



Community spirit is driving village during virus crisis

A NEW charity is helping the vulnerable and isolated in Blidworth and Ravenshead during the coronavirus crisis.

Blidworth On The Move is a voluntary transport service that is helping people attend vital medical appointments — visits they might otherwise have been unable to go to because of fears about using public transport.

Gilly Hagen, chairperson of the Patient Participation Group at the Abbey Medical Group, Blidworth and Ravenshead, and chairperson of Blidworth On The Move, writes:

“Over the past month our volunteers have been working hard with those who are particularly vulnerable and isolated.

“I want to send a shout out to everyone across Blidworth, Ravenshead and Rainworth and the surrounding villages.

“Can I ask you to make sure your neighbour, if they are in lockdown, the elderly and anyone who may have a long-term condition knows about the voluntary transport scheme, Blidworth



On The Move, which is here to get them to that much-needed appointment at the doctors’ surgery or the local hospital.

“These could be people who don’t have access to social media or the internet.

“We know these are people who are confused and unsure about going out. However, they must keep much-needed medical appointments.

“Every person who calls us for our services have now become individuals and families we are now befriending and supporting in a range of ways.

“This is why I am asking you to be the good neighbour.

“We are not just here for the elderly,



however, as you will see from our photo (above).

“This is a patient and our driver following a trip to King’s Mill Hospital, Sutton, who are observing distancing and wearing PPE.”

To book to use the transport, call 079159 29936.

Gilly continued: “Work at GP surgeries and hospitals is now trying

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Community spirit and caring in our villages

to get back to normal. GP surgeries are trying to resume normal services and we are seeing hospital clinics reopening.

“Elective surgery is being done, with services running seven days a week.

“However, please keep safe using distancing and general guidance. Use a mask or visor, this is to be the norm for some time to come.

“I hope the community spirit and caring will continue.

“Personally, and through my social network, the shielded and over-70s have found it difficult not meeting and mixing with friends and family.

“We have survived the second world war, the miners’ strike in the 1980s etc, but this pandemic for our society is so different — its impact causes isolation and loneliness for so many diverse reasons.

“It has impacted on many people’s mental health and well-being.

“So please don’t try to cope alone. Your GP is willing to listen and there are a wide range of services available locally, but only via the phone at present.



“When we renew public access, the mental health charity Mind will be running counselling sessions locally.

“However, if you feel a local support group might help, then give me a shout please. We can make it happen at the Patient Participation Group.”

● To book Blidworth On The Move transport call 079159 29936.

● For details about the Patient Participation Group call Gilly Hagen on 078169 33429.

Useful coronavirus contact details

THE latest guidance from Nottinghamshire County Council and the NHS regarding Covid-19, as well as the latest public information and support news, is available fortnightly and can be seen on the Abbey Medical Group website — www.blidworthandravensheadsurgery.co.uk.

Other useful websites and phone numbers include:

www.nhs.uk/coronavirus

www.gov.uk/coronavirus

www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/emergency/coronavirus/

<https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/>

www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/coronavirus

www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/coronaviruscommunityhub

www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/coronavirus

Sherwood Forest Hospitals patient helpline - 01623 676069

Vulnerable people with no relatives/friends/neighbours to help can call Nottinghamshire County Council on 0300 5008080, (Monday-Friday, 8am-6pm).

Blidworth and Ravenshead Memory Group

BLIDWORTH and Ravenshead Memory Group had been meeting on the first Wednesday of the month at Blidworth Library for anyone living with dementia, carers or those who just had an interest in meeting up. It signposted advice and

suggested activities / resources that may help someone live well with dementia, while also working closely with Hatzfeld House, Blidworth.

Since the Covid-19 crisis meetings have been cancelled but, to keep in touch and

support its friends in the community, the group has started a weekly newsletter.

Anyone interested in receiving it should email BandRmemorygrp@gmail.com or call 079710 39832 or find the group on Facebook.