

## Sally-Anne's Story

---

**It was very insightful for me to help with Wotton Area Mutual Aid and now The Keepers. Incredibly humbling.**



**A group of like-minded people in the Wotton area have organised the community response by offering a support of food re-distribution throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. Mutual Aid is a group of people in their neighbourhoods where people voluntarily take responsibility of caring for one another and exchanging support and kindness. The movement of mutual aid has sprung up nationally during the Covid-19 pandemic.**

**As we are now coming out of lockdown Wotton Mutual Aid has transformed to establish a community organisation called The Keepers.  
@TheKeepersCommunityHub**

---

### **Q. What makes you proud of where you live?**

**Everybody is shocked to see how much goes on in the area when they move here for a relatively small rural town. Wotton is vibrant, and its amenities are good considering how far from Bristol and Gloucester it is. Community Spirit really came through during the pandemic, lovely people and very friendly. We were the first town in the country to vote to increase the council tax for the community swimming pool which became a community project, the same as the cinema, library, and skatepark which is run by volunteers. This speaks volumes....**

**One of our capable citizens has managed to raise funds to get the Astro turf laid at the sports field which has given a terrific boost to the area and is of huge benefit to children and adults alike. When public transport is limited having these sorts of things on your doorstep is wonderful.**

### **Q. How can we build better communities for elderly people?**

**In my area we have 'Welcome to village events' at the pub - Come along have a drink we'd like to meet you. So people can get to know one another. It's about building awareness – just things like having notices up in the shop, facebook groups, community newsletters all help. People start watching out for people.**