all the volunteers for their contribution during the year, but especially all those who are either on the committee or have been persuaded to help the work of the committee, in an advisory or temporarily co-opted capacity, and who are listed at the front of the newsletter. [Finally, I would like to wish all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.](#)

