

Dartmouth Caring



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DEE'S COMMENTS

We have had several changes within the office recently. Sacha went off on maternity leave at the end of October and Lesley joined us in mid October.

Jackie and Rita, our Community Bridge workers, have settled in well and I'm pleased to say the benefits of that role are already very obvious. Alison has worked incredibly hard to ensure that the team is cohesive and working well and this has proved to be very positive to volunteers and clients.

I do hope you all have a very, very happy Christmas and a prosperous new year. Thank you very much for all your support to Dartmouth Caring over the last year and we hope to have your continued support and interest in 2011.

Dee Nutt
Chair



Visually Impaired Reading Group

This monthly event started in October and is hosted by Maria at the Library. At present the numbers are small but we hope to improve on these in 2011 as more people are reached. Please let anyone you know, who is visually impaired, about the group and suggest they come along. There is so much more available to enable you to enjoy reading such as talking books and large print. The Reading Group is also a social event, a chance to chat with people and also learn about new books. We have been very lucky that Simon Yeoll from Dart Optical has attended all the sessions so far. This has been extremely helpful and supportive to the group. If you wish to join please contact us in the office (01803 835384) or Maria at the Library.

Memory Café

I am pleased to say that we are now in the fourth month of our very successful Memory Café. Wendy Curtis and Marilyn, from our office, have organised this in a very positive way. We have had great support from our health care professionals and the feedback from this monthly event is very positive. The dates for next year are 11 January, 15 February, 8 March, 12 April, 10 May, 14 June, 12 July, 9 August, 13 September, 11 October, 8 November and 13 December. Anyone with memory problems plus partners or carers of those having difficulties are welcome. There is a lot of support and constructive help available as well as general advice and direction. It is also a chance for everyone to get together in an informal environment. If you know of anyone who may be interested please pass on the details or ask them to contact us at the office.



Carer's Checks

During the last 6 months, in conjunction with the Medical Practice, we have been facilitating carer's Health & Wellbeing Checks as part of a nationwide programme. Judy Johnston, a retired social worker, has been working for us to meet carers in their own home to discuss their needs and then follow through to Dartmouth Caring so we can formulate all the help and support for them with all the relevant services and bureaus. This has been a very positive initiative, funded by Devon Primary Care Trust and we are finding it very beneficial. We have been able to refer carers to either health service professionals or to facilitate them in ensuring they have the correct allowances to help them in their role. This is an ongoing project and if you are a carer and wish to be involved please do not hesitate to contact the office on 01803 835384.



Christmas Cards

We have been extremely lucky this year that 2 local artists, John Guillo (pictured) and John Donaldson, have each donated a Christmas card design to the charity. This has been a new venture for us and I'm pleased to say it has been a very successful venture.



Flu Clinic

I am really pleased to say that Karen and our volunteers work very hard with Hannah from the Medical Practice in facilitating the Flu Clinics. This is an annual event and we are very happy to help the Medical Practice in this role. Although this is added pressure, Karen believes this to be very beneficial. The added bonus is she gets to meet lots of people from the local community and explain to them the role of Dartmouth Caring.

Browns Lunch

On the 3 October we had a fantastic Sunday lunch, with music by Jonathan Hughes - Jones and Max Cann. This was very well attended and Browns did us proud with the food and everyone had a lovely afternoon.

We are arranging another event with them at the end of January to break the winter blues, please contact us if you would like to know more.

ALSO PLEASE DON'T FORGET: BUY AMAZING WINES AT AMAZING PRICES ~ INCLUDES A DONATION TO CHARITY! Each month Browns will select a series of wines in a variety of price brackets to be the Dartmouth Caring wines of the month. **5% of the price you pay will be given to the charity.** BROWNS aim to maintain their commitment to match or beat the prices of the same wines on the internet, or pay you back the difference.

Food Festival & Cream Tea

As everyone no doubt knows, this years Dartmouth Food Festival was a great success and we were very pleased to be part of it with the Cream Tea Event at the Flavel. Volunteers manned the hatches and served cream teas with a flourish all day.



Rainy Day Funding



We have been very lucky that Sheila Wardle Shaw, one of our Trustees, has taken on board the running of market stalls and coffee mornings.



She has worked very hard, with the help of Iris, Beryl, Wendy and Lynda over the last 6 months and has been very busy in Avenue Gardens, Market Place and attending various fete's and functions within the surrounding villages. This is a fantastic way of meeting with the community to promote the charity and also to income generate as well.



CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

Dartmouth Caring would like to say thank you so much to all our volunteers, without whom we couldn't exist. You all do an amazing job and are crucial to everything we do. If you know of anyone who would be interested in becoming a volunteer, to be involved as little or as much as they wish, please do pass on our details. We are constantly looking for added support. We now offer training and lots of social occasions too.

Please note, our office will be closed from midday on Thursday 23 December and reopen at 9.00am on Tuesday 4 January.
We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.





Visit from our Local MP

On 29 October Sarah Wollaston, our local MP, visited us to hear more about the charity and the scope of our activities. We emphasised the function of the recently appointed Community Bridge Workers and our role within Dartmouth and the surrounding villages.

Sarah has worked as a GP so she has a great understanding of the role we play in the community linking general support for those without families nearby and the involvement of any services as soon as they are needed.

A Bit of Fun!!

This is one of our Community Bridge Workers in a relaxed mode on Children In Need day!



Christmas Fete

During Candilil Weekend, Dartmouth Caring held a Christmas Fete, which was a huge success. We served, teas, coffee, cake and mince pies. Our volunteers, who were wonderful, ran multiple stalls selling Christmas cards, gifts, bric and brac. The day was a huge success. Everybody had a great time and we raised £900.00 for our charity. So, thank you to everyone involved and also to all those who attended.



Rockfish

On the 4 November we arranged a Lunch Club trip to Rockfish in Dartmouth. Jamie and the staff really looked after us and we had a fantastic lunch. Due to popular demand we plan to arrange another visit in the New Year.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

December

24 - Christmas Carols at Bayards Inn

January

11 - Memory Café at Townstal Community Hall

12 - VIP Book Club at Dartmouth Library

19 - Connect information day at Sainsburys

27 - Evening of food and music at the Spice Bazaar

30 - Sunday Lunch at Browns

February

2 - VIP Book Club at Dartmouth Library

13 - Event at Exeter Races

15 - Memory Café at Townstal Community Hall

19 - Coffee Morning, Stoke Lodge

24 - Volunteers Tea

March

26 - Coffee Morning, St Clements

28 - Annual Fashion Show

Plenty of fun and interesting events coming up in 2011! Please always enquire or also look out for our posters around town.



A special THANK YOU to all those involved in Dartmouth Caring: the sponsors; volunteers; supporters and our team. Our work within the community would not be possible without you

