

# Chairman's Report - 20 June 2022

**Alison Keal**

**October 2020 - June 2022**

Our evening AGM is being held at The White Lion pub this year in an attempt to attract a wider audience. The time span between the two meetings is unusually long .

In March I was invited to attend the PCC AGM to present a summary of recent events and developments for the Scheme. I explained that I'd had a recruitment drive by placing posters around the village asking for new volunteers to contact me. Sadly, I was unable to report of any responses to this advert. Listening to other Whissendine volunteer schemes deliver their reports it became apparent that we were not alone and trying to get new volunteers is becoming increasingly difficult for us all.

On 2021 our minutes secretary Marion Laurie was the first of our management team to step down . Shortly afterwards, Gwen Griffiths, secretary, Jeff Eaves, treasurer and myself as chair announced our retirement . To say Gwen maintained WGNS databases and forms would be a diminution of her outstanding work for us. Jeff provided valuable financial records of our income and expenditure not to mention the miles he must have walked hand delivering volunteer expenses personally to their door.

Speaking personally I've enjoyed hosting annual summer tea parties for clients in my garden and attending several Good Neighbour forums in Leicester and Northamptonshire on behalf of WGNS. I was proud to call myself "chair" but often humbled by the generosity of our volunteers.

Collectively Jeff, Gwen and I hold nearly 40 years of service between us for WGNS, being founder members of the scheme.

Treasurer, secretary and chair we were not going to step away until replacements were found, such was their loyalty but our committee felt in danger of changing the nature of how the scheme would operate, if it would survive at all.

Michelle Edwards and I met with Voluntary Action Rutland with a view that they would take responsibility for the driving jobs and the administration of claiming subsidy from RCC. All other volunteer services would remain "in house".

Since that low point in the Spring of this year Juliette Taylor, Sally Ford and Kate Hamilton Ivory have stepped forward to take the roles with Michelle Edwards taking the role of chair.

Latterly Sue Spencer, also a founding volunteer has offered her resignation from her role of collecting and collating work record information. Her summaries of work statistics proved an invaluable insight into the peaks and troughs of monthly volunteer requirements and commitments .

We keenly hope someone will be able to take on her mantle .

It remains to thank you sincerely for your continued loyalty to me and to the Scheme and that the village residents remain supported by capable and unpaid volunteers who willingly give up their time for the good of others