

# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

## Dee's Corner

Firstly, I would like to say, "Happy New Year!" As the new decade begins, let us hope that we can now have a stable government which will work hard to keep its promises and re-establish and run a Health Service and Social Care sector which are efficient and fit-for-purpose.

The staff in the office continue to surprise me with their wonderful ideas; one of which is the Wednesday Afternoon Club at the Community Corner. This is a fantastic innovation, full details for which appear later in this Newsletter.

The office is particularly busy at this time of year as staff deal with the problems caused by the seasonal bugs which beset us all. Please be especially vigilant with regard to elderly family members and neighbours; this can be a very dangerous time of year for those of us who are a little longer in the tooth!

I sincerely hope that 2020 is a good year for you all and on behalf of the staff and trustees, thank you for your continued support of Dartmouth Caring.

With very best wishes,

Dee

## From Nick's Desk

Happy 2020!

The past year saw a significant increase in demand for our services, as you will read in the report of the AGM below. In no small part this is due to the generous support that we receive from several key benefactors, to whom we offer our very sincere thanks.

The main increase in our funding, and therefore in our ability to expand our services, came from an expansion in the efforts made to submit bids for available charitable money and also in the work that we do in partnership with other local charities, as a member of the Wellbeing Partnership. (<http://wellbeingpartnership.org/>)

The partnership works collaboratively with both the NHS and Devon County Council to support our clients, both before they enter statutory services and after their

discharge. Collectively, the Wellbeing Partnership aims are to help local people to remain living independently if that is their wish. Sadly, as we all know, the health service and social services are both stretched to capacity and beyond. What we, along with our partners, are able to do is mitigate the effect of this on some local people. We cannot provide a universal service and can indeed only provide what we have funding to support.

We are very fortunate to have many excellent volunteers that allow us to do more than we possibly could without their very valuable input, however, we are constantly seeking new names to add to our lists. Could you be one of the new faces in 2020?

In 2018-19 over 10% of our local population received some kind of support from Dartmouth Caring. Some were very simple requests for assistance, whilst others came to us with very complex needs and we are very proud of the support which we were able to supply. However, what gives me and the whole team the greatest satisfaction is seeing the real difference that we can make to people's lives.

We look forward to 2020 and the work that lies ahead!

## **Report on Dartmouth Caring's AGM**

On Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December the Charity held its AGM at which both the annual report and the financial summary for the year were presented. The annual report highlighted an increase in Dartmouth Caring's services in the areas of specialised health work; the charity now employs 2 part-time nurses who provide support in the areas of cancer, dementia and end-of-life care.

The quite recently launched Home Help Service, which aims to assist those who wish to stay in their own homes, has proved very popular. The initiation of this service was supported by a very welcome grant from Devon County Council. The charity already supplies 35 hours of help weekly and this figure is growing rapidly. It is a charged service, but the fees gathered go directly to cover the costs incurred in providing this aspect of Dartmouth Caring's work.

Dee Nutt, Chair of Trustees, paid tribute to the charity's major benefactors, Dartmouth United Charities, The Hadley Trust and the Claire Milne Trust. In addition, she highlighted the time and expertise which is so generously supplied by the body of very faithful volunteers, without whom the charity could not complete its work on the ground.

During the past year, there were 13,000 interactions with over 750 clients, which represents an increase of 34% on the preceding year. Astonishing figures for a small, local charity.

David Flowerday presented the Treasurer's Report for the 2018/19 financial year. This showed that careful management and the timely application for available support grants has ensured that the charity remains on a stable financial footing as it enters the new year. Nick Hindmarsh, in his Manager's Report, also highlighted the importance of successful bidding for available monies which allows the charity to

maintain and increase its services; the challenge is to duplicate this income year-on-year. The Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved by the Board. A complete report with a full set of accounts is available through the manager, or by visiting the Charity Commission website.

## **A New Initiative:**

### Wednesday Afternoon Club

*This new social initiative provides the opportunity for people to get together with old friends and new and spend the afternoon enjoying activities such as quizzes and games, crafts, bingo, seated exercises and much more. Guest speakers and sumptuous freshly baked cakes are also on the menu!*

*Come along on a wednesday afternoon from 2.30 - 4.30pm and join in the fun and games at Community Corner in The Old Market, Dartmouth.*

For more information, call us on 01803 835384 or email: [Enquiries@dartmouthcaring.co.uk](mailto:Enquiries@dartmouthcaring.co.uk)

## **Please don't forget . . .**

That every time you shop online, you can help raise donations for Dartmouth Caring. If you use easyfundraising over 4,000 shops and sites will donate to the charity, so you can raise FREE donations for us no matter what you're buying. These donations can really make a difference to our budget, so please sign up if you haven't already. It's easy and FREE! You can get started at:

[https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/dartmouthcaring/?utm\\_campaign=raise-more](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/dartmouthcaring/?utm_campaign=raise-more)



Become a Volunteer Car Driver!

HELP YOUR COMMUNITY

*"I had more free time when my son started school and I wanted to do something that got me out and about. Volunteer driving is perfect and I meet such lovely people!"*

*"I like to give something back, and helping to solve an immediate and local problem gives me great satisfaction."*

*"Contact with other people is important to me - I really enjoy meeting people who are of a similar age to me and having a sensible conversation with them."*

We are always looking for volunteers to keep schemes going - can you help?

If you have a little (or a lot) of time to spare and are interested in becoming a Volunteer Driver then please do get in touch! Drivers of all ages across Devon volunteer for many different reasons and the benefits it offers. You can choose which journeys you do and will be paid expenses.