

CARING TOGETHER IN WOODHOUSE & LITTLE LONDON



NEWSLETTER



The Henry Smith Charity & Funding for our Activities Organiser

We have received the most amazing news from The Henry Smith Charity. They have agreed to give us a 3 year grant to employ a new Activities Organiser, following Pauline's retirement in May 2011.

Commenting on the grant, Cherril had this to say, "Over a 6 year period the Henry Smith Charity have funded our Activities Organiser post: a job that Pauline did with such flair and energy, from 2005! Over the next couple of months we will be recruiting a new member of staff to continue this vitally important part of our work with local older people and safeguarding our social and healthy living groups for our members".

The Activities Organiser post is an essential staff post at Caring Together in Woodhouse & Little London and enables us to engage and work positively with 100s of local people, in a variety of interesting ways. The continuing support of the Henry Smith Charity is a ringing endorsement of our community work and we are absolutely thrilled that they are continuing to support us with 3 years funding.

For more information about our activity groups, call us on 243 0298

Update on the building work at Woodhouse Community Centre

At the time of writing there has been a 3 month delay with the renovations and building work at Woodhouse Community Centre. Oblong are working hard to resolve this delay and hope that work will start in the next week or so.

It looks highly unlikely that Caring Together will be able to return to the community centre in September 2011.

We are now well settled at 6 Holborn Court and local residents have made us very welcome.

Cupcakes and Tears (Pauline's retirement)

Wow, what a send off. You certainly did me proud! Cupcakes adorned the tables on pretty cake stands (thank you Valerie for all the baking and Cherril the shopping), flowers, bunting, menus and 1940's music turned The Jubilee Club into an old style tea room for the afternoon. Cherril, Valerie and Lisa busily made lovely sandwiches and other goodies for the seventy or so guests who were due to arrive at 2.00pm. The guest list was made up of those members who I had most closely worked with in recent years, volunteers and friends and it had proved difficult to limit the numbers for practical reasons, but 'absent friends' were in my thoughts.

It was my last day at Caring Together, after working there for 15 years and the last day of my working life as I retired on 25th May after over 50 years of employment. A very BIG day, very emotional, sad but also very uplifting as I saw all the smiling faces enjoying the music, dancing and chatting together. I was also greatly humbled by the wonderful words of those who gave speeches (were they really talking about me?!) - the tears were never far away.

The Memory Book I was presented with brought tears then and is still doing so now as I keep revisiting it. Lovely snippets of time, from the last 15 years and special words from members and friends, many in the form of lovely poems. Then all the beautiful cards and the wonderful gifts.



Obviously a great deal of subterfuge had gone on, as apart from *the book*, a collection had enabled the presentation of a Nintendo Wii and A Wii Fit Plus, (no excuse now for not getting the new body I've wanted for years - a year of using it a few times a day should do it!). Also a beautiful shrub for my beloved garden, a day in a spa (what joy), a lovely cake stand (so apt), and lots of other wonderful things from so many people. Even two lottery tickets (sad I didn't win) and an electric foot warmer for those cold days when I sit in my shawl and knit!! And of course the icing on the cake was - a cake. A beautiful creation, which was amazing because it had a picture of me on it!

Thank you to Roger of The Jubilee Club and the DJ who both gave freely of their time. Thank you again to everyone not only for the gifts, the cards, the kind words and the great company but for 15 years of love, laughter, tears, friendship and support. I wouldn't have missed it for the world. I will be back as a volunteer sometime soon after I've had my holiday, been 'a lady who lunches', had my spa break and all the other hard and tiring things I have to do as a retired lady. I miss you all dreadfully as I tend my garden watching the frogs and birds watching the cat, who doesn't really watch anything!

Pauline Garner xxx

'Caring Together Silver Surfers'

Well, I am pleased to report our first trial 10week computing course has just been completed. The learning took place in, The Derek Fatchett Learning Centre, which was a wonderful venue. Our members learnt the basics of computing including setting up an email account, sending and receiving email, searching the internet and digital photography.

Throughout they were fully supported by volunteers from CALM (Community Action Leeds Met), City of Leeds School and Caring Together. The whole project, although directed by Caring Together was student led by CALM. It brought different generations together from 14 to 85years; thus demonstrating real community spirit, and a true intergenerational project. Everyone learnt a great deal from each other.

We held a 'celebration of learning' event on the 10th week; that was a fitting finale, it gave me and others an opportunity to pass on our thanks to everyone involved, including the Big Lottery who provide the funding for my post. Various guests attended the event that included Hilary Benn, MP and local councillor Gerry Harper along with lots of other supporters of the project.

Following the HUGE thank you speech, certificates of achievement were awarded to not only our members but to the volunteers as well. The members also received a little memento each as a record of their learning.

This is not the end of their learning for our wonderful 'silver surfers', Caring Together have also been running a computing drop in alongside the 10week course. This will continue to run once a week for the members to ensure their skills are not lost.

If you, or your family have access to the internet, you can view our members and volunteers in action, there are lots of photographs and other interesting links: www.caringtogether.org.uk.

Thanks to the success of this trial 10weeks, we are hoping to run the next 10week computing session again soon. If you are interested in learning the basics, or even just wish to brush up on your skills then please contact me on the number below, I can add you to the list.

Lisa Hutton, Capacity Building Support Worker: Tel: 0113 2430298



**'They don't do it for you;
they help you to find
things out for yourself'**

(Caring Together Member)

**'You don't feel daft
asking lots of questions,
they're so patient'**

(Caring Together Member)

Woodhouse Cultural Festival

We are very happy to have played a part in the Woodhouse Cultural Festival 2011 and specifically the Tea Dance and Festival of Britain film showing.

Well done to all the volunteers who organise this wonderful festival for local people in Woodhouse and beyond.



Caring Together Sponsored Stroll:

Are you feeling energetic?

Do you want to raise funds for your local charity for older people?

If you would like to join us on the sponsored stroll, ring us on 2430298 for a sponsor pack

Caring Together Annual General Meeting

Friday 19th August 2011

Jubilee Club Woodhouse – 1pm



Please find enclosed, an invitation to our Annual General Meeting.

Please do your best to support Caring Together by attending this meeting. It will give you an opportunity to hear about our work with local older people, pick up a copy of our Annual Report 2011 and enjoy a light buffet meal.

For more information, contact us on 243 0298

LEGACIES & OTHER DONATIONS

It is no secret that Caring Together has had a rocky 12 months. In line with many other small UK charities it has been very difficult to raise enough funds, to keep our work with local older people going.

We are therefore delighted that one of our long time members, who sadly died earlier this year, has thought to leave us £1,000 in her will. This lady was a keen supporter of Caring Together and enjoyed so many parts of our activity group work. Obviously, we can put this very welcome donation to good use and we are very grateful for this legacy.

In addition, we thank all those members and supporters who regularly give a donation to us and including the standing order initiative, member gift boxes and straightforward donations. Without this on-going financial support, we would be able to do very much less than we currently do with local older people.

For more information about legacies and other ways of donating to Caring Together in Woodhouse and Little London, please contact Cherril on 243 0298