

CARESCO NEWS



CARESCO Newsletter No. 3
February 2022

2021

The CARESCO team had a very busy time last year, as reflected in the statistics on page three. These figures reflect the impact of the second year of the pandemic, particularly in the number of prescriptions and meals delivered and food parcels issued.

EMMA FLANZ – GENERAL MANAGER



CAVE NEWS

The Cavers continue to keep themselves busy, this has included re-thinking the layout of the workshop. Not only has this obviously improved workshop health and safety, due to Cavers having more space to work with around the equipment but Spring cleaning also seems to have gone a long way towards shedding the winter blues.

The Cave has been a hive of activity with a variety of activities on the go every session. We continue with furniture restoration, bug houses and benches (so many in fact we forget how many...). We have also serviced pushbikes and lawn-mowers, re-modelled a dolls-house, re-upholstered furniture and made cushions and aprons with donated fabric. Our recently joined craftsman seems to have settled in well. His bread boards, engraved with his signature wheat logo are popular and often sell out the same day.

While the Cavers continue to keep themselves busy with all these practical projects, it is easy to forget what the primary function of the Cave is.

The Cave is all about the social connections, forming friendships and sharing knowledge and skills. There are always practical projects on the go if you like to keep busy but is not a prerequisite to joining us. Remember we are a community and always keen to induct new members.

With news of two more individuals hoping to join us in the coming weeks, we look forward to seeing our family grow. If you are interested in joining us (you might have a skill to offer, would like to learn a new one or simply fancy some company) please pop in for a coffee (or tea) and a chat either on a Monday, Tuesday or Thursday morning. Everyone is welcome.

SHAUN POLLOCK – MANCAVE MANAGER



CHARITY SHOP NEWS

Following a successful Christmas, the beginning of 2022 started off fairly quietly as far as sales were concerned, footfall has been low also. Both are slowly beginning to increase so, hopefully, the post-Christmas lull is coming to an end at last.

We held our last Lucky Number offer of 2021, the four winners collected their prizes on Christmas Eve and were happy to have their photos taken for our social media page on Facebook.

The shop is no longer closing at lunchtime. Of course, if our sales increase as a result of this it will be fantastic, but to be able to offer the community more shopping hours is our main aim and this seems to have been a positive move. Thank You to our till volunteers who are giving an extra 1/2 hour of their time to enable this to happen.

We have refined our donation booking system and stock rotation even more, and as a result of this donations are raising funds for CARESCO 3 days after being dropped off.

The shop now boasts two handsome new, donated, mannequins who can be seen in the window advertising how reasonably priced a complete outfit can cost. We had a lovely Valentine-themed display made up from donations collected over the year.

We are continuing to register new gift aiders each week and our donation booking sheets are filling up every day. If you have not already done so, please follow our social media page where you will see any items that cannot be displayed in the shop due to size, are being sold.

Thank You to our volunteers and customers for continuing to support us during these uncertain times. There are not a lot of guarantees that we can make at the moment, but one thing we can do is promise that your Charity Shop will still be here offering the best bargains money can buy and doing so with a welcoming smile.

Thank You for your, much needed and continued support.

SHARON DOUGHERTY
– CHARITY SHOP MANAGER



FOODBANK UPDATE

We had a busy festive season when a team of 19 volunteers gave out 62 Christmas food parcels to help feed 220 local people, in addition to the normal weekly parcels. They showed what amazing teamwork can achieve.

During January we issued 42 food parcels, helping 102 local people. The number of clients in the first two weeks of January dropped and now numbers are increasing again due to rising costs everywhere!

Currently our stock levels are good, with just a few items low in stock. New shopping lists are now displayed at our collection points. Our warehouse manager and our volunteers have been working hard to organise our shelves of stock into date order.

We now have a team handbook which contains lots of useful information. This took a couple of months to make and involved a team effort to produce. Thank you to everyone who was involved with this.

We are happy to welcome two new volunteers to our team. We hope they will enjoy their volunteering experience with us. The team is now operating at full capacity and we have some extra drivers on standby too, which is really useful.

Our first Steering Group meeting of the year is in March and we look forward to hearing lots of new ideas for the Foodbank. We predict that it is going to be another busy year.

PAT FURZELAND – FOODBANK MANAGER



GREENEND DAY CLUB

The New Year has started really well at GEDC. We welcomed back all our members and have had a couple of new faces join us too which is most welcome.

Our bus fund has been going very well and we are not far off raising our first target amount. We continue to raise money within our club amongst our members and had our first quiz supper of the year, with all the proceeds going to the bus fund, in February.

We have a wonderful team of volunteers at the club who are invaluable to us. We took them all out for a meal in February to thank them for all they do and for giving up their time to help at the club.

We have our first trip of the year booked for March to The Beefeater at Peterborough which we are all very much looking forward to.

This year is shaping up to be a fun-filled one at the club with a lovely two-course meal as well which is enjoyed by all. Please come and join us if you want to give it a try What do you have to lose?!!

VICKI, PAT & SUZANNE – GEDC MANAGERS



FUNDRAISING NEWS

We have lots of events coming up this year especially our **40th birthday** and we need to all have a think as to how we want to showcase such a special birthday. If you have any ideas, then please let us know.

The **CARESCO Quiz Night** in November raised £827 on the night and this amount has also gone towards the minibus appeal. Our next quiz is on Friday 1st April at Sawtry Club, and if you feel like bringing a team of 4-6 players along you'd be very welcome.

We raised £763 at the **Frost Fayre** in December from our raffle, hampers, Man Cave stall and refreshments. Thank you to the Cavers who made a bespoke Sleigh for this event, a popular photo opportunity for many.

The **Santa Run**, organised by Sawtry Walk to Run raised £400 for us – we provided the refreshments to greet the runners and walkers on their return. A fantastic sight to see so many “Santa’s”.

The **wooden hearts** that we hung on the village tree was again a reminder of how many people want to say something about a loved one especially at Christmas time. It is now becoming a bit of a tradition for us.

The **Christmas Quiz Sheet** had everyone scratching their heads and another one will be done to coincide with the Jubilee later in the year.

We have a belated **New Year Party** at the Village Academy on Saturday 19th March after it was postponed in January. Tickets for this are being sold at the charity shop and proceeds on the night are being split between CARESCO and the SVA.

On Saturday 26th March there will be a **Line Dancing Evening** which is being run by Julie Gillmore at the SVA – Julie runs line dancing groups and has organised this event but generously wants to give CARESCO all the proceeds.

There will be a **Easter Hunt** over the Easter weekend where children and families find letters by following a set of clues to make a word/s. Once they have the answer, they can claim a bag of sweets. Look out for the Easter animals making an appearance.

The annual **Scarecrow Trail**, normally in September, will this year be run over the Jubilee weekend in June – The theme will be “The Queen” – hopefully the village will be full of royalty for all to see.

Sawtry Carnival – Saturday 11th June – CARESCO will be having some stalls at this village event so if you're there please come and say “Hello”.

Sawtry Sport 4 All – Saturday 9th July – this event seems to be growing each year. We are looking for volunteers to help on the day, if you're interested then please contact CARESCO.

JACQUI HEDINGTON – FUNDRAISING MANAGER



