

# CARESCO News



Newsletter No.15  
March/April 2024

## Customer Services

As you read through the reports below you will see it has been another busy time for the areas that come under Customer Services.

Customers that visit the Coffee Shop continue to rise, the number of slices of cake that are sold is amazing but not surprising as they are all so delicious! If you've yet to experience our Friday morning indulgence please do pop in between 09.00 and 11.30 at the Centre. The Charity Shop is continuing to enjoy seeing lots of different faces come and go with armfuls of donations or bargains. Our Tuck Shop is keeping spectators and players of Sawtry Colts happy with Bacon Rolls and a Hot Drink to pass the time. The Centre Gardens have sprung back into life with lots of work and planning coming into fruition. There are some exciting new plans on the horizon too!

None of what we achieve would be possible without the support of our wonderful team of Volunteers. The camaraderie we share is second to none which shines through by the results we see on a daily basis.

**I'd like to wish you a Happy Easter, enjoy the Bank Holiday break whether it's by putting your feet up for a few days, pottering in the garden, or visiting friends and family – enjoy!**

Sharon Dougherty – Customer Service Manager

## Coffee Shop

We now have a team of 15 Volunteers supporting the Coffee Shop. 4 new bakers have joined us in the last few weeks which is certainly helping our other bakers as customer numbers continue to grow. An amazing 556 slices of cake were served to 339 customers during February and March! Liz Chattel, who has served Bacon Rolls for the last 12 years has decided to hang up her frying pan, Liz served her last Bacon Roll on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. She was presented with a lovely plant which will sit in her conservatory at home. A big Thank You to Liz for her support over the years, we look forward to seeing her as a Customer in the future. We've had some table events which seem to be popular, there are more planned over the next few months. If you don't already, please follow the Coffee Shop on Facebook where you will be able to see details of what's on offer each Friday. If you would like to book a table to show off and sell your wares or are able to volunteer as a baker 1 week in 4, sweet or savoury, please do get in touch

[sharon.dougherty@caresco.org.uk](mailto:sharon.dougherty@caresco.org.uk)

## Tuck Shop – Sawtry Colts

February was a bit of a wash out with only 4 games being played due to bad weather but this has picked up during March. Even though weather has affected play, 153 spectators have enjoyed our Bacon Rolls and Hot Drinks during the 13 games that have been played on the SVA fields over the last 2 months.

We have a team of 6 Volunteers who sacrifice their Saturday mornings to support this service which in return helps to raise much needed funds for our Charity.

If you would be interested in Volunteering with us please get in touch.

[sharon.dougherty@caresco.org.uk](mailto:sharon.dougherty@caresco.org.uk)

## **CARESCO Centre Gardens**

It has been a busy time in the Gardens of late, it's lovely to see everything bursting with colour and life. Those of you who follow the CARESCO page on Social Media will have seen the pictures of some of the hard work that was put in over the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> March when we had another successful working party. We now have 8 garden volunteers which means work is progressing well. We have a shed to store our tools and any garden equipment in which is already proving to be a great addition. A bench which was taken away for refurbishment by the Cave is now in place overlooking the fields. A handsome bench in a lovely place to sit and reflect. We are keeping our fingers crossed that we are successful with one of the grants that our Grants Officer has applied for. If successful it will mean we can go ahead with some of the bigger items on our plan for the future. In the meantime, with such a positive and pro-active group of Volunteers, the garden continues to look better each week. Spring has definitely sprung there!

## **Charity Shop**

Our Charity Shop continues to deliver time after time throughout the weeks. We strive to take in at least 15 bags or boxes of donations a day and this is being achieved on most days which means we have full shelves and rails for our enthusiastic customers every day. We have received some truly amazing items which has seen our sales peak. People registering for Gift Aid is continuing to rise which is always good to see. We had another Lucky Numbers opportunity in March which saw 4 great prizes on offer for the cost of £1 a number. The winners came to the shop to collect their prizes and appeared on our Social Media page. There will be another Lucky Numbers again in April. We will be holding another Tombola event in the coming weeks and will also be having one at the Coffee Shop in the near future too! Our Easter items have been displayed at the front of the shop and have sold extremely well with only a few items left being sold at half price in the 2 days leading up to Good Friday. We have a Shop Volunteer Meeting arranged for Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April where all things 'shop' will be discussed. The shop has welcomed 2 new Volunteers who will be helping us when our regulars are on holiday or absent for other reasons. The card payment machine has been a god send to the shop with over half of our daily sales being paid for using it. I believe this has had an affect on our sales too which is always good news for the Charity.

We are supporting a new venture which will be starting in May by using some of the many children's books we receive and reading a short story roughly once a month at the Centre. More details are in the Sawtry Eye and also in a separate report below.

Our shop continues to be a real hub of activity, there is always a cheerful atmosphere both behind the scenes and on the shop floor.

We are very lucky to receive the support from customers, donators and of course as I always say, Tina Drage and myself simply could not achieve what we do without the generous time given by our Volunteers. If you don't already, please follow the Charity Shop on Facebook where you will be able to keep up to date with all offers and opportunities that are readily available at our special little shop.

## **Story Time at the CARESCO Centre**

We are excited to be launching this new venture on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May. Using books that have been donated to the Charity Shop we will be inviting the younger members of our community, accompanied by an adult, on certain Fridays throughout the year to join us at the CARESCO Centre where they will be able to enjoy one of our Volunteers reading a short story to them. The sessions will last around 45 minutes and will start at 12.15. There are more details in the latest edition of the Sawtry Eye. We are really hoping this new opportunity will be a success and will encourage more of our younger people to become the future of CARESCO. You can never be too young to learn about your local Charity and what better way of doing it than through reading.

## **Services Manager**

It's a lovely sight to behold when I walk to the centre each morning as I'm welcomed by the spring flowers coming up. They bring a smile to my face each time and I am sure they are appreciated by the staff, members, volunteers and visitors too.

The paper Christmas quiz was won by Hilary one of our lovely shop volunteers and I delivered a nice gift to her as a prize. Well Done!!

The Cave have been busy and I regularly visit to see what projects they are working on. I have seen some lovely renovations, crafts, painting and woodwork. It is a happy place to go to and they welcome any new members or visitors.

The Quiz that was held at the Sawtry Club was a huge success with 25 teams, a very packed room, lots of fun and laughter and over £700 raised on the night. Thank you to everyone who came and supported us. There will be another one later on in the year.

We have to say a fond farewell to Ali Scott who has decided to stand down as the volunteer coordinator of Chatterbox. We would like to thank Ali for all her hard work and commitment that she has given to this group and I know she will be greatly missed. If anyone would like to consider running this wonderful group then please contact me for a chat, you can either pop in or call me on the CARESCO office number.

Sounds Good are still meeting and enjoying their time together – I know that they have a fun time with a planned session each time. Again this is run by lovely volunteers and we are very lucky to have them.

Car Scheme – we are looking for a volunteer car scheme driver to join the team and help out with medical trips.

If you are interested or know anyone who is then please contact our coordinator on 07810 476979 for a chat.

Each new day at CARESCO brings new challenges, visitors, enquiries, people dropping in, phone calls but above all laughter and smiles. The CARE in CARESCO is something we all strive to meet each and every day.

If there is anything that you wish to talk to me about then please get in touch – [jacqui.hedington@caresco.org.uk](mailto:jacqui.hedington@caresco.org.uk) and we can meet.

## **Fundraising**

We have two events coming up soon. Firstly, we have a Big Breakfast on 28<sup>th</sup> April at the CARESCO Centre. Breakfast will be served between 9.30am and 10.00am. Tickets are £10 each, this includes free tea and coffee refills and are available from the shop and the Centre.

We then have our dance "Mixed Tape" night at SVA on 11<sup>th</sup> May. This starts at 7pm and ends at 11pm. Tickets are £10 each and will be on sale soon from the shop and the Centre but please feel free to pop your name down and reserve some.

We will also be serving bacon rolls and hot drinks from the Centre at the carnival this year on 8th June.

Vicki and Suzanne

## **Green End Day Club**

Our first quiz was a huge success and raised over £400 for our club. It is a very popular night and we have three more booked in this year 17<sup>th</sup> May, 30<sup>th</sup> August and 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

Ellie from Healthy You visited us and gave a very informative talk to our members which they all found really helpful.

We had CCC visit us and stay for lunch on 19<sup>th</sup> March.

We had our first trip out this year to Dobbies in Huntingdon. The food was lovely and our members really enjoyed it. A huge thank you to all our volunteers who helped us on the day.

We are starting up Friday shopping trips using the bus for volunteers. Our first trip will be on 19<sup>th</sup> April and we will be going to Hampton. We will pick up from any home in Sawtry between 10.00am and 10.30am. We will return to Sawtry at 1.30pm. This will be a free service but would appreciate a donation towards the running costs of the trip. If you are at all interested in coming please get in touch with us on 07743216746.

We wish you all a very Happy Easter and enjoy your Bank Holiday weekend.

Vicki, Suzanne and Helen.

## **Foodbank**

We have seen a steady demand for food support in the past month. Our team have been busy sorting out stock and rotating it so that we have everything in date order, ready to use. We received a delivery of food items from Bankuet, the online funding platform. This gave our stock levels a real boost along with a completed Basket Challenge from Scott Ventilation in Sawtry. We had a Steering Group meeting at the beginning of March, where we made plans for the months ahead. If anyone has some free time, we have a vacancy for a relief delivery driver/volunteer. Please contact me on 07743 593863 if you know anyone who is interested. As the Foodbank Easter session falls on Good Friday, it has been moved to Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March at the same time. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the Foodbank Volunteers Meeting and Social Evening at the end of April.

Wishing all the volunteers, staff and Trustees a very happy Easter,  
Pat Furzeland