



## Monthly Project News

November 2016

Hello everyone,

I am aware that the only regular news of the project is the series of articles in the Parish Magazine, and that despite its pretty good local circulation, not everyone subscribes to it. Additionally, we are also quite reasonably limited to a single page, although we have been able to insert occasional adverts for new activities. Whilst this is generally sufficient to talk about one or two topics, there are times when it would be good to be able to address extra topical items. Therefore, we are going to be sending out a monthly e-mail newsletter based upon the Parish Magazine article - sometimes it will simply be a copy, but at other times there will be additional material, and may also seek to bring to your notice other activities and services that you might be interested in. Further, we will also be thinking about the best way to keep in touch with those who are not on e-mail and don't see the Parish Magazine.

I would like to hear from you all about what sort of things you think we should include in the newsletter - I have already had suggestions - a regular spot highlighting one of our groups (with pictures!) would be good - feedback from participants in the project - and what we are all doing to help.

This month, instead of finishing with particular congratulations and thanks for the efforts, the kindnesses, the donations, etc. that those who support our project have made, I especially want to start this month's article by taking the opportunity to express our gratitude to Sam Cage. Sam has been our Carers Liaison person for over 6 years as well as being involved in lots of other things. She has phoned and e-mailed carers to remind them of meetings and to keep in touch, she has cheered and supported them up in the Carers Club and Info Café, she has helped them with finding personal and respite care, she has facilitated CRB/DBS checks for volunteers when required, and so on. Meanwhile, she has worked full-time, developed her expertise and career in social care and recruitment, bought and refurbished her first house, and is now getting married. I think you will agree that she lives a pretty full life. However, it is now time for her to take a break from the project and we wish her the very best and all happiness. I am sure that we will not lose touch and that sometime in the future she will be able to help out once more.

In the meantime, Sam Forster and Mary Morley have offered to share the role of Carers Liaison. Mary has been Project Secretary since the start of the project and many of you will have received e-mails, newsletters, garden party invitations, events diaries, meeting dates,

agendas, minutes, etc. over the years – all those bits of administration which have to be done in the background. Although Sam has only been a volunteer with the project for the last few months she has found a special place in the Carers Club and info Café. In her “day job” she works with youngsters as a teaching assistant at the High School but she also has great rapport with those who are elderly and frail. As locally “born and bred”, she understands and shares history with all those who come to Dove Cottage with laughter and caring. Especial congratulations to Sam on her marriage to Trevor.

Changing the subject, over the last “wee while” our treasurer, Roger Cockerton, and myself have been much concerned with preparing our “Trustees Report and Accounts”. This is a critical document which tells the Charity Commission that we are worthy to operate as a charity and that our finances are in order. It’s no small thing. As trustees we are legally liable for any irregularities and, especially, that we have met our commitments to family carers of those with dementia, and those they care for, within our community. I can report that our performance remains very good and we continue to grow and evolve in terms of the support that we offer. Financially, our expenditure was kept within our budget. However, our income was about £1,000 less than we had hoped for. This is not a major concern in the short term as we have been able to draw on our reserves but, it is important that over the next couple of years we should aim to “balance the budget” through increased fundraising.

Finally, do remember that we have a couple of wheelchairs. If you would like to take someone with mobility problems out for a stroll, or if you need one to take them to an appointment, please just ask.

Best wishes,  
Lynden.

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