



Newsletter

Supporting Carers

in Redditch

May, 2021

The butterflies are...

...on their way but - although they've been spotted - it's actually been in between rain, snow, hail and high winds! They may be feeling a little bit anxious about getting out!

Just like us, really. Yes, we're glad that lockdown's easing at last but we don't all feel exactly confident about being amongst other people and out in the world. Each of us has to work out what we're most comfortable with, to do what we feel is right for us and for those we're caring for. On the other hand, it's definitely time to try and get our lives moving again, weighing up the risks rationally. And those of us who haven't seen our families or friends for a year or more are overjoyed at the thought of being able to get together again when we can.

We're hoping the Ecumenical Centre will soon be opening up and that we can book some real life events and activities - see the *What's Coming Up* column overleaf for all the latest news!

From the Board of Trustees

Dear Carers,

Alex Cameron, Chair - We are sorry to have said goodbye at the end of April to Alex, who has left for health reasons. Alex was welcomed to the Board in 2016/17 when Carers Careline was in financial difficulties due to changes in funding. Alex came to our assistance and helped with fundraising. He became Chairman of the Board when the previous Chair left.



Alex has been a very visible presence in the office and at many of our events. It has been a real pleasure and a privilege to have him on the Board, always cheerful and smiling or 'heads down' quietly getting on with the job. We wish Alex good health for the future, and thank him for all of his work at Carers Careline.

The person who will be caretaking Alex's role is Michael Hopper - Vice-Chairman, whom many of you will know. Michael has been a Trustee and a Volunteer for many, many years and you may have talked to him often as he is one of the telephone support team. We wish you well, Michael.

Trustees - We are looking to recruit one or two new Trustees to join our Board and bring their enthusiasm for the charity to our team. Our Trustees care about the charity and want to make sure that it is well governed. As a carer you may feel that this is not for you but there could be someone in your family or friendship groups who would be perfect for Carers Careline. It's a very rewarding voluntary role and anyone over the age of 18 is eligible to apply. If you think you, or anyone you know, might fit the bill, give the office a ring and they will arrange for one of the Trustees to contact you.

Chief Officer update - In our February newsletter we told you that Natasha Green was joining as the new CO. Unfortunately there was a change in circumstances and Natasha left the post. As you may imagine this was a bitter blow and we were all disappointed. But the Board has worked hard to make another appointment and we are delighted to tell you that Erica will be joining us in May.

In the meantime our amazing office team of Becky, Natalie and Mel continue to support you, the carers, either from home or the office. We thank them very much indeed for continuing to hold the fort during these challenging times.

Best wishes,

Rosemary Seaton-Smith, Trustee

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For drop-ins, watch this space. Normal service will resume as soon as possible.

What's coming up?

Interesting times are on the way, hopefully! Let's just hope that the Roadmap out of lockdown goes full steam ahead and we can begin arranging events and activities again. May 17th is the next date for us to get more details but until then, with our fingers crossed, we've started to make some tentative plans.

Of course, everything will depend upon when and how the Ecumenical Centre can open up. Obviously the main concern is keeping everyone safe which means we will have to be very exact about numbers so if you feel like joining in with anything please follow the very strict rule of phoning to book. We can't wait to have people getting together again but it isn't going to be as easy as it was before the pandemic.

There's a lot of stuff to be worked out - including how we will be able to organise drop-ins. Much will depend upon the Centre's risk assessments and the new Chief Officer so we can't update you yet but we'll be sending out another newsletter at the beginning of June to tell you as much as we can. For now we have organised:

Reading Group

Tuesday, 18th May, 10.30am on Zoom. The book we are currently reading is 'Driving Over Lemons' by Chris Stewart.

Tuesday, 22nd June, 10.30am, hopefully at the EC. Book to be decided 18th May.

Coffee Morning:

Wednesday, 19th May, on Zoom, 10.30-12.

Gentle Keep-fit:

Re-starting on Wednesday, May 26th, 10-11am, in the hall.

And then 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th June. £3 per session.

Creative Writing:

Tuesday, 8th June, 10.30am, hopefully at the EC.

Picnic at Arrow Valley Lake

Thursday, 10th June, 12-2pm

See right-hand column headed 'Carers Week' for more details.

Hope to see you there!

Coffee Afternoon:

Wednesday, 23rd June, 1-2.30pm, hopefully at the EC.

Bereavement Group

At the moment we are waiting to find out how and when the Ecumenical Centre will be opened up but Mel will ring everyone when she has more information.

Craft Group:

Monday, 12th July, 1-2.30pm, hopefully at the EC.

Ring us to book in for any of these activities - you will get all the latest details when you phone.

Sad news

Many of you will have known Tricia - Patricia Pursey - who organised a lot of craft sessions for us and who made hundreds and hundreds of greetings cards for us to sell. We are really sad to tell you that Trish passed away earlier this year. She will be very much missed.

And the 100 Club winners are

March: 1st prize: 98; 2nd prize, 76

April: 1st prize: 85; 2nd prize, 6

Carers Week

Carers Week this year is 7-13th June. The theme is 'Making Carers Visible and Valued'.

As you probably realised there was no mention of Social Care in the March budget. We're obviously hoping the PM hasn't forgotten he promised to 'fix it for good' but for now we'll just have to wait and see.

Meanwhile carers have been more invisible than ever during the lockdowns - we've missed you! We obviously can't do our planned Carers' Fair or even have a stand in the Kingfisher Centre as we would normally - but, undaunted, we've got a better plan!

We're planning a picnic at the lake on Thursday, 10th June, to make ourselves visible! Bring a picnic, bring a chair or a blanket and let's gather outside, socially distanced if that hasn't changed, and let the world see us!

Meet us at the Countryside Centre at 12 noon, till 2pm, for a lovely, friendly, chatty time when we can all catch up with one another for the first time in over a year! Looking forward to seeing you!



Re Facebook - Please note that the Carers Careline Facebook page is for administration only. We can't accept friend requests but you're very welcome to Like and Follow our page to keep up to date with what's coming up - and feel free to spread the word!

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