

# CARESCO News



Newsletter No.18  
September/October 2024

## Customer Services

Once again, the project reports below will show you that it's been a busy time at CARESCO. We continue to welcome, and are always keen to meet, new volunteers.

Emma Green, our Secretary and Michelle Goodwin, our Finance Manager are settling in well and are proving to be great additions to our team of Staff. In September we said farewell to Susie Rodger who had been our Administrator for many years. Susie has started the adventure of retirement; we wish her all the best for the future.

We continue to provide much needed and appreciated services to our community and surrounding villages. Whether this is by welcoming people to the centre, charity shop, the cave or by us delivering a service to the door we will continue to endeavour to be here for who ever needs us. If we are unable to help, then I am sure we will be able to guide anyone in the direction to something or someone that can.

Our Volunteers are, as always, a massive cog in the wheel of our charity. It was good to see some of them at the Customer Service (indoor) BBQ in September. It's always a pleasure to host it.

If you know anyone who would like to join our volunteer team or would benefit from one of our projects please contact the office Monday to Friday 09.00 – 12.00 on 01487 832105 or me, Sharon Dougherty, on [Sharon.dougherty@caresco.org.uk](mailto:Sharon.dougherty@caresco.org.uk) or 01487 208026 – available Monday to Friday 09.00 – 17.00.

## Chatterbox

Our Chatterbox project continues to meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Monday from 14.15 to 16.15 at the CARESCO Centre. They currently have 14 members who enjoy meeting up, having a chat and listening to speakers arranged throughout the year. Coming up on the menu are Air fryers, tales of a Holiday, Christmas Drinks and hopefully a Pantomime to end the year! To keep the conversation flowing we are always looking for volunteer bakers to provide a cake or savoury for when the group meets. Please contact me if you are able to help.

## Sounds Good

Meeting at the centre on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month, from 13.30 to 15.00, our Sounds Good project enjoys music or dialogue in any form and are always happy to welcome new members who would like to listen and/or share their experiences with the group. Becky Dyball has recently shared 'Music in my life' and in the next few weeks there will be a presentation on accents by Brian Rodger. Along with Chatterbox, to keep the energies flowing, if you are able to bake a sweet or savoury for this project, please contact me, [Sharon.dougherty@caresco.org.uk](mailto:Sharon.dougherty@caresco.org.uk)

## Tuck Shop

The Tuck Shop supported the Sawtry Walk to Run 10k on the 8<sup>th</sup> of Oct by providing 15 breakfasts and 67 breakfast rolls to marshals and volunteers. We also sold numerous slices of cake and soft drinks to the runners on their return. Our plan is to continue to provide Bacon Rolls for the players and spectators of the Sawtry Colts on a Saturday morning at the 3G pitch. We are having to put together a new plan for this which will work with the new route from the pitch to the centre – watch this space!

## **CARESCO Centre Gardens**

As you will no doubt have heard or read by now Sawtry were awarded the Best Small Town 2024 as part of Anglia in Bloom this year. We are very proud that the CARESCO centre gardens played a part in gaining this award. A great result following some hard work put in by our team of gardening volunteers. We will hear from the It's Your Neighbourhood scheme in the next week or so and certificates will be issued towards the end of October. We are in the process of getting our garden ready for the winter. To make way for new perennials and a couple of trees we have removed a few of the bigger shrubs so it does look a little bare at the moment. We have just had a working party where a lot of the heavier work was done. Weeding is a constant, they almost appear before your eyes! We are into the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of having received the grant from the National Gardening Scheme and the money is being well spent. Bulbs have been bought; new plants are being planned which will hopefully be going in the first weekend of October. Then, along with the regular visits to keep on top of the dreaded weeds we can tend to the new life as it starts to appear in our CARESCO gardens.

## **Charity Shop**

The holiday rail has gone along with the sunshine and has now been replaced with an 'End of Season Rail'. This will help to clear through our summer shorts, dresses and swimsuits.

In first week of October, we will be displaying our Halloween items and getting in the spooky spirit! During the months of September we welcomed 1830 customers through the door, registered 6 people for Gift Aid and received 324 units of donations.

We are always trying to improve on the way things are run at the shop and over the last couple of weeks we have been trialling a slightly different donation system. We have reduced the storage of donations even further. Our booking system remains, as this has proved to be essential with the growth of our Gift Aid claim, but we will now be sorting and displaying donations on the same day that they are dropped off. Our Stock Rotation system means that all clothing will be brought on to the shop floor in the date order of when they are dropped off still but any other items will be available to buy on the same day.

During September we had another lucky number opportunity, the 4 winners were announced on our Social Media page.

We are planning on holding our 3<sup>rd</sup> Fashion Show at the beginning of November. Look out for more details on our Social Media page and in the shop window for this.

If you know of anyone that hasn't experienced our wonderful little charity shop and haven't met the equally wonderful volunteers, please do bring them along, it's the best boutique in town!

## **Christmas Day Party**

The plans for our Christmas Day party 2024 will begin to come together during the next few weeks and more details will be available shortly. We will be welcoming members of the community to our centre on Christmas Day and ensuring the day is full of laughter, entertainment and most importantly of all - company. We will, once again, be offering deliveries, for a small fee, to those that are unable to join us. The volunteers who make our Christmas Day party possible enjoy it as much as our guests, it is hard work both before, during and after but it is a special project that CARESCO are proud to offer. More details will be available soon! If you are interested in volunteering for this special day, please contact me on [Sharon.dougherty@caresco.org.uk](mailto:Sharon.dougherty@caresco.org.uk) or 01487 208026.

## **Green End Day Club**

We have welcomed 5 new members over August and September. The club is doing really well and is full of chatter and laughter.

We were invited to a local home by a lovely lady who owns alpacas, goats, ponies, sheep, geese and peacocks. We had tea and a scrumptious homemade apple cake. The members also got to look at all the lovely vintage prams that the lady owned.

We visited Stilton Club on a Wednesday afternoon for afternoon tea and entertainment from the lovely Singing Gardener. We had a really enjoyable time and it was nice to get the members of the two clubs together to meet.

We have had Twink in making cards with our members and she is returning in December to make Christmas cards with them.

We had a shopping trip to Springfields at the beginning of September. It was a sunny day and we all had a good time. We are planning a trip to Downtown on 8<sup>th</sup> November. Space is limited so please let us know if you would like to come.

We have visited St Neots Day Centre and Warboys Day Centre. It is so nice to see how the other centres run and meet all the staff and members there.

We held a Quiz Supper on 30<sup>th</sup> August and raised £440 for the club. We already have a list of people who would like to reserve tickets for our next quiz on 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

We are currently looking for a cover cook for sickness or annual leave. If you are interested in this voluntary role, please contact Vicki on 01487 832105.

Vicki, Suzanne and Helen

## **Coffee Shop**

Our Coffee Shop is still the place to be every Friday morning at the centre from 09.00 to 11.30!

During the month of September an amazing 284 slices of cake were sold and 85 Bacon Rolls were enjoyed by 140 customers! All of this achieved over 10 hours of trading!

Our team of 4 volunteers work tirelessly on a Friday morning, they also produce mouthwatering bakes, sweet and savoury, along with the 13 bakers who complete our Coffee Shop Team. Their hard work shines through and it's great to hear the positive feedback from everyone who visits.

We continue to offer an event table once a month. October will see our very own Cave displaying and selling items that have been made by members and the Charity Shops Tombola will make another appearance in the coming months. If you or someone you know would like to display and sell anything please let me know, all we ask is a minimum donation of £10.

We have welcomed another Baker to our team this month but as the Coffee Shop becomes more popular so does our need for new bakers so if you are interested in joining our team by baking something for us once every 4 weeks please contact me, Sharon, on 01487 208026 or drop me an email [Sharon.dougherty@caresco.org.uk](mailto:Sharon.dougherty@caresco.org.uk).

## **Fundraising**

I am now back in the flow of the Fundraising Manager role and have been looking into ideas for future events.

We are having the Pumpkin Trail again which will run from Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November. I hope to see lots of houses take part and turn our lovely village orange. The trail sheet will be available from the CARESCO Centre and the charity shop early October. Sawtry Cars are once again sponsoring this event for us.

Green Bottles – If you would like to have a Green Bottle in your home, office or anywhere else then please let me know and I will drop one off to you.

Funding Our Future – If you would like to donate a regular sum of £4 per month to CARESCO then please contact me for details. We currently have 48 regular standing orders for this.

Old Coins – If you have any old or foreign coins/notes laying around at home or from a recent holiday then please consider giving them to us. The coins/notes can be dropped off to the CARESCO centre or the charity shop. I can even arrange to collect them from you if you cannot get to us.

If you have any fundraising ideas that you wish to talk to me about then please get in touch – 07940 304045 or [jacqui.hedington@caresco.org.uk](mailto:jacqui.hedington@caresco.org.uk).

Jacqui Hedington  
Fundraising Manager

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## **Foodbank**

The Foodbank has seen a steady demand for food support in our local community. General donations have reduced during this time, due to the Cost of Living crisis.

Our stock levels are very low and we are hopeful that the Harvest Festival donations will boost the levels back up for the winter months.

Dee, Our Grants Officer, continues to apply for grants to help support the Foodbank. We have a Volunteers Social Evening and Meeting at the start of October and we look forward to getting together to share food and have a chat.

We are running our Basket Challenge, where a group of work colleagues, clubs, friends or family can fill up a shopping basket with donations for us. If you are interested, please phone me on 07743 593863 and I can deliver a shopping basket to you.

Pat Furzeland