

# Annual Report

## 2011—2012



Registered Company Number 7513432

Registered Charity Number 1140728

# **Have you visited our website yet?**

There you can find:

- *Our history and background*
- *How we got to where we are now*
- *Details of the services we offer*
- *Current news*
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- *Information on future plans*
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- *The Sawtry Eye magazine*
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*Our grateful thanks to Webshepherd for all his help in maintaining our website*

**Welcome to our**

# **Annual Report**

**1st April 2011 to 31st March 2012**

For information on anything in this Annual Report,  
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[www.caresco.org.uk](http://www.caresco.org.uk)**

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# Introduction

**Objects:** The charity's objects are specifically restricted to the following: To advance any charitable purposes for the benefit of the community of Sawtry and satellite villages, in the county of Cambridgeshire, and in particular the relief of persons in need within the area of benefit.

To identify welfare needs of individuals and groups in Sawtry and its satellite villages, devising means to meet those needs, with the help of volunteers, and to enlist the backing and co-operation of the statutory services and existing voluntary organisations and any other medium.

*(Taken from CARESCO's Articles of Association)*

**Social Aims:** To improve the lives of local people, in particular working on early intervention by supporting those who need additional help, especially older people and their carers, while also offering others an opportunity to focus their energy and effort into the community in a positive manner by volunteering. In addition CARESCO aims to improve the opportunities for community groups to communicate their message in printed form and to offer an opportunity for local people to sell on unwanted items.

**Activities:** The main focus of our activities continues to be to provide day care for the elderly, housebound and socially isolated within Sawtry and the surrounding area. We have also continued our on-going low-cost community print service, editing the village magazine, running a weekly café and also second-hand clothes shop.

All our activities are co-ordinated by a small team of paid part-time staff who are supported by a large number of volunteers, without whose time, energy and skills none of our work would be possible. We aim to ensure that the sole qualification for volunteer recruitment shall be the suitability to perform the required task.

We welcome day care clients from within our geographical area regardless of background, gender, or faith. The only restriction being our ability to cope with their care needs. The day care activities charge clients a modest fee for attendance to help towards our running costs while ensuring no one is excluded by price.

The printing service is available to individuals and community groups, while the café and clothes shop are open to all who wish to access them.

**Social Impact:** CARESCO's overall social aim continues to be to improve the lives of people living in and around the village of Sawtry. The main focus for this over the years has been in the provision of day care services in the form of a lunch club and two day centres.

In addition to the day care, CARESCO also runs other activities which are social enterprises in that any profit made from providing those services is used to support the core day care activity. These trading activities take the form of:

**Printshop** - A community print shop providing low-cost printing for local community groups, in particular newsletters and event programmes - open weekday mornings.

**Nearly New** - A second-hand clothes, textiles, small toys and little bric-a-brac items outlet providing customers with an opportunity to sell their own items, but also selling donated items - open one morning a week during term time.

**Coffee Shop** - A community cafe offering a place to meet and enjoy a cuppa with friends, open one morning a week all year round and alongside Nearly New during term time.

All three activities are organised by paid part-time staff who manage a team of volunteers.

For thirty years CARESCO has been a social focal point in Sawtry, pulling people together in a common cause. Since the start in 1982 CARESCO has been reliant on volunteers willing to give up their time to support and help our staff in providing a service to the local community. For those who have become involved with CARESCO, the organisation has had a huge impact on their lives, providing care and support for those who need it and a positive occupation for those willing to volunteer.

Our work has meant early intervention for many, bringing some in as volunteers and keeping them active and socialising, some of whom may later move across to become beneficiaries from our services. For our service users their attendance helps in many cases to keep them in their own homes for longer than would otherwise be the case and thereby preventing or delaying a need for residential care.

# Chairman's Report

This will be the first AGM of CARESCO Ltd which is now fully established with all the bank accounts and paperwork changed, and all for the princely sum of £25.00 (plus a lot of hard work). With all the financial doom and gloom we were expecting funds to be tight and in fact Cambridgeshire County Council did reduce our grant by 3%, but other organisations, such as the Small Business Partnership, adopted us and with our own fundraising activities the year has ended with a small profit.

During the year we heard the sad news of the death of our Founder and President Marjorie Dybeck. We held a celebration of her life, at which all the people who knew her delivered interesting and humorous anecdotes with obvious affection.

We have been fortunate to gain Ann Daniels and Wendy Gray as new Trustees. Ann is heavily involved in the revised financial procedures with Marina and Linda, while Wendy is pursuing Corporate Friends of CARESCO. Unfortunately we received the resignations of three Trustees, John Walton, Loretta Ball and John Garner. But there was no way John Garner could get off that lightly, so we made him Vice President. This was to mark the massive contribution he has made to CARESCO over many years.

After the major revamp of the kitchen last year, we have had a quiet period for this year. We are however planning the installation of a shower room, re-decoration of the Club Room, if not the whole building and searching for replacement chairs. Staff and Trustees have also been busy researching the new, 2012 project of the Christmas Day Lunch, for which we have the volunteers and have been promised funding. So even in a quiet year we are still moving things forward.

At Alconbury we have had a change of staff. Jennie Holme retired at the end of March as Thursday Club Organiser. After so many years in different positions within CARESCO that even she could not recall when she started, or what position she even started in. We are delighted that Mary Watkin, who after a brief period as Deputy, has stepped into the role and taken over without a hitch, well it appeared to us like the gliding swan but I daresay to her at times it was the frantic paddling underwater. Gaynor Fowley has also returned to the CARESCO fold as Deputy to Mary as Jean Kendall plans to slowly slide into retirement. I think she is hoping to vanish without any fuss. Unlikely!!

Having attended various AGMs and meetings held by some of our partner organisations, I am pleasantly surprised at how CARESCO is held in such high regard. We are often mentioned as THE organisation that others should aspire to. This shows that all the hard work put in by Volunteers, Staff and Trustees is not only appreciated by the Members but is also recognised by outsiders and is something which everyone involved with CARESCO can be truly proud of. Thank you all.

Barry Dupée

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# Treasurer's Report

This was quite a landmark year. Our first full year as an incorporated charity and one in which we worked hard to streamline the backroom financial procedures to reflect our new status.

Cambridgeshire County Council provide approximately one third of our income and in the current climate cut our grant by 3%. This meant that the financial pressures for the year would be great. However all fundraising projects exceeded expectations which reflect the commitment of both staff and volunteers.

It was the first year that CARESCO has run financial projections and, as may be expected, there were mixed results amongst the various budget headings. However, with careful management and a review of all service and utility contracts we have managed to come in ahead of our projections with enough profit to re-invest in some updated seating.

There were some low points. It took the full year to rationalise the bank accounts and get all assets transferred into the charity's new name. Dealing with Santander provoked many a sleepless night!

This was also the first year in which Sawtry Eye has suffered from bad debt. The agency handling the Co-op advertising went into administration owing us £490 and we are unlikely to recover any of that debt. However all other monies were eventually recovered following the introduction of a Credit Control Procedure which will provide a consistent, timetabled approach to ensure good customer liaison.

Luckily there were more high points than low. A start has been made on changing to computerised accrual accounting and internet banking has been introduced. Here mention must be made of the many additional hours worked by our Accounts Manager Marina Joyce, mentored by new Trustee Ann Daniels to bring this about.

CARESCO Ltd has been registered as a charity with HMRC and Gift Aid has been introduced into the organisation. It has been extended to include donated items for the Nearly New shop. Nicole Thynne has introduced a commendably simple system and Ann Daniels has volunteered to do all the paperwork.

The Corporate Friends initiative has been launched. Our first sign up has been David Shipp of Sawtry Cabinets. Wendy Gray is our latest volunteer Trustee and with the skills and experience of her day job, has kindly agreed to spearhead this initiative and to help develop and publicise our 'brand'.

As CARESCO is now a limited company, annual accounts must be submitted to both the Charity Commission and Companies House. We have been lucky enough, through the services of Trustee Adrienne Holt, to secure the offices of Kim Davis as a pro bono auditor and we are very grateful for her advice and hard work on our behalf.

I am acutely aware of all the financial support that the organisation receives from businesses and individuals within the community and of the guidance given by our partner organisations. However this year I'd like to give a special thank you to all the staff that have so willingly discussed and worked with me in bringing about structural financial changes. Your co-operation has been beyond the call of duty and I look forward to us all feeling the benefits of the hard work.

Linda Dupée

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## Manager's Report

Our first year as CARESCO Ltd has been very full on with ongoing reviews of all our existing policies and procedures and writing necessary additional ones. We have also undergone reviews of all staff roles and job descriptions to ensure that the written version matches the day-to-day reality. My thanks to all staff members for their patience through this process. What soon became obvious was the dedication and commitment of all current members of staff who work so hard and often beyond their duties to make CARESCO the success it is today. This has always been the case and we are conscious of the contribution over the years from previous staff, volunteers and trustees too.

To build on all that has gone before I have been fortunate enough to start a training course, provided by our local Community & Voluntary Service (CVS), Hunts Forum on writing a business plan. This is proving a very useful process which is ensuring that all parts of CARESCO are systematically put under the spotlight. Once completed the plan will be reviewed every six months to check that it is still up to date and reflects any new developments. It should also prove to be a useful tool when applying for funding or negotiating contracts in the future.

Another aspect of the changes at CARESCO has been to start exploring ways that we could expand our services on offer to the local community. In the spring we began to investigate the possibilities of holding a Christmas Lunch on 25th December 2012 by meeting up with a number of people who had been involved with similar schemes elsewhere in Huntingdonshire. Our thanks to everyone who gave their time and advice so willingly.

We have also begun to look at opportunities for partnership working with other organisations. These have included discussions with Life After Debt, WRVS, Care Network, the Volunteer Centre managers and Hunts Forum. Any developments will need to be carefully considered to be sure that it fits within our remit, that there is sufficient ongoing funding and other necessary resources to enable us to provide any new service in a professional manner.

During the year Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) have been carrying out a review of their Older People's Services during which they have held a couple of conferences to consult with providers which I was able to attend. These are useful opportunities to meet up with other voluntary sector day care providers as well as meeting Council officers. Although CARESCO has not yet been really affected by any outcomes from the review, there are developments planned that will change the way that we receive our funding from CCC over the coming years.

In the CARESCO office as we have changed and updated our ways of working, we have welcomed Donna Green as a volunteer to help and assist our accounts manager, Marina Joyce, in her day-to-day duties as well as to

*(Continued on page 8)*

deputise in the Printshop and help with the printing.

We have been delighted over the year to welcome a number of younger people into the CARESCO Centre, be they children and staff from the Day Nursery, members of the Junior School choir at Christmas, volunteers doing community service for their Duke of Edinburgh award, sixth formers from the Community College as part of their Enrichment programme or children and staff from the Buttons & Bows playgroup who have come across the car park from the Old School Hall to sing to our Day Centre members. We always welcome opportunities to enable our older users to meet up with some younger members of the community for the enjoyment of all.

Back in November we received an invitation from Huntingdon Community Radio for someone from CARESCO to take part in a programme and promote our work. The obvious person was our treasurer Linda who went expecting a ten minute slot only to discover she was the sole guest for an hour long programme! Needless to say, Linda did a wonderful job telling Huntingdonshire all about CARESCO and has been invited back to do it all again. Linda, along with husband Barry, our esteemed chairman, have also represented us at a number of events with display boards and leaflets, which has given us introductions to a range of organisations and individuals who may be willing to work with us to service the people in the Sawtry area.

My personal thanks to both Barry and Linda for their undying enthusiasm and energy for the cause, for their leadership throughout the change from Sawtry & district Care & Resource Organisation to CARESCO Ltd and their guidance in this year of working our way through the repercussions. Thank you also to our other trustees for their help and support, to the other members of staff for their endless willingness to give above and beyond, and of course to our huge team of volunteers who give their time freely to make CARESCO what it has become today.

Liz Coates

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## Alconbury Thursday Club

- Manager:** Mary Watkin  
**Deputy:** Gaynor Foley  
**Treasurer:** Jean Kendall  
**Cook:** Anne Darvill  
**Venue:** Alconbury Sports & Social Club  
**When:** 9.30 am - 2.30 pm  
**Volunteers:** Ethel Andrews, John Bourne, Pat Boyce, Anna Bratby, Priscilla Dawson, Sylvia Eaton, Terry Foley, Sue Hart, Judith Lacey, Marie Maclarty, Ros Partis, Monica Pegg, Marjorie Rowlinson, Wendy Turner  
**Membership:** 21

**Aims:** *A day out for the housebound and socially isolated and a break for those who care for them.*

Our membership remains at 21. During the last year we have had several people join but for various reasons have left and so our membership remains static. Our members are increasingly frail and we have several members, who struggle with various degrees of Alzheimer's, which is a challenge we are addressing with increased numbers of volunteers, who spend time with them, ensuring other members can also enjoy their day with Thursday Club.

We have had a good selection of activities in the afternoon, including sing-alongs with Bill Starkey, entertainment from young drama group Stars on Stage and the singers the K & B duo. We have had talks from Tilly Aird, Terry's Trains and Guide Dogs for the Blind plus speakers on exercise for the chairbound, speakers on foot care and also from the Community Safety Partnership. We provide a range of games, quizzes and other activities, which offer mental stimulation. Edinburgh Wool and Just My Look Clothing have visited as well as local card and jewellery makers. We held services for Harvest Festival in September as well as Maundy Thursday at Easter. Our local GP surgery visit and give flu jabs to those who want them in November. We also continue to collect prescriptions for our members.

We were able to raise £500 which allowed us to buy five new wheelchairs for our outings as well as refurbish some



of our older stock bringing them up to required standards. We will have had four trips out by the end of the year, Springfields, Grafham Water, Wyevale Garden Centre in Crowland and our annual shopping trip in November. We are helped in these trips by 14 enthusiastic volunteers.

We are lucky to have such dedicated help and support from individuals who come either every week or monthly. I would like to thank them all for their support, hard work and fun throughout the year. Many of our volunteers put in a great deal of work outside the actual Thursday Club. In particular I must thank Jean Kendall, who continues to work as Thursday Club Treasurer and is an endless source of advice and comfort.

Mary Watkin

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## Sawtry Day Centre

**Manager:** Pat Ayres

**Deputy:** Gill Robinson

**Cook:** Lyn Wallis

**Venue:** CARESCO Centre

**When:** Wednesday and Thursday  
10.30am – 3.00pm

**Volunteers:** Derek Dolling, Betty Endicott, Marjorie Foster, Margaret Geary, Wendy Hunt, Heather Ivatt, Stephanie Mathews, Margaret Morgan, Mavis Smith, Pat Thomson, Doreen Walker, Maureen Westbrook and Frances Williams.

**Membership:** Wednesday - 18      Thursday - 15

**Aims:** *A day out for the housebound and socially isolated and a break for those who care for them.*

This last year Day Centre has enjoyed a full and varied programme of entertainment in situ plus 5 lunches out at different venues. Kate and Brenda a ladies' Duo from Peterborough have visited us on two occasions. They perform songs from the 40s onwards and wear costumes to suit the occasion. Alan Bottell from the Sawtry History Society has been twice. One of his visits was to show us a video from the Queen's Coronation which brought back many memories for our members. In September we had a visit from a lady who gave a talk on Life Below Stairs. She dressed in a Victorian maid's outfit and displayed many costumes and items from the Victorian era. Shelia Harland once again came and demonstrated her talent for flower arranging and generously donated the finished products for us to raffle to our members.

Using funds from the main Day Centre account has enabled us to purchase and install an induction system in the main function room which has assisted those members with hearing aids to switch them to loop and be able to hear our visiting speakers more clearly.

In January we had to say goodbye to our regular driver Mel Wright who decided to retire. We presented Mel with a gift thanking him for all his care over the years. Kelvin Favell our driver in previous years has returned to us on Wednesdays and we have Jim on Thursdays and we thank them both for their friendly caring manner.

With the help of Lyn Wallis and Pat Thomson I continue to run the monthly Friday night Bingo session. Our raffle on both days continues, the money raised from both of these goes into the members' social fund which subsidises our trips out and pays for visiting speakers. Our thanks also go to John Thomson who leads us in our morning Chair Exercises.

Thank you to Gill our deputy manager for organising our trips out and in house entertainment. Bill Allport continues to maintain the Day Centre's equipment and carries out many other tasks, thank you Bill. Also our thanks to our music man Terry Watkins for his continuing support. Our final thanks go to Lyn for the delicious meals she prepares and to all our volunteers for the time and care they give to the Day Centre.

We welcome anyone who feels they can be a help at the Centre if not regularly then perhaps they would be able to help when we go out on trips.

Pat Ayres

## Lunch Club

**Manager:** Lyn Wallis  
**Deputy:** Pat Ayres  
**Venue:** CARESCO Centre  
**When:** Monday and Tuesday 10.30 am - 1.30 pm  
**Membership:** Monday—11 Tuesday—13

**Aims:** *To provide the members with an opportunity to work together preparing and enjoying a meal.*

The Lunch Club is a self-help group where members join in to the best of their ability e.g. laying the table, washing up and cleaning up after the meal. Each week they choose a two course meal which they all enjoy together instead of eating at home alone.

The purpose of the Club is to bring people together for a few hours to enjoy each other's company, as well as helping each other. My deputy and I prepare and cook the meal. We do have some vacancies so if you know or have someone in your family, or if you are on your own and feel that you will benefit from joining the Club, take that step, pick up the phone or just pop in, you will always receive a warm welcome.

I would like to thank our volunteer drivers who give door to door service and more with a smile, namely Carole Armitage, Malcolm Jeffery, Jackie Gillis and Maureen Westbrook, also to Bill Allport and thank you to all the members for taking part in the activities within the Club.

This year we have three sessions of Carry on Cooking from Age UK. At the first session Lisa talked about nutrition and healthy snacks and members did a quiz. The second was about fruit snacks and a Price is Right game and discussions. The third session was demonstrations on chicken casserole and sponge pudding cooked in the microwave - need we say everyone had a taste of all foods.

Our annual Christmas lunch was at the Addison Arms in Glatton where a great time was had by all.

My final thank you is to Pat, my deputy for her support throughout the year.

Lyn Wallis

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## Printshop

**Manager:** Marina Joyce  
**Venue:** CARESCO Centre  
**When:** Monday—Friday 9am—12 noon

**Aims:** *To provide a low-cost printing service for community groups, eg village magazines, programmes & newsletters*

It's been another busy year for us with all our regular printing jobs which include: Sawtry Eye, Stilton Scan and Eye Scan village magazines, Brockley Central Old Scholars newsletter, Hunts RSPB newsletter, Sawtry Parish Council annual report, Sawtry Carnival programme, Fenstanton Sports programme and Great Stukley Flower Show Schedule alongside a number of smaller one-off jobs.

My thanks to Donna for all her help in the Printshop over the year.

We had our annual buffet lunch in December as a thank you for all Printshop volunteers who help throughout the year which was a great success and a good turnout.

We have roughly 40 volunteers old and new, who are always eager to help either with the folding, collating or stapling for 2 hours in the mornings when needed, who are very much appreciated. The Printshop could not run without all their help, the more there are on the team makes less work for everyone.

If you know of anyone who would like to help at the Printshop please phone the CARESCO office on 832105 or call into the office between 9 – 12 weekdays to find out more.

Marina Joyce

# Sawtry Eye

**Editors:** Liz Coates & Marina Joyce  
**Designer:** Samantha Rees—News; Donna Green—Advertisements  
**Bi-monthly:** February, April, June, August, October & December  
**Distribution:** Sawtry, Glatton, Conington & Upton

**Aims:** *To edit, produce and distribute a village magazine paid for by commercial advertising.*

The Sawtry Eye has continued to be published throughout the year on a bi-monthly basis and distributed to every house in Sawtry and three neighbouring villages. We are grateful for the ongoing support of so many local businesses who chose to place their adverts with us thereby providing the funding to cover the costs of productions and delivery. We know that many readers hold on to each copy as a reference until the next one appears on the door mat.

Space is always tight these days in the news section, a reflection of how popular the magazine has become and how useful local community groups find it in getting their message out. Our thanks to everyone who has made a contribution over the past year, especially to the regulars who have to keep thinking of something different to say.

A huge thank you to our two volunteer graphic designers who give the Eye its distinctive look, Sam and Donna. They work hard over a very short time scale to ensure that the magazine is ready in time for printing. Once printed the team of Printshop volunteers take over, collating and stapling the individual copies which are then counted and boxed so that they are ready for distribution.

Finally we are also conscious that after putting the Eye together, there is a loyal band of reliable people who take responsibility for delivering the magazines to the doorstep, a particularly thankless task, especially during the winter.

All in all the Sawtry Eye is a real team effort.

Liz Coates & Marina Joyce

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## Nearly New

**Manager:** Nicole Thynne  
**Venue:** CARESCO Centre  
**When:** Friday 9am—11.30am (Term time only)  
**Volunteers:** Clair Adamson, Gill Hussey, Mick Litchfield, Doreen Rickard and Eileen Shearer

**Aims:** *To provide a point of sale for good second-hand clothes, toys and household items either sold on behalf of the customer or donated.*

Nearly New has had an extremely successful year (September 2011—August 2012) with takings just over £2000. We have gained quite a few new customers, donations have also been up on previous years and with the introduction of Gift Aid, this has helped boost the money raised for CARESCO.

This year we didn't hand out as many leaflets to the schools but we did do a lot of advertising and selling of items through the new Buy/Sell and Advertise page on Facebook. The Junior School lost property also became a regular addition.

We have asked all customers to complete a Customer Record form so that they can be easily contacted if they have items or money to collect and although the storage cupboard is full of donations, there are now minimal customer returns. Terms and Condition leaflets are also given as a matter of course to any new customers.

I would really like to thank my wonderful volunteers Clair, Gill and Doreen for all their help over the last year especially for the late nights sorting and tidying. Big thank you also to Eileen who had to leave us due to ill health. Without them, Nearly New wouldn't function nearly as well.

Fingers crossed for another really successful year.

Nicole Thynne

# Coffee Shop

**Managers:** Marina Joyce & Liz Coates

**Venue:** CARESCO Centre

**When:** Friday

9—11.30am (9.45—11am during holiday periods)

**Volunteers:** Mary Creaney, Daphne Bacon, Ann Daniels, Margaret Geary, Adrienne Holt, Wendy Hunt, Angela Newell, Maureen Urwin, Maureen Westbrook

**Aims:** *To provide a venue for people to meet up with old friends and to get to know new ones over a cuppa.*

The Coffee Shop has continued through rain or shine (and even snow) on a Friday morning, only closing for a couple of weeks over the Christmas period and for Good Friday. Customers have enjoyed meeting up with friends for a cuppa and a piece of home-made cake, served by our friendly team of volunteer waitresses, many of whom have also baked and donated the cakes sold. Our thanks to them for their cheerfulness and generosity, especially at quarter to nine on a Friday morning.

During term time the Coffee Shop is popular with parents who come straight in from the playground to spend time together before getting on with the tasks of the day while later in the morning they are joined by other customers not tied to the school day. Holiday times are quieter, but the Coffee Shop continues to serve throughout. We are grateful for our customers' loyalty over the year and for the financial support they give CARESCO as a consequence, providing vital funds to help support our other work in the community.

In the spring the menu of drinks on offer was reviewed and customer suggestions sought, with the consequence that the range of beverages will now be extended and new ones trialled in the autumn. We do not currently have the specialised equipment to produce the drinks available in a high street cafe, but can still offer a range to suit most tastes.

On occasions the local Community Police Support Officers call in to spend time with customers talking over issues, (and enjoying the odd slice of cake too). This has proved useful for both customers and the police service and we are looking into possibilities of other agencies also dropping by occasionally to be available should they be needed.

Our thanks to everyone for another successful and profitable year.

Liz Coates & Marina Joyce

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# Sawtry Village Car Scheme

**Aims:** *To provide an affordable alternative for anyone who has difficulty using public transport.*

CARESCO is no longer involved in the Car Scheme as it is now co-ordinated by Nene & Ouse Community Transport based in Thrapston. There the team liaise between the volunteer drivers and those requesting transport.

There is an annual membership fee to join the scheme then passengers pay a fare per journey, based on a mileage rate, direct to the driver on the day of travel.

For more information about the scheme and how to become a volunteer driver or a member of the scheme and use the service, please call:

# 01832 733336

and ask for details about the **Sawtry** Village Car Scheme.

Please note that the team at Thrapston deal with a number of car schemes so will need to know that you are interested in the one at Sawtry.

Liz Coates

# Friends of CARESCO

**Aims:** *To form a group of supporters who wish to be more informed about the work of CARESCO while offering some additional commitment, both financial and in kind.*

The Friends of CARESCO have had a quiet year as we have worked through the implications of incorporation. Changes in our banking arrangements have meant that Friends have been asked, where relevant, to set up new Standing Order mandates and also to sign Gift Aid declarations. Many have kindly done so which will increase the value of their regular donations without any extra expense to themselves.

Those considering becoming our Friend are asked to make the commitment of a regular donation which goes towards the ongoing work of CARESCO, helping us to plan for the future. They then receive a newsletter keeping them informed about the various CARESCO activities and fundraising news along with a copy of each annual report. New Friends are always welcome, so if you have not already signed up, please consider doing so. Application forms are available from the office or as a download from the website.

A new development this year has been the introduction of our Corporate Friends scheme whereby we are asking local companies to support us in return for some form of recognition. For more information, again contact the office.

Liz Coates

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## The CARESCO Centre

Now in its twelfth year, the CARESCO Centre is beginning to show its age in places. It is in need of redecoration throughout and the carpets are becoming badly stained and we are hoping to replace the Club Room part with washable flooring. However, considering that it is after all only a temporary building, it is lasting very well. The chairs, some of which pre-date the Centre, also need replacing and funding is currently being sought to buy wipeable and stackable ones.

The kitchen which was extended and refurbished over Christmas in 2010, has certainly proved its worth and once again we were proud to receive a five star rating from Huntingdonshire District Council's Environmental Health Officers. Congratulations to everyone responsible for keeping the kitchen so clean and to the staff for their knowledge on food safety. With good timing a new large fridge-freezer was bought for the kitchen just as guidelines were updated advising separate storage be used for meat (both fresh and frozen) away from other foods. Therefore the smaller unit was retained and moved into the Meeting Room to be used for meat, while the new one has been installed in the kitchen.

Plans are now underway to install a shower for use when needed for our day care club members and external funding will be sought to pay for this work.

Back in July we were delighted to welcome the In Bloom judges who started their day in Sawtry at CARESCO where they had a chance to admire our now mature garden and also to enjoy refreshments before heading out around the village. The judges were very impressed by the variety and design of the garden, commenting that there was good all-year-round interest. They also particularly noted that the maintenance is all done by volunteers. My thanks to Keith Shelton, John Thompson, Bill Allport and Peter Newson for all their hard work.

Also in July we had our first flooding crisis when, during a particularly heavy downpour, the seal around the store room window gave way. The result was a waterlogged cupboard which had to be emptied and dried out. The culprit turned out to be a tennis ball wedged in the downpipe which had caused the guttering to overflow above the window, probably for a long period of time. This water finally poured in around the window and all over everything below it. Fortunately nothing too vital was lost and only a few items of Nearly New stock suffered water damage.

After many years of campaigning by all the organisations who use the car park adjacent to the CARESCO Centre, the County Council agreed to resurface the whole area at our end. This has made a huge difference for all the users and greatly increased everyone's safety by removing the rather impressive potholes. Once resurfaced the parking spaces were repainted in a slightly different layout which has improved the use of the space available while retaining the Keep Clear area in front of the Centre for use by our own transport and deliveries.

My thanks to everyone who has helped out over the year to keep our maintenance costs minimal particularly Tim Newell, our trustee with responsibility for property, ably assisted by Barry Dupée and Bill Allport.

Liz Coates

# Fundraising

A huge thank you to everyone involved in making this a good year for raising funds for CARESCO, both those who organised and ran events and to those who supported them. This is a vital source of funding without which we could not continue to provide our valued services to the local community.

This gives a brief summary of the highlights from the year with apologies for any omissions. Totals have been rounded.

Our fundraising year got off to an impressive start in April with a charity night organised by the Sawtry Small Business Partnership held at the Sawtry Club and raising around £680. The same weekend Darius from 100% Fitness organised a Charity Draft Combine on St Judith's Field and raised over £50 for CARESCO.

In May our annual car boot sale proved to be rather damp (again) but still brought in £270 while the Grafham Lions Safari walk around the reservoir raised £300 in sponsorship. At the end of the same month The Bell public house in Sawtry and the Addison Arms in Glatton teamed up to hold an activity packed charity day and making a donation of £300 to CARESCO.

During Feast Week in June, CARESCO was well represented at the start in the Feast Parade with supporters wearing our distinctive white tee-shirts while at the end of the week during the Carnival £620 was raised in total through a number of means including a hog roast organised by Tim & Angela Newell aided by Tim & Adrienne Holt and the Cream Teas run by the hard working ladies of the WI from the CARESCO Centre.

In September we had another delicious Afternoon Tea organised by Lyn Wallis & Pat Ayres, raising £190 along with a Quiz Night run by the Business Partnership who made a donation of over £80. We also received two generous donations, one for £500 from Almary Green, and the other for £220 from Sawtry Co-operative Store through their annual summer Pick up a Penny campaign.

October saw a first for CARESCO with a barn dance held at Sawtry Community College with the dancing led by a Wagon Load of Monkeys. This proved to be a fun if rather energetic evening raising over £400 after expenses.

Huntingdon's Waitrose store made us one of their charities of the month in November resulting in a donation of £225 towards our running costs. Also in November we held our second quiz supper at the Addison Arms in Glatton, where we received a warm welcome from Michelle and Ian Gamblin. This proved to be very popular and challenging, thanks to quiz master Matt Coates, and raised £200.

Our now annual Body Shop evening in December with Emma Green and friends gave ladies (sadly no gents this time) a chance to buy gifts for others and treats for themselves as well as enjoy a hand massage or facial and raised £170. Throughout the month we also sold quiz sheets from Peterborough Lions which raised £40 for CARESCO on a 50:50 split.

The New Year always sees a number of donations coming in from local organisations and businesses often as a result of fundraising over the Christmas period or from contributions made in lieu of sending cards. This year was no different and we were grateful to receive generous donations from Sawtry Tea Dance (£60); All Saints Church (£280); Wellside Surgery (£40) and Salon 42 (£50).

Thank you again to everyone involved in any way for making this year so successful for fundraising, particularly to the members of our Fundraising Group, Adrienne Holt, Angela Newell and Jacqui Whitney who worked so hard through the year. We could not have done it without you. With a third of our income coming through donations and fundraising events, we need to maintain this activity to ensure that CARESCO has sufficient funding in the future.

As always we could use some new enthusiasm and ideas for future fundraising activities. If you would like to contribute in any way, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the office. You do not need to become a trustee in order to be able to join the Fundraising Group.

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The logo for 'Gift Aid It' is written in a black, cursive, handwritten-style font. The words 'giftaid it' are written in lowercase letters, with 'it' being smaller and positioned below 'aid'.

CARESCO is now registered for Gift Aid so if you are a UK tax payer you can sign a Gift Aid declaration when making a personal donation and CARESCO will be able to claim back from the government an additional 25p for every £1 given. This includes monies donated through our home collecting boxes as well as any regular giving by our Friends. For more information, please contact the office.

# Marjorie Dybeck 1930—2011

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of our founder and President, Marjorie Dybeck back in October at her home in Cumbria, following a long illness. Although she moved away from Sawtry some 16 years ago, Marjorie never lost interest in CARESCO and maintained contact until the end. She was a remarkable woman, achieving more in her lifetime than many would begin to manage in two.

In 1998 Marjorie published *The Story of CARESCO – A Successful Voluntary/Statutory Partnership in a Rural Area* which she hoped would aid other groups into setting up similar organisations in their own locality. The book states about its author: “Marjorie Dybeck was the founder and first organiser of CARESCO in 1982. After a career spanning 20+ years in education, Marjorie became Deputy Head of a large Comprehensive School. On her marriage [to Maurice Dybeck, then warden at the village college] she moved to Sawtry in 1973 and became Parish Clerk of a very active Parish Council, Deputy County Organiser of Cambridgeshire WRVS and Vice-Chair of the National Association of Councils for Voluntary Service, and is [in 1998] the Chairman of the Council from Voluntary Action – South Lakeland.”

The foreword of the same book, written by John Major, then MP for Huntingdon, summed Marjorie up well when he said: “Mention CARESCO to anyone in Huntingdon and it is Marjorie’s name that they will all refer to. She devoted so much of herself to the organisation”. Copies of the book are still available from the CARESCO office.

Even today, there are many people still involved in CARESCO who ‘blame’ Marjorie for getting them involved in the first place. She had an amazing ability to spot people’s potential and was able to persuade folk to get involved even when they had no intention of doing so. The current manager was not only convinced to start work as the deputy organiser in the Sawtry Day Centre but to later be nominated onto the Huntingdon Community Health Council by Marjorie’s persuasive charm. The present Secretary thought he had been invited for pre-Christmas drinks only to discover that Marjorie had him lined up as the next chairman of CARESCO.

Like all good parents, another of Marjorie’s major strengths was to be able to step away and leave CARESCO to fend for itself when the time came. Marjorie and Maurice moved away from Sawtry in the mid-90s yet CARESCO continued to thrive under the people Marjorie had recruited in her place. Marjorie however, never left completely and always received the management papers and the Sawtry Eye magazine, maintaining her quiet, gentle support with encouragement and reassurance.

In December we were proud to host a Celebration of Marjorie’s life when our Club Room was filled with people who had gathered to remember her. Parts of the audio recording made at her funeral in Cumbria were played including tributes from family and friends. Those in attendance were then given the opportunity to speak about Marjorie and their memories of her with much affection and humour. Finally Maurice presented CARESCO with a framed photograph which is now hanging on the wall in the Club Room. Beside the plaque in commemoration of the day that Marjorie officially opened the CARESCO Centre in 2001.

Donations were made, as requested at the funeral, for both CARESCO and Marie Curie.

Our thoughts continue to be with Maurice and the rest of the family.

Liz Coates

*Based on an article written for the Friends of CARESCO newsletter Autumn 2011*

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## Financial Statement

### April 2011—March 2012

The audited financial statement for the year April 2011 to March 2012 is available as a separate document, please contact the CARESCO office if you would like a copy or visit our website at [www.caresco.org.uk](http://www.caresco.org.uk)

Our thanks to trustees Linda Dupée and Ann Daniels and to our Bookkeeper Marina Joyce for all their hard work through the year to produce our new styled accounts and financial procedures.

# The Beginning

CARESCO began as a registered charity founded in 1982 (registered number 288202) with the full title of **Sawtry & District Care and Resource Organisation**.

In the mid-1970s a number of community groups were set up in the village, including a day centre for the elderly, held at Sawtry Village College and a lunch club where people could prepare and share a meal together, held in the Homecraft Centre. After a few years, the original organisers had to move on and, rather than losing these groups, a steering committee was formed and CARESCO was born.

Based in the rather ancient modular building known as the Homecraft Centre, CARESCO continued to grow in size and strength through the enthusiasm and hard work of all who were involved.

Over the years a variety of projects have been brought under the CARESCO umbrella, each run by paid part-time staff and supported by teams of volunteers, working together with local authorities and other voluntary organisations towards a stronger, more caring community. Funding has mainly come through grants from local councils, attendance fees, personal and organisational donations and fundraising.

In 2001 CARESCO moved into an all new purpose built modular building, called the CARESCO Centre, funded by a grant from the National Lottery and bringing most of the activities together into one building.

By 2011 a new legal structure was needed to strengthen the organisation and enable CARESCO to deal with the new requirements of funders and other organisations, therefore CARESCO became an incorporated charity, CARESCO Ltd. All assets were transferred from the old to the new organisations and so to the general public there was no real change, but behind the scenes there has been a lot of hard work to smooth the way.

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## Management Board

### 2011 –2012

**President:** Marjorie Dybeck

**Vice President:** John Garner

**Officers:**

Chairman	Barry Dupée
Hon. Secretary	David Whitney
Hon. Treasurer	Linda Dupée (formerly Rathbone)

**Board Members:** Loretta Ball<sup>++</sup>; Ann Daniels; Barry Dupée, Linda Dupée (formerly Rathbone); Adrienne Holt; Sarah James; Angela Newell; Tim Newell; Liz Poole; John Walton<sup>++</sup>; David Whitney; Jacqui Whitney

<sup>++</sup> Retired mid-year

**Non-voting** Observers Representing Sawtry Parish Council—Amanda Burridge; Janet Spencer  
CARESCO Project Staff (ex officio) are welcome to attend board meetings and contribute to the discussion, however Staff are asked to leave during sensitive agenda items.

### Note

- Trustees are appointed or reappointed annually at the Annual General Meeting held in the autumn.
- All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration or other benefits.