

Holbrook Helpers Report for PC AGM 2021

Holbrook Helpers was set up just over a year ago when the Parish Council responded very promptly to the needs generated by the pandemic. Five coordinators and a starting team of 25 volunteers (soon expanding to 65) quickly started helping all those in the village that needed assistance; predominantly with shopping and prescription collection. Thanks to the cooperation between the Parish Council, Holbrook Society, the Surgery and Holbrook Churches, the scheme was a success from the start and earned the gratitude of many people. Although a frightening and very worrying time for many, it was also a time for a fantastic renewal of community spirit which has continued to thrive all year.

Later in 2020, the scheme became formalised by convening a committee and becoming part of the Good Neighbourhood Scheme. It is well financed, thanks to the Emerging Needs grant, the Locality grant from Mary McLaren and a very generous private donation. We have used some of this money to set up two Little Free Pantries. These are being used regularly and have a good circulation of stock, thanks to the generosity of Holbrook inhabitants.

There are many people that should be thanked for all their efforts in this initiative; the coordinators, the volunteers, the prescription coordinators, the Safeguarding lead and the data cruncher. However, special thanks should go to Roy Fisk for his drive in setting everything up and to Kate Saulter for taking on the responsibility of committee chairman.

As of 5th April 2021 Holbrook Helpers has assisted people in the village on 1206 different occasions.