

# **Annual Report**

## **2013—2014**



***Serving the local community***

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*
- *Upcoming fundraising activities*
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- *Previous annual reports*
- *The Sawtry Eye magazine*
- *Ways you can get involved*
- *Contact details*

**[www.caresco.org.uk](http://www.caresco.org.uk)**

*Our grateful thanks to Webshepherd for all his help in maintaining our website*

**Welcome to our**

# **Annual Report**

**1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014**

For information on anything in this Annual Report,  
please contact

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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, 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, to offer an opportunity to pass on unwanted items for resale and a means to access transport for those without other options.

**Activities:** This year we have continued to provide day care for the elderly, housebound and socially isolated through our day centres in Sawtry and Alconbury along with a lunch club held in Sawtry. We have also maintained our on-going low-cost community print service, editing the Sawtry village magazine and running a weekly café. This year's big initiative has been to open our own charity shop in Sawtry. In addition we have hosted our second Christmas Day Party and have seen significant changes to the car scheme.

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 our work would be impossible. 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.

Our car scheme is available to anyone who has difficulty accessing public transport and our Christmas Day Party is offered to anyone who would otherwise be on their own on the day. The printing service is available to individuals and community groups, while the café and charity 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 to provide an opportunity for the elderly to get out for a day and to give carers time off, but also includes other activities outlined in this report.

In addition, CARESCO also runs trading activities which are social enterprises in that any profit made from providing those services are reinvested back into the organisation. These trading activities take the form of:

- Printshop -** A community print shop providing low-cost printing for local community groups
- Charity Shop –** A second-hand shop giving a local opportunity for recycling unwanted items by selling them on to customers at low cost.
- Coffee Shop –** A community cafe offering a place to meet and enjoy a cuppa with friends, open one morning a week all year round.

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

For more than 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 direct 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 has been a year of growth and consolidation as CARESCO moves from strength to strength.

We have continued to network locally within the sector, especially through the Hunts Forum 'Keep in Touch' sessions and Cambridgeshire County Council's Provider Workshop events. It has become our practice to actively seek partners when considering new initiatives and to this end have become one of the very first organisations to sign up to the Huntingdonshire Compact; a group which is inclusive of local Town and Parish Councils and small voluntary and community groups in the area.

While we are a community charity, focused on the needs of our own community, we do feel that we must strive to attain best practice standards. Consequently as part of our business plan we have commenced a review of all CARESCO's practices and procedures. We are at the start of a transition from CCC grant receiver to CCC contract holder and as such are benefiting from the Council's mentoring in this area.

As always CARESCO is keen to consider new projects and ideas. This year we have hosted and benefited from the efforts of students from Sawtry Community College who in the final week of the summer term came to help paint the corridor, toilets and back room of the Centre. They also created a promotional video, chatted with Day Centre members and raised funds by busking, washing cars and selling homemade cakes.

Due to the unexpected runaway success of the CARESCO Charity Shop we find that, as well as fulfilling a local need, we are now generating a steady income stream. Whereas the success of the shop did ultimately result in the demise of our Nearly New project; the additional income received has allowed us to invest in both the organisation's infrastructure and new initiatives. We are about to start a Sounds Good group two Friday afternoons a month where we meet to celebrate the spoken word and music. In addition the Board has also given permission to set up a Good Neighbour's project which will involve partnership working with Care Network, the Carers Trust and CCC.

All in all a strong year where we have progressed in all areas of the organisation. Our financial position is stronger, incidents of partnership working and new initiatives are increasing and there is a consistency of approach developing. I am very proud to work with everyone who contributes to the work of CARESCO and who contributes to the thriving life of our community.

Thank you

Linda Dupée

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# Treasurer's Report

This has been a year of financial consolidation and the accounts reflect the high standards of financial control which we have come to expect and appreciate. We budget, look to make fundraising fun, manage our money, monitor our financial performance and plan for the future.

At the beginning of the year the Board were aware that we had taken a well considered and researched leap on faith in making the financial commitment to opening the charity shop. With hindsight we can see that this was an excellent call with excellent timing. CARESCO commercial/social enterprise operations raised a total of almost £39,000 in the year. This profit compensated for a drop in grants and donations and has allowed us meet the increase in our Designated Funds which includes a capital expenditure designation for the year 2014/15 of £5,500. From the figures for our General Fund Expenditure it is obvious that without our more commercial operations we would have made a loss for the year.

We have also worked hard through the year to standardise the financial practices between our Day Care projects and I would like to thank Alconbury Thursday Club for the time and consideration they have given to this.

Finally I would voice my appreciation for Kim Davis of Focus Management services who has helped so much, in a pro bono capacity, in the preparation of these statements.

Linda Dupée

The financial statements are available on request or as a download from our website—details on page 13.

# Manager's Report

What a year we have had, starting with the opening of the CARESCO Charity Shop, then later adopting the car scheme, and more recently planning for a new social music based group to start soon and a Good Neighbour scheme for later in the year. Meanwhile there has been ongoing work behind the scenes updating policies and procedures and introducing new ones where necessary to ensure we maintain the standards. This work has also included updating our business plan to ensure it reflects the current picture. Copies of these documents are available on request from the office.

Over the year we have had a big emphasis on training for trustees, staff and volunteers. We are grateful to have access to the Adult Social Care training courses offered by the County Council Workforce Development Team, giving us many more options available. Although these courses are not necessarily run with the voluntary sector in mind, most of the information is of use even if it needs translating to match our own situation. We have also been able to access training through Hunts Forum, our local Council for Voluntary Service, which is provided precisely for organisations such as ourselves though not necessarily those offering day care. In addition we have also brought in trainers to run in house sessions such as first aid where applicable. Courses attended this year have included topics as diverse as: Social Media; Writing Press Releases; Full Cost Recovery; Emergency First Aid; Duties of a Trustee and Mental Health Awareness. We have also brought our day care staff up to speed on Adult Safeguarding issues by ensuring that they have all attended the basic awareness session provided by the CCC safeguarding team. For each project one manager has spent a day looking at the professional responsibilities and I completed the two day manager's responsibilities course. Awareness of Safeguarding of Vulnerable Adult (SOVA) issues is of great importance to everyone working at CARESCO and is now built into all our relevant policies.

In the process of setting up the Charity Shop we discovered that one of the new volunteers had a strong professional background in risk assessment and fire safety so quickly made use of the skills of Duncan McWilliam who not only trained the new shop team but also put together a full health and safety policy and risk assessment for the shop and will soon be doing the same for the CARESCO Centre to bring our paperwork up to date. Throughout our history, CARESCO has been reliant on people who are willing to share their knowledge and expertise, using skills and talents to ensure that as an organisation we are meeting modern day requirements for the services we offer the local community and we are grateful to Duncan for continuing this trend.

We had become increasingly aware of the local need for social groups and opportunities for people to find companionship. Following up a comment made during our first Christmas Day party, we are ready to launch our *Sounds Good* group in April. Meeting twice a month, this session will appeal to those who enjoy *'all things musical and the spoken word'*. The vision is for the group to become self sufficient, organising their own programme and covering their own costs, using our premises with admin support from the office while having a lot of fun.

Sadly alongside these new developments, there have been some hard decisions too. Our Nearly New second hand clothes shop which opened once a week alongside our Coffee Shop has been eclipsed by the new Charity Shop and the trustees took the hard decision to close it down in the New Year, but transferred the staff hours to online selling in support of the shop.

There have been some significant staff changes particularly with the retirement of Pat Ayres from Sawtry Day Centre where she has been working since 1997, firstly as deputy then later taking on the role of manager. Pat has been a calm and steady influence on the Club in her time with us, always putting the service users first and leading her team to provide a good day out. Typically Pat was willing to stay in post until we had found a suitable replacement and gave many hours to help train and coach the new manager. We all wish Pat well in her part retirement, though are grateful that she has not abandoned us completely and remains as deputy manager at the Lunch Club.

Other staff changes have more recently included finding two deputy managers for the anticipated Charity Shop, and so the team has grown to reflect the increase in our range of services on offer. All members of staff are employed part time to fulfil a specific role, but each gives over and above this to make sure the job is done.

Over the year our website has continued to be kept up to date, thanks to Webshepherd for his technical help and support. We had a steady stream of enquiries which come in through the site reflecting the level of visits it enjoys. In addition, thanks to Nicole, we have also begun to make the most of social media through our Facebook page and have particularly found this useful when recruiting new staff.

We have again been fortunate in the CARESCO office to be able to welcome Donna Green as a regular volunteer who has been helping with managing the accounts and the Printshop and in addition taking on some of the basic

(Continued from page 7)

administration tasks through the monthly cycle. Donna was already our graphic designer with the Sawtry Eye and has easily fitted into the office team. Without our Accounts and Printshop Manager, Marina, and Donna in the office, CARESCO would struggle to function and my day to day work would be so much less fun. My thanks to them for their calmness and hard work regardless of what the day can throw at them.

Finally my thanks to our hard working trustees, without whom we could not function. Their willingness to get involved and offer their support, guidance and practical help makes all the difference and CARESCO is the organisation it is today because of the hard work put into it by our trustees over the years. This annual report will highlight the major achievements over the past year, but there is so much more going on out of sight which makes it all possible, thanks to our wonderful staff, volunteers and trustees.

Liz Coates

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## Alconbury Thursday Club

<b>Manager:</b>	Mary Watkin
<b>Deputy:</b>	Gaynor Foley
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Nicola Scully
<b>Cook:</b>	Anne Darvill
<b>Venue:</b>	Alconbury Sports & Social Club
<b>When:</b>	9.30 am - 2.30 pm
<b>Volunteers:</b>	Ann Baker, John Bourne, Anna Bratby, Priscilla Dawson, Sylvia Eaton, Terry Foley, Jennie Holme, Jean Kendall, Judith Lacey, Laura Mosca, Ros Partis, Monica Pegg, Dawn Pupins, Marjorie Rowlinson, Ted Samuel, Nicola Scully, Derek Smith, Wendy Turner
<b>Membership:</b>	28
<b>Aims:</b>	<i>A day out for the housebound and socially isolated and a break for those who care for them.</i>

Alconbury Thursday Club continues to thrive. With an average age of late eighties inevitably we find our members more frail and with more medical issues requiring care on the day. We are lucky to have such a large team of volunteers generously giving of their time and friendship, which is much appreciated by the members.

At the moment a quarter of our members struggle with dementia or communication problems.

We are very lucky with our venue, which as a community space has nothing of the day centre about it – so no high back chairs. We make good use of the premises, which comprise three large rooms. The Bar area is where we spend the morning having tea and coffee as well as the all-important pre-lunch drink. We now use the “Pool Room” to provide table tennis, table football and a jigsaw. All three activities continue to be very popular and fetching the table tennis ball keeps the helpers on their toes. Using both rooms has meant that the members now move around a lot more though exercise sessions continue to be provided by Gaynor each week.

We have installed a hearing loop for the members in the function room, which is where we have lunch and spend the afternoon. This is where we tend to have entertainment.

We arrange a varied programme of activities and trips out. This year we will have two shopping trips plus an outing to Willingham Auctions; a day out on a steam train and in December we go to the pantomime.

Entertainment continues to be varied including a Burns Lunch with piper in full dress kilt; a visit from the Raptor Foundation; the local playgroup coming in to sing for us as well as Stars on Stage, a local youth dance troupe giving a high energy and entertaining performance.

We are lucky that we are highly regarded in Alconbury for the quality of our provision and many locals give up their time for us to come and give talks or help in other ways – we will be running a barbecue later this summer, which a local chef will assist in providing.

Following the D Day commemorations we invited all four political candidates, who had stood in the local elections to come in and say “thank you” to our members, whose contribution to the war effort ensured continued freedom of speech and continued elections.

There is no question that the members themselves continue to ensure that each day is successful. They show care and compassion for other members - when they are not laughing at each other. We are immensely lucky to have such a large team of volunteers, which enables us to provide one to one support where required as well as ensuring flexibility throughout the year for outings when more helpers are needed and to cover absences. The volunteers really enjoy the time they spend with the members and it shows in the happy atmosphere when you come into the Club.

It has again been a very successful year – my thanks to everyone who makes it possible and especially to Gaynor without whom I fear it would be quite impossible.

Mary Watkin

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## Sawtry Day Centre

- Manager:** Pat Ayres (Retired December 2013)  
Vicki Goddard (Started January 2014)
- Deputy:** Gill Robinson
- Cook:** Lyn Wallis
- Venue:** CARESCO Centre
- When:** Wednesday and Thursday  
10.30am – 3.00pm
- Volunteers:** Derek Dolling, Betty Endicott, Annette Faff, Wendy Hunt, Rose Johnson, Linda McCloud, Tina McCulloch, Denise Pike, Pat Thomson, Doreen Walker, Maureen Westbrook and Frances Williams
- Membership:** Wednesday - 16      Thursday - 16
- Aims:** *A day out for the housebound and socially isolated and a break for those who care for them.*

This past year has seen many changes within the Day Centre with the loss of some regular volunteers and the addition of several new ones, a big thank you to all past and present volunteers. We have sadly lost a few regular members this year but new ones have joined us. The death of Mavis Smith, a long standing volunteer was a great loss to us and her hard work and sense of humour is missed by us all. We also lost Kit Whitney who was a long standing member and is also sadly missed.

As you can see Pat Ayres is no longer our Manager as she has semi retired but still works at the Lunch Club on Monday and Tuesday and comes in to see us at regular intervals. Pat also contributes to helping us in any way she can at the Day Centre. We all miss her but her place has been taken by Vicki Goddard who doing a great job.

Our social fund has been boosted by a very generous amount allocated to us by the trustees, this has enabled us to buy equipment to entertain our members. In addition, a new floor has been laid in the main Club Room and we have had new dining chairs, we thank the trustees for all their hard work in getting the funding particularly Jacqui Whitney.

The Day Centre members go on several trips a year and over the past months we have been to the Eaton Oak in Eaton Ford; Waresley Garden Centre; Ramble Wood Inn in Peterborough, and Morrisons at Cambourn for our Christmas shopping trip. We also have people come in to entertain us once a month with everything from musical performances to flower arranging as well as in-house entertainment at each session.

We continue to hold our monthly bingo sessions on Friday evenings for the general public and twice weekly raffles with our members both of which raise money for the Day Centre social fund along with any donations we receive.

Our thanks as always go to Bill Allport for maintaining our wheelchairs and John Thomson for leading us in chair exercises, also to Pat Thomson who continues to fulfil a partial volunteer role in helping with the bingo and raffle. A big thank you to our drivers Kelvin and Jim. Finally members would like to say many thanks to Lyn our cook for the very enjoyable meals she prepares for them.

We always welcome visitors to the Day Centre even if it's just for a cup of tea and a chat with our members.

Gill Robinson

## Lunch Club

**Manager:** Lyn Wallis  
**Deputy:** Pat Ayres  
**Venue:** CARESCO Centre  
**When:** Monday and Tuesday 10.30 am - 1.30 pm  
**Membership:** Monday—10 Tuesday—17

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

We are a group of people who meet together two days a week to share a meal together. Some of our members come on both days, while others only attend on one day a week. Members enjoy the company and the lovely two course meal which is freshly cooked on the day, with the members picking the menu for the following week.

Sadly two of our volunteer drivers, Carole Armitage and Maureen Westbrook have stepped down after many years of loyal service. The members showed their appreciation for all they have done with gift tokens for each driver and both ladies pop back in occasionally for a cuppa and a chat. We would like to welcome Tony Black, from the Sawtry Car Scheme, who has taken over driving for the Club as our long standing drivers have stepped down.

We would also like to thank our other volunteer drivers, Jackie Gillis, Bill Allport and Maureen Westbrook (who occasionally steps in on an emergency basis). Our Club could not function without you and your kindness.

To end 2013 we had our own Christmas lunch at The Racehorse in Catworth when a good time was had by all.

Last but not least, I would like to say thank you to Pat Ayres, my deputy, for all her support through 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.*

We have had a busy year with all our regular printing jobs which include:

Sawtry Eye, Stilton Scan, Eye Scan village magazine, Brockley Central Old Scholars newsletter, Hunts RSPB newsletter, Sawtry Carnival programme, Sawtry Show Certificates, Sawtry Methodist Church Annual Reports, Fenstanton Sports programme and Great Stukeley Flower Show Schedule.

During the year we purchased two new Riso printers which are a very good improvement on the old ones and we can send information from the computer straight to the printer which has improved the quality of print. As part of the purchase we were given a free second-hand photocopier to upgrade our old one.

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 with a good turnout.

We have roughly 40 volunteers old and new on the team who are always eager to help either with the folding, collating or stapling. They come in when needed for 2 hours in the mornings and are very much appreciated.

The Printshop could not run without all their help, but the more there are on the team makes less work for everyone so if you know of anyone who would like to help at the Printshop please phone CARESCO 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:** Donna Green

**Bi-monthly:** February, April, June, August, October & December

**Distribution:** Conington, the Giddings, Glatton, Hamerton, Sawtry, Upton, & Winwick

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

Another year gone and yet more villages are now receiving the Sawtry Eye on a regular basis. Following an approach from residents in the Giddings, we are now delivering to every house in Gt, Lt and Steeple Giddings in addition to the other villages we were already covering. Our thanks to the new Distributors and welcome to the team.

The magazine continues to prove popular both to readers and also to advertisers, though we have noticeably more smaller ads and fewer large ones than in the past. Probably a reflection of the economic climate when many people started up small local businesses when faced with redundancy and only require a business card sized advertisement.

We have a dedicated group of contributors who regularly send in articles, letters and details of local events for inclusion. We are grateful for this flow of information and value everybody's dedication in making our deadlines (most of the time!).

Donna Green has now completed two years as our sole volunteer graphic designer and does an amazing job each time, producing something attractive out of the 80—90 news items on average that we receive for inclusion, not to mention sorting out the complicated requests of some of our advertisers. We could not produce the Eye without her and greatly appreciate her skills, time and eye for details. Contributions for the Sawtry Eye can come in many forms, but Donna can cope with anything.

It takes around three weeks to put each issue together, print and distribute the copies to our wonderful team of Distributors whose boxes of magazines can arrive on their doorsteps at any moment. Without their willingness to get out and pound the streets delivering to their route, our work would be pointless so we thank them for turning out in all weathers throughout the year.

Our website carries all the back issues of the Eye from October 2008 making the magazine available to a worldwide audience and we know we have many readers who have left the area to move elsewhere in the world, but who still like to keep up to date with local news and events. We appreciate their support and occasional input.

Liz Coates

## Trustees Wanted

***Do you have time, skills and knowledge to offer?***

***Would you like to get involved with the work of CARESCO?***

We need new people willing to get involved and help to lead our organisation into the future who share our vision for helping members of our local community.

As a charity, we are run by a board of trustees who have oversight of CARESCO and who ensure that we operate in a legal and safe manner, following current guidelines while making strategic decisions as to the way forward.

We need people with experience, skills and knowledge in areas such as: management, business, personnel, fundraising, accountancy, admin and much more including a general willingness to get involved to join the team and make a difference.

If you are interested in helping us to be the best we can be in providing our range of services to the local community, please get in touch with the office.

Contact details on page 3.

# Charity Shop

**Duty Managers:** Isabelle Brown, Hannah Lea, Angela Newell, Gill Robinson & Nicole Thynne

**Venue:** 7 Greenways, Sawtry, PE28 5UR

**When:** Monday—Friday: 9am—4.30pm; Saturday: 9am—12.30pm; Sunday: Closed

**Aims:** *To provide a local low-cost recycling service for the community while raising funds for the wider activities of the charity.*

This past year has been an exciting time for CARESCO. The Trustees took the decision in 2013 to open a charity shop in Sawtry which was a completely new venture for everyone involved. The shop's success has surpassed all our expectations. All thanks to our large band of volunteers who give their services so freely and to all those who assisted with the initial setting up, in particular to Claire Holbrook for providing pro-bono her skills in carrying out the survey and to Warren Duff for painting the whole unit for us with paint donated by Dulux. Special thanks for the additional help we received from the members of Sawtry Small Business Partnership, they were fantastic in the work they provided and the time given.

It was exciting to watch everything we had planned coming together little by little and there was lots of enthusiasm and ideas floated by all of us. We were overwhelmed by the response we had to our plea for volunteers to man the shop and recruited a large team of people to work in shifts over a weekly cycle.

Everyone worked very hard but there was lots of laughter and togetherness as we all focused on our ultimate aim – the shop opening. Photographs were taken during the cleaning and setting up period and this was made into a video which was displayed in the shop together with a list of all the businesses which had been instrumental in the coming together of the shop. The photos are also available on our website for everyone to enjoy.

The great day we had been working towards for so long was finally here. We started trading on 10th April a couple of weeks before we had our Grand Opening Ceremony at the end of the month. We invited the Leader of Huntingdonshire District Council, Councillor Mrs Barbara Elizabeth Boddington to officially open our CARESCO Charity Shop along with the newly appointed Sawtry Carnival Queen who with the Princesses looked stunning.

Unfortunately, the sun didn't shine and we had some torrential rain during the morning but that didn't deter us or the people of Sawtry. One of our volunteers baked a beautiful cake for the occasion and we had invited the Huntingdon and District Caledonian Society to come along and demonstrate several of their Scottish dances and then there was audience participation.

The people of Sawtry have been absolutely amazing with not only their donations but also their custom. When we began this venture we had no idea of the social impact the shop would have on the village. Friendships have been made and we have drawn people in from outside the village, eg from Peterborough to St Neots and beyond. The shop has become a real hub of the village.

We have beautiful themed weekly window displays and internal displays which is extremely important to promote sales and to attract people into the shop, thanks to some especially skilled volunteers.

We use the Gift Aid Scheme whereby persons paying income tax and donating items to us complete one of our declaration forms and when any of their items are sold we can reclaim 25p in every £1. We have in the region of 450 people now on our register.

We also use Facebook and eBay to increase our sales and this has proved extremely successful and lucrative.

We are reimbursed for rags with arrangements in place for collections on Tuesdays and Fridays and this information has been published in the Sawtry Eye to enable residents to bring along any rags and bric-a-brac they wish to donate.

Our sales for year ending April 2014 surpassed all our expectations. We hit the £50K mark (gross) which is truly remarkable and all thanks to our faithful volunteers and customers.

A big thank you to all our wonderful band of volunteers who give so freely of their time and sometimes at such short notice and to our customers without whom we wouldn't have had the success we have.

We are still looking for additional volunteers, so if you have some spare time and wish to help we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact either the shop or the CARESCO Office.

Isabelle Brown

# Nearly New

**Manager:** Nicole Thynne

**Venue:** CARESCO Centre

**When:** Friday 9am—11.30am (Term time only) - **NOW CLOSED**

**Volunteers:** Clair Adamson, Gill Hussey & Doreen Rickard

**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.*

After a brilliant 29 years, this will be the last report for Nearly New.

As the facility was no longer making any profit and most customers were now making purchases from our wonderful Charity Shop, we decided back in December 2013 that it was time to close Nearly New.

We tried really hard to keep it up and running with advertising and the use of the Buy/Sell and Advertise and Sawtry Scene Facebook pages but people were just not using the agency side of Nearly New and all previous donations were now being taken to the shop.

From September 2013 to February 2014, we were averaging just over £20 takings each week which was a drop of £40-£50 per week during 2012-2013 so financially it made sense to close.

The trading days in January 2014 were used to clear the stock and pass items back to customers if this was their request. Any remaining items were sold in February for £1 each or 3 items for £2 to try to sell as much as we could. The remaining women's and children's items were then taken up to the shop and sold well and the majority of these items had also been Gift Aided. Later the school uniform stock was also transferred to the shop ready for the summer rush.

We have passed all the corresponding Nearly New Gift Aid numbers onto the shop for their records so that customers can continue to use the same ones.

The final takings and the float money were handed back to Marina, our Accounts Manager after our final trading date of 14th February.

I would really like to thank my wonderful volunteers for all their help over the last year including during the winding down of Nearly New. I have really enjoyed my 5 years in the job but I am looking forward to whatever the shop throws at me as I transfer my time over there.

Nicole Thynne

# Gift Aid

CARESCO is 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 or one off donations. We can now also claim Gift Aid on donations of goods made to the shop when sold.

All we need you to do is to complete a Gift Aid declaration form once and we will do the rest.

Thank you to everyone who has already signed up to Gift Aid, it makes your donations go even further and helps us to do even more for our local community.

For more information, please contact the office, details on page 3.

*giftaid it*

# Coffee Shop

**Managers:** Marina Joyce & Liz Coates

**Venue:** CARESCO Centre

**When:** Friday 9 — 11.30am (9.45 — 11.30am during holiday periods)

**Volunteers:** Mary Creaney, Daphne Bacon, Ann Daniels, Margaret Geary, Val Glover, Adrienne Holt, Wendy Hunt, Margaret Morgan, Mary Potter, 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 throughout the year to offer people a once a week opportunity to meet up together over a drink and piece of cake, to share news and friendships and generally enjoy one another's company. Our thanks to all our customers over the year for their faithful support for this long standing activity.

It has been a year of change for the Coffee Shop, when in recent months the Nearly New team decided to wind up due to the success of the new Charity Shop. For many years now the two have run side by side during term time and the Coffee Shop seems a little bereft without its long term partner. Although naturally there are fewer people calling in on a Friday morning these days without the added attraction of a second-hand bargain, there is still good company to be had.

We have had to say goodbye to a few of our long term helpers and hello to some new members of the team over the year, many of whom are generous enough to also make and donate home-made cake when they are on duty. Our grateful thanks to them all for providing the welcoming smile behind the counter.

Our thanks to everyone for another successful and profitable year, though obviously income has been somewhat down due to the reduced number of customers, the Coffee Shop still proves to be a much needed and valued activity.

Liz Coates & Marina Joyce

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# Sawtry Car Scheme

**Co-ordinator:** Tony Black

**When:** Daytime weekdays

**Drivers:** Tony Black, Tony Goold, Hilary Kemp, Richard Spencer

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

It has been an exciting year for the Sawtry Car Scheme. As mentioned in last year's annual report, we knew that changes were coming but not then in what form they would take.

The scheme had been overseen by Nene and Ouse Community Transport in recent years but they were in the process of pulling out and we did not know what the implications would be. In the end, the Transport Officer at Cambridgeshire County Council approached one of the drivers already with the scheme and asked whether he would hold the fort by taking ownership of a mobile phone and co-ordinating the requests for a lift with the team of drivers. At the same time CARESCO was also approached to see whether the trustees would be willing to take on ownership and oversight of the scheme if CCC continued to provide the same level of support as before by dealing with the paperwork.

The trustees agreed to this proposal and the Car Scheme has quickly settled down into the new way of working, thanks to the willingness of the drivers and Tony Black's continuing co-ordination. The activities fit neatly with the other ones under the CARESCO umbrella, especially the Lunch Club where the drivers now provide the majority of the transport needs of the members travelling to and from the Club.

The main change for passengers is that they no longer have to pay an annual membership, only the cost of the journey on the day direct to the driver. While numbers are still small, it is a challenge to balance the number of drivers with the flow of requests and this is something we are still working on.

Liz Coates

# Christmas Day Party

**Co-ordinators:** Linda Dupée & Liz Coates

**Venue:** CARESCO Centre

**When:** 25th December

**Aims:** *To provide an opportunity for people who would otherwise be on their own to get together on Christmas Day to enjoy a traditional lunch and celebration.*

For the second year we again hosted a Christmas Day event at the CARESCO Centre. This year was easier as we could build on the previous year's experience and with many of the same team available it meant that most people had a clear idea of what was needed.

The majority of the people who took part on the day would have otherwise been on their own which was the original vision and we tried not to distinguish between the 'volunteers' and the 'guests' but were all in it together, just some played a more active part in the preparations. The long term aim is for everyone attending to meet the basic criteria and also for all to eat the meal at the same time, including the kitchen team.

We were once again joined by the wonderful Isabelle and Daphne who took the lead in the kitchen and prepared a traditional three course Christmas Lunch, overseeing the shopping and organising the helpers. Other team members took responsibility for the decorations, the presents, the transport on the day and the entertainment.

We were fortunate to receive grants from the Telegraph Media Group and the Fitzwilliam Trust in 2012 which covered the set up costs last year and left enough to pay for the ongoing expenses for a couple of years. This was added to this year by a donation of wine from Waitrose for which we were very grateful.

In the build up to the big day we made contact with a number of partner agencies including the local GP surgery, churches and so on in an attempt to reach people who may miss our normal advertising and although not full to our maximum number of 40, we had 34 people on the day a few of whom were completely new to CARESCO.

Some of the more active guests got together to plan in advance, then on Christmas Eve to decorate the venue, wrap presents for everyone and write Christmas cards. Also, learning from the previous year, as much food preparation was done in advance as possible. On the big day itself, the kitchen team were in early while those who chose to were able to attend a church service before arriving. Once those coming in by volunteer car started to arrive, drinks and nibbles were served followed by a beautiful meal. Everyone listened to the Queen's Speech then toasted Her Majesty. There was a communal game and sing-a-long before Santa and Head Elf arrived to dispense gifts to all. Finally, on the way home everyone received a photo of themselves along with a piece of cake to take with them.

The clearing up was much quicker and more efficient this time with better planning and thanks to the unexpected appearance of a washing up team who called in on spec and offered their services at the vital moment. We also had a better idea of quantities so there was less food wasted at the end of the day.

There are photos available on our website in the gallery listed on the Events menu, showing what a good time was had by all who attended.

Liz Coates

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## Financial Statement

### April 2013 — March 2014

The audited financial statement for the year April 2013 to March 2014 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) where you can download the report.

Our thanks to trustees Linda Dupée and Ann Daniels and to our Accounts Manager Marina Joyce for all their hard work through the year to ensure that the financial records are kept up to date and to Kim Davis for her Pro Bono support in auditing the accounts.

# 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.*

Our links with our Corporate Friends continued throughout the year with many local businesses and individuals offering their support in various ways.

A huge thank you to the members of the Sawtry Small Business Partnership for all their fundraising and support during the year including giving us space in their annual directory and through many other ways too. Thanks to the ladies at Salon 42 for doing vintage makeovers for six volunteers on the day of our 1940s themed event and also to the staff at the Co-op Food for donating a hamper and Sawtry Funerals for their ongoing support. Bryan and the Slimming World gang once again donated their Syn Bin after Christmas to both avoid eating all those chocolates and to provide prizes for our events. Our thanks to Mark Adlington for cleaning the charity shop window on a regular basis throughout the year and also to Bob at Zip Computing who has raised funds for us by recycling donated computers. Finally thanks to M&D Flooring and Sawtry Marquees for their generous vouchers won by CARESCO people during the SSBP Race Night in March.

Thank you also to our loyal Friends who make a regular donation to help support our work and often give in other ways too. For more information on how to become a Friend, please contact the CARESCO office.

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## The CARESCO Centre

The majority of our services are all conveniently based in our modular purpose built Centre in the middle of Sawtry adjacent to parish, district and county facilities. However after 13 years in the building, we are now half way through its expected lifespan. We therefore need to continue to seek out a suitable permanent long-term alternative. In the meantime we continue to take good care of our existing premises.

At the end of last year we were delighted to receive a large donation of £2000 from the Albert Hunt Trust which enabled us to replace the original carpet in our main Club Room with vinyl flooring. With this new floor in place, the room looks so much bigger and lighter, the effect has been lovely. It also has the advantage of being much easier to keep clean with all the extra use the room is put to these days.

As we continue to improve the facilities for our Centre users we also applied for and got a donation of £950.00 from the Huntingdonshire District Council's Community Chest Fund in July 2013. This grant was used to purchase new high backed chairs to co-ordinate with the regular chairs bought last year. These chairs are covered in easy clean fabric too, which makes them much more hygienic to use.

As always we are deeply grateful to our trustee Jacqui Whitney who takes responsibility for applying to a range of grant making bodies which enables us to make capital purchases to replace or add to existing equipment and generally improve our facilities and therefore our service provision over time. With the age of the building there is a constant list of items that are wearing out and need replacing or upgrading.

In the summer term, we played host to a team of Y12 students from Sawtry Community College for their volunteering week. Amongst other things they painted our small meeting room which acted as an incentive to clear out the meeting room, though as storage continues to be a major issue in the building the room is never clear for long. Also regarding storage, the one positive to come from closing the Nearly New was that it freed up the store cupboard for other uses and now holds all the cleaning equipment and supplies along with other bits and pieces.

Early in 2014 we said goodbye to our cleaner of four years, Aaron Wallis and welcomed Julie Morgan into the role. We are indebted to both of them for keeping the Centre clean throughout the year and a pleasant place to visit.

After a pretty much snow free winter without weather enforced closures, in March 2014 we suffered the loss of our water supply when there was a burst pipe in Huntingdon and had to close at short notice for the day while the necessary work was done. The staff coped brilliantly with the crisis and made sure that all the day centre members expecting to come in that day were contacted and had adequate alternative care provided.

My thanks as always to everyone who provides practical support in the upkeep of the Centre, especially Keith who oversees the garden, Bill who fixes things for us and Barry and Tim who as trustees provide their hard work as well as their expertise to maintain the building.

# Fundraising

As a charity, CARESCO is completely dependent on grants, fees and fundraising for our income. Once again we have been fortunate to receive a sizeable grant from Cambridgeshire County Council as a contribution towards the costs of providing our day care activities. In the long term CCC intend to stop this grant and move us onto a contract for this part-funding, in the meantime we continue to work towards being ready to meet this goal.

On the fundraising front, the year has been rather dominated by the opening of our very own charity shop in Sawtry, of which you can read more elsewhere. The difference this additional source of income has made cannot be under estimated. We are grateful to those who have supported the shop in pursuit of bargains, to those who helped to get it off the ground, and particularly to the wonderful team of staff and volunteers who work in the shop week on week.

With the extra funds from the shop, CARESCO has been able to feel more confident about the future than has been the case for a long time. Not only in keeping our current range of services but also to look towards developing new ones to meet other needs within our local community. However, the shop cannot raise all the money needed to keep the 'show on the road' and therefore we are still reliant on a continuous flow of fundraising activities and donations to make ends meet. Some of the highlights from the year are as follows.

CARESCO's very own Quiz Supper at the end of April was a complete sell out and a good night was had by all with great food and lots of laughs not hiding the strong competition between the teams on the night, raising £300.

As an organisation, CARESCO also tries to be involved in other community activities such as the annual Sawtry Feast Parade & Service in early June when trustees and staff join in dressed in our distinctive t-shirts, this year being no different.

In late June the annual Sawtry Carnival took place and was a great success. As is normal, the ladies of Sawtry WI organised and sold cream teas from the CARESCO Centre generously sharing the profits with ourselves. We were also able to have once again a stall outside to help raise awareness of the work that we do. The day raised £350 for us plus generous donations from the Craft Buddies and Sawtry Small Business partnership stalls.

In July we were delighted to receive a generous donation of £250 from the Rotary Club of Huntingdon Cromwell at a formal presentation attended by our chairman Linda.

In the early part of the year we were approached by Rob Suter, aka 'Taxi Rob' who was in training for a triathlon and wishing to be sponsored for ourselves and the Sawtry Feast Supper. Rob completed the feat in late July raising a magnificent £1,300 for us as well as getting a lot fitter and thinner in the process.

Also in July we hosted a team of Y12 students from Sawtry Community College (SCC) who spent the week volunteering with us. Amongst other activities they also raised £110 for our funds by selling cakes, busking and organising a car wash at the College.

In September two of our staff, Lyn & Pat organised an Afternoon Tea, making a pleasant event for those who supported and raising £250 in the process, thanks to their hard work and that of their helpers.

The wonderful Maggi Stewart organised our two biggest fundraising events of the year. In November we had a 1940s themed evening, the *Spirit of the Blitz*, held at SCC. This was a brilliant evening, including all sorts of activities relating to the era. Guests were encouraged to come along in appropriate dress which greatly added to the atmosphere and the dancing to *Rhythm in Blue* the 18 piece Big Band of RAF Wyton was enthusiastic. The evening as a whole brought in a very welcome £2500.

In February Maggi was back again, this time with her second concert by the RAF Wyton Voluntary Band entitled *Movie Magic* which again filled the hall at SCC where guests enjoyed music from film & Broadway. Including Maggi's now famous themed hamper raffle, the evening raised £2000.

Finally, in March 2014 the members of the Sawtry Small Business Partnership once again held their Super Heroes Race Night at SCC. Filming their own races with members dressed in costume and including two 'live' events involving guests on the night, there was a lot of work involved but the evening was very enjoyable for all who were there and raised £600 which was split between CARESCO and the Sawtry First Responders.

In addition to all these big events, there has been a steady stream of more modest donations, all much appreciated and valued in their own right as reflects the care and generosity of the givers. We have also received grants to pay for capital expenditure, detailed elsewhere. Thank you to everyone who has supported us during the year, we could not continue without you, and our gratitude also to those who helped in any way to make our events possible.

# The Beginning

A Sawtry-based charity was founded in 1982 (registered number 288202) with the full title of Sawtry & District Care and Resource Organisation but colloquially known as CARESCO.

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 an old cookery classroom. After a few years, the original organisers had to move on and, rather than losing these groups, a steering committee of local residents 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 involved.

Over the years a variety of activities have been brought under the CARESCO umbrella, most 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 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 the Sawtry-based 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 (registered number 1140728; company number 7513432).

In response to the challenges faced regarding a secure income, the trustees agreed to open a charity shop in Sawtry in April 2013. Although a lot of hard work, setting up the shop has proved very worthwhile for many reasons, not just for the additional income it has introduced into the organisation. The shop is now a popular community hub, provides a very welcome service by offering a recycling service and has brought a large team of new volunteers into CARESCO.

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## Management Board

### 2013 –2014

**President:** John Garner

**Officers:** Chairman Linda Dupée  
Honorary Secretary David Whitney  
Honorary Treasurer Ann Daniels

**Board Members:** Ann Daniels; Barry Dupée, Linda Dupée; Wendy Grey;  
Sarah James; Viv McGuire; Angela Newell; Tim Newell;  
Liz Poole; David Whitney; Jacqui Whitney

*Note: All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration or other benefits*

**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.