

UPPINGHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM



Dear Uppingham Covid 19 Volunteer,

12.7.2020

Thank You

I write hoping that you have been able to stay safe during the Covid 19 lockdown and to thank you on behalf of UppWatch and the town's Community Emergency Plan coordinators for all that you have done to support those in need of your help in recent months.

Over 40 of you volunteered to expand the permanent UppWatch 'good neighbour' team, with two thirds of you having to be called upon by our central help desk at least once. Many of you continued to offer ongoing support to existing friends and neighbours as well as responding to our additional requests for help. Together you have made an outstanding team that has regularly received praise from those you have helped, and from elsewhere in the county and beyond.

For many, access to the internet has helped them to feel less isolated, but there is little doubt that face to face personal support, even if just on the doorstep, has made a difference to many people's lives. Together with the Uppingham Hopper team you have shopped, delivered medicines, fixed TVs, computers and smart phones, supported the Rutland Foodbank, undertaken DIY, transported the vulnerable to the surgery and hospital and offered ongoing companionship.

In an outstanding show of teamwork, many of you have helped manufacture and deliver PPE equipment for surgeries, schools, care homes and hospitals. This collaborative effort has been magnificent and clearly has helped save lives.

During the height of the pandemic you have again demonstrated that when a community works together no challenge is insurmountable. What a fantastic place Uppingham is to live, work and play.

Now that many in the community are emerging from lockdown, calls to Margaret at our helpdesk have reduced to a trickle. The Emergency Plan team therefore thought it the right thing to do to write to thank you formally for all your hard work and stand the team down at this time.

However, many experts are predicting a second wave of the virus now that businesses are reopening and more folk are getting out and about. To be prepared for such an eventuality, and conscious that some of you have not yet been called upon, it is proposed to retain your contact details in our database until January 2021 so the team can be reactivated as required.

I trust this is acceptable to you. If not, or your circumstances have changed and you are no longer available to volunteer, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us at the e-mail address below or at mjs@clara.co.uk

Thank you for volunteering. If you would like to continue supporting the work of the Neighbourhood Forum by delivering quarterly newsletters (or the imminent affordable housing survey) in your area, or helping to run a community event, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Extra hands are always appreciated.

Thank you for all you have done.

Regards

Janet Thompson

Chair – Uppingham Neighbourhood Forum

Uppingham Neighbourhood Forum - The Voice of Civil Society in Uppingham
A Member of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) the Rutland Consortium and One East Midlands (OEM)

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