Carers Careline

providing support for unpaid carers

Newsletter

SEPTEMBER SOCIAL

It was great to see everyone at our September Social. Community Champion's from Tesco's - Sam and Kacie, provided the delicious tea cakes and Chrissy, from Asda, provided some fantastic autumnal themed raffle prizes. Tesco also gifted us a fabulous Tassimo coffee machine which we will raffle over the next 3 events with a draw at our Christmas coffee afternoon, December 16th. Big thanks to our volunteers Rita and Storm who helped out with the refreshments and our raffle Queen, Irene!

We were joined by Alex Doyle, the founder of Better Together and Kennedy Frampton from the FTD Brothers Foundation. Kennedy gave an introduction to the Foundation and shared the tragic story of caring for her mom, Geraldine, who was diagnosed with Fronto Temporal Dementia when she was in her mid 40's. Geraldine tragically passed away at the age of 52 leaving behind Kennedy and her 2 younger brothers, Jordan and Cian. The Redditch based family was hit by further tragedy when they found that the 2 brothers had inherited the FTD gene from their mom, meaning both brothers will have to live with FTD in their lifetime, most likely becoming symptomatic in their early 40's and shortening their life expectancy significantly. In memory of their mom and to raise awareness of their own diagnosis, Jordan and Cian have taken part in numerous charity events and challenges raising over £2 million through their latest challenge of 33 marathon's in 33 days (one carrying a Fridge!).

the FTD Brothers Making Dementia Visible

Better Together

The FTD Brothers team are working hard to raise vital awareness of all types of dementia, research cures for FTD and provide support for family's facing a dementia diagnosis. We're very excited about a possible collaboration with the FTD Brothers Foundation team.

Alex, who founded Better Together almost four years ago, introduced us to the wide range of support solutions available through the service. Alex has successfully grown Better Together into a thriving team of 61 companions and advisors. Having had three grandparents living with dementia, as well as a close family friend with physical disabilities, Alex recognised that people often need companionship and practical support rather than personal care. For example, Alex has provide support to one of our carers by accompanying them to hospital appointments, providing reassurance throughout the process, acting as an extra pair of eyes and ears, and helping with transport.

From companionship and non-care support to assistance with tech, medical transportation, even pet care, Alex and the Better Together team offer a wide range of personalised services tailored to individual needs.
From October through to the end of the year, Better Together is offering a 10% discount to anyone connected with Carers Careline who would like to access their services. Alex and the team are available for an initial chat by phone and can arrange a home visit to discuss any challenges you may be facing to explore solutions that work for you. To find out more, you can call Better Together on 07747 030014, email enquiries@bettertogetherservices.co.uk, or visit their website at bettertogetherservices.co.uk for more information. Alternatively, contact the Carers Careline team and we will be happy to make an introduction.

FAREWELL!

We say a very fond farewell to Nat, our Carer Engagement Manager, who leaves us on the 6th to take up a full-time position with New Lifeline. Nat has brought a wealth of experience, knowledge, and understanding of the caring world to our team, making a real difference to carers. We are sure you will all agree that her dedication, warmth, and support will be greatly missed. We wish Nat every success and happiness in this exciting new chapter. In Nat's words: ***"It has been a true honour to work for a charity that supports and makes such a positive difference to so many carers. I will be forever grateful for the experience, Thank you all for the memories and for being such an important part of my journey."***

HELLO!

We are delighted to welcome Irene to our Board of Trustees. Having been with Carers Careline for a number of years, Irene brings invaluable experience as a former carer, a dedicated volunteer, and our resident writer of the Caring Journey.

Erica, Becky & Nat

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Carers Careline is a registered charity : number

CARING JOURNEY

It's odd how September and October always feels, somehow, like the beginning of a new year when we know it's three quarters of the way through the old year.

Though, upon reflection, maybe it isn't odd at all.

After all, we've all been to school- some of us decades ago - and we've brought up children and been involved with other family members - grandchildren in particular- probably helping out with school runs...

How special the children all look in their brand new uniforms to start the new school year- off to Big School for the first time in their gleaming new shoes - with smiles to match at the anticipation of a new adventure to unfold.

The years we spent at school ourselves probably imprinted in our brains - come September, a new beginning.

This year is no different. Carers Careline is at a New Beginning in a way. What is behind us has passed, the fight for survival has brought us to new hope, a new start in many ways.

Talking to many carers at the event on the 21st September was really enlightening. Of course, they all knew how badly our funding had gone throughout the year, but now Erica was able to tell them we are here to live another day, it was like a huge sigh of relief happened in the room, everybody was smiling and happy and the overwhelming feeling was one of hope.

It really did feel, throughout the carers, the staff, the volunteers, the Trustees, as Phoenix rising from the ashes and we're all so glad to be able to embark upon the next stage of our journey, full of optimism.

Maybe it's a lesson for all carers everywhere. To make this Autumn a new beginning for ourselves and - in some way - change something to make a difference for ourselves and those we care for. It doesn't have to be something massive - even if it's something as small as making a resolution for ourselves to join at least one Care for Coffee event before Christmas. Once we change one thing - who knows what may follow?

Maybe all those new school years that we've experienced in our lives are something we could bring into our minds to help us remember that all change is scary but, yes, it is full of promise, too!

We'll look out for you at our next event!

Irene

CAKE & CONSULTATION

On the subject of events...we have another date for the diary! Don't forget our Cake and Consultation event after the AGM. Starting at 1pm on the 18th November in the Ecumenical Centre.

Join the team for a selection of delicious cakes and a chance to have your say about our services through our consultation session. We'd love to hear how the team have supported you in your individual caring roles, how our services meet your needs and hear your suggestions on how we might improve or enhance our services. The staff, along with the trustees and our team of volunteers, will be on hand for a chat. And the best bit, there'll be cake, coffee or a cuppa waiting for you! See you on the 18th.
Please call us on 01527 66177 to let us know you are coming.

FUNDING NEWS

COMMUNITY FUND

Further fantastic funding news. We have been awarded funding by The National Lottery Community Fund, Awards for All grant programme. We've been lucky enough to have been funded in the past by The National Lottery Community Fund and are very grateful for their support again. The funding will help support the services the staff and volunteer team to deliver, connect and engage directly with our carers.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Daisy disability support
providing disability advice, information and support for you

Finally, we'd like to share some exciting news about extra support available in Redditch for benefits advice and form filling - delivered by a very familiar face!

Becky, our Carer Support Manager, has joined Daisy Disability Support (formerly Dial Worcestershire) as their Disability Adviser and Redditch Outreach Manager working in the community a couple of days a week offering personalised appointments for benefits assistance such as PIP, DLA and Pension Credit. You can find Becky at the multi-agency drop-ins in The Old Needleworks on Wednesdays and Redditch Library on Thursdays. For more information take a look on the back page for full details .

DIARY DATES - OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2026

When	Organised by	Activity	Detail	Where
Monday 5th October 10:00-11:00am	Carers Careline	Care for Coffee? (Group) Book with one of the team	Join Nat for a "natter" at the Library in meeting room 2 for a catch up and a coffee or cuppa.	Redditch Library Market Place B98 8AR
Tuesday 13th October 9:30-12:00pm	Maple View Medical Practice	Drop-In Session Come along for information on a wide range of subjects	We're joining the Maple View Medical Practice team along with representatives from Workwell, Social Prescribing, Carers & Communities, Citizens Advice and Act on Energy.	Maple View Medical Centre Tanhouse Lane B98 9AA
Wednesday 28th October 2:00-3:30pm	Carers Careline	Bereavement Group (Support Group) No need to book	If you have been, or know someone else who has been bereaved recently, come along to this group.	Ecumenical Centre
Monday 9th November 10:00 - 11:00am	Carers Careline	Care for Coffee? (Group) Book with one of the team	Join us for a "natter" at the Library in meeting room 2 for a catch up and a coffee or cuppa.	Redditch Library Market Place B98 8AR
Tuesday 10th November 9:30 -12:00pm	Maple View Medical Practice	Drop-In Session Come along for information on a wide range of subjects	We're joining the Maple View Medical Practice team along with representatives from Workwell, Social Prescribing, Carers & Communities, Citizens Advice and Act on Energy.	Maple View Medical Centre Tanhouse Lane B98 9AA
Wednesday 18th November 1:00 - 2:30pm	Carers Careline	Cake and Consultation Book with one of the team	Join the team for a selection of cakes and a chance to have your say about our services through the consultation session.	Ecumenical Centre
Wednesday 25th November 2:00-3:30pm	Carers Careline	Bereavement Group (Support Group) No need to book	If you have been, or know someone else who has been bereaved recently, come along to this group.	Ecumenical Centre
Saturday 28th November 4pm	Redditch BID	Christmas Lights switch on	Don't miss the Christmas Lights switch on in the Market Place.	Redditch Market Place B98 8AA

As with all our groups and events, you are welcome to bring the person you care for with you.

Regular weekly local activities

Wednesdays 10:00-12:00pm	Frhens woodlandelectrical@btinternet.com	Frhens No need to book - donations welcome	A friendly support network for women. Providing activities, trips and get togethers.	Ecumenical Centre
Tuesdays 10:00 -12:00pm Wednesdays 10:00 -12:00pm Thursdays 10:00 -12:00pm Fridays 10:00 -12:00pm Saturdays 10:00 -11:00pm	Healthy Worcestershire 01905 928185 or 0800 772 0307	Free activities and topics Call to book or turn up on the day	A free service to help improve your strength and balance, support your mental health, and provide social activities.	Sandycroft Centre B98 7DH Abbeydale Community Club B98 8JE Oakenshaw Community Centre B98 7YB Willow Trees Community Centre B98 9JG Batchley Community Centre B07 6PD

Don't forget our Telephone Support or Carers Connect Services. We can schedule a regular support call, email or text or you can join our carers WhatsApp group. If you would like additional contact or support, call one of the team on 01527 66177. Our office hours are 10:00 - 1:30pm Monday to Thursday. Drop-In: Monday to Wednesday 10.30am -12.30pm.

HOW CAN I GET ADVICE?

Benefits | Money | Housing finance | Work | Debt

Family | Confidential advice | Tenancy advice

Would you like to find out about groups, activities and services available locally?

Drop-in to one of the following safe and supportive spaces, where people are available to offer support, advice and connect you to the right help!

No need for an appointment.

Redditch Library
15 Market Place, Redditch, B98 8AR
4th Thursday of the month, 11am-1pm
please turn over for dates
(Printer, telephone, scanning & computer access available)
The 'Your Health' bus will also be at this venue.

The Old Needle Works Foundation
Britten House, Britten St, Redditch, B97 6HD
Weekly on a Wednesday, 9.30am - 12pm

Daisy disability support
(Formerly DIAL South Worcestershire)

Welfare Benefits Support For You

Navigating the benefits system can feel overwhelming.

Our advisers provide confidential, independent advice to help you understand your rights and entitlements.

We support with applications for:

- Personal Independence Payments
- Attendance Allowance
- Disability Living Allowance
- Pension Credit
- Universal Credit.

Our service is person centered, compassionate, accessible and designed to support you at every stage so you can live independently and with dignity.

Daisy disability support
(Formerly DIAL South Worcestershire)

01905 27790

info@daisydisabilitysupport.org.uk

daisydisabilitysupport.org.uk

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Registered Charity No. 1085677

Company Registered in England & Wales
No. 4150056

Daisy Disability Support is a trading name of DIAL South Worcestershire

WAN Worcestershire Advice Network

aqs advice quality standard