

Caring Together in Woodhouse & Little London

Registered Charity Number 1138782
Company Limited by Guarantee: 07402794



Supporting Older People in
our Community since 1995



ANNUAL REPORT 2020





CARING TOGETHER

IN WOODHOUSE AND LITTLE LONDON

OFFICE

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PATRONS

The Lord Mayor of Leeds
Hilary Benn MP
Sir Alan Langlands Hon FMedSci. –
Vice Chancellor, University of Leeds

THE COMMITTEE

Mary Godfrey	Chairperson
Christine Towler (resigned Oct 2019)	Vice Chair
Cllr Al Garthwaite	Vice Chair
Ann Shaw	Secretary
Andy Donnelly (resigned Oct 2019)	Treasurer
Alistair Simpson	Treasurer
David Wigglesworth	
Ben Anson	
Tracey Noble	
Ann Dudzinski	
Myrna Ruttledge	
Cllr Javaid Akhtar	

**Sadly, Alistair Simpson died in August 2020
and Mary Godfrey in September 2020**

STAFF

STAFF

John O'Dwyer	Manager
Valerie McGregor	Advice & Support Worker/Deputy Manager
Lisa Argyle	Community Resilience Worker
Ashley Rose	Finance Worker

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

Caring Together in Woodhouse and Little London is established for the following objects:-

- The relief of older people (without distinction of colour, ethnic origin, nationality, political or religious opinion or sex) in any way considered to be charitable in law as the trustees may determine within the geographic area of Woodhouse and Little London and its neighbourhood within the City of Leeds.
- To promote the mental and physical welfare of older people and relieve those with disabilities.
- To advance the education of older people on matters such as finance, health, housing, security and welfare entitlements.
- To further any other charitable purposes as the trustees may determine for the benefit of the residents in the area of benefit.

FOREWORD FROM OUR PATRON

We are living in difficult and unprecedented times. The coronavirus has restricted what we can do and at times kept us apart from our loved ones.

It is at moments such as this that the contribution that organisations like Caring Together make to our community really shines out.

I know how hard the team and volunteers have been working to keep in touch with members in new ways and I know how much appreciated this effort is, whether it's the mind workouts, the poetry or the advice about coronavirus linking up with our local NHS. And I greatly enjoyed taking part in the virtual Afternoon Tea in the summer at which we celebrated some special birthdays including Caring Together's 25th.

On a sad note we all mourn the passing of Mary Godfrey and Alistair Simpson, both of whom had contributed so much over so many years as trustees.

So as we mark the year gone by, let us look to the future. Stay safe. Take care. And remember, we will meet again soon.
Best wishes



**Rt Hon Hilary Benn
MP for Leeds Central
and Patron of Caring Together
in Woodhouse and Little London**



FINANCE REPORT

Our treasurer, Alistair Simpson sadly passed away in August of this year. He had been in post since October 2019. He had settled into the role very quickly and was a valued member of our board of trustees. At present, given the short notice, we have not been able to replace Alistair nor put in place an acting treasurer.

So this year, the honour falls to me to present an overview, on behalf of the trustees, of Caring Together's finances.

We made a small surplus last year which has now been the case for the past two years. We once again opted for a strategy of making applications to a range of funders for both small and medium sized grants. This better allowed us to spread the risks and presented us with an improved, on-going analysis of where we stood going forward. This was supplemented by the generosity of member's who fundraised for and made donations to, us.

The surplus of £1,425 allied with existing unrestricted reserves of £78,659, brought us a total of £80,084 in unrestricted funds. This left us facing 2020-21 in a healthy state financially. However, we were aware that the coming year was going to bring some uncertainty with one of our major sources of funds coming to an end.

The very end of the financial year taught us that you should never take anything for granted. The onset of Covid 19 brought uncertainty to all sectors of the economy, of which small charities were no exception. We knew that we had to cogitate, and come up with a short term plan to replace both lost income and devise a strategy to continue to support our members in very difficult and changed circumstances. It will be next year before we will see the success or otherwise of our approach but we were confident at the onset of our abilities to respond to this emergency.

2019/20 was, for the most part, a year in which Caring Together consolidated itself, both in financial terms and with regard to the activities and services that we offered to our members. We made a healthy surplus, due in large part to establishing good connections with a range of funders, as well as taking advantage of sources of funding which enabled us to try new avenues, offering different approaches to providing support and expanding our geographical influence.

John O'Dwyer



STAFF & ACTIVITIES

It is with sadness that Caring Together announces the deaths of two of our valued members of the Trustee board, both of whom passed away recently. Mary Godfrey, our chair, had involvement with Caring Together going back almost 20 years and was a major influence on our stability and direction during that period. Alistair Simpson was a more recent admission to the board. In his role of trustee, he embodied enthusiasm and diligence and we will miss the lost potential that he would have brought to this role. They will be sorely missed by all who knew them within Caring Together.

It is tempting to address the Covid-19 crisis at length in this report but, as its impact was only felt towards the end of the last financial year, we will only reference its relevance to that small portion of the year.

We made a concerted effort in 2019-20 to try out different approaches to providing support to our members. This involved working with new and old partners in delivering projects and opportunities that would expand on the range of activities that we already provided.

This included expanding our range of work in the City Centre and to avail of the assets that this area holds, both in terms of potential free spaces that are available and their suitability for hosting groups and activities for our members. To this end we utilised free office space in collaboration with 'Dance on' and Yorkshire Dance as well as 'Are we there yet', alongside Skipkko, celebrating women's suffrage.

We also held a number of successful cinema trips within the city centre as well as outings to cafes, museums and theatres. All in all, we feel that we are making good strides in our commitment to incorporate the centre into our areas of operations both for the benefits of its residents and also to avail of the myriad opportunities which present themselves for all of our members.

Our more regular groups continued to go from strength to strength and to develop and innovate. The project 'Making the invisible visible' in partnership with Natural England and Leeds University was a particular success involving both creative and performance elements and was well received.





We have maintained our policy of finding new venues and spaces in Woodhouse and Little London to run groups and activities. While there is a dearth of potential outlets in these areas that we can use, we continue to 'bring our shows' on the road to attract the greatest interest possible and will continue to do this.

Our commitment to using new technology to enhance both the connectivity and enjoyment of our members continues unabated. Alongside our usual provision in this area, we also were successful in our application for funding to 100% Digital for I pads which improved the experiences offered within groups as well as the benefits of being interactive when providing one-to one support in peoples own homes.

Our direct support work continued to receive an increased amount of referrals. Amongst other areas of need, our emphasis on providing benefits support from referral to tribunal stage, while time consuming, certainly offers comprehensive support through what is often a stressful process.

Recognition of the seasonal signposts continued to be a cornerstone of our work. We once again held Springtime and Summer socials, all well attended and had a lovely outing to Scarborough in glorious sunshine as well as other local outings. We participated in the organisation of Little London Community Day as well as hosting our annual winter party for members.

We continued working in a collaborative way alongside local partners ranging from churches, local schools, the universities, the local health and housing team's, other 3rd sector organisations and local activists. These links are always productive and serve to remind us that we need each other, and that when we effectively join forces, the whole community benefits.

In mid-march everything changed. The lockdown caused by covid-19 began. With little warning, we developed a short term action plan to react to the new realities. Hitting the phones, we made all of our members aware that we were there for them, that if they had any needs or any fears to address that we would do our utmost to support them through this. The support ranged from providing advice and emotional support to directly supplying food as well as partnering with other agencies to ensure that any other entitlement to food provision was actioned.

Our volunteers were an integral part of this response. Supporting other members via phone calls and other people in the community who needed help, and making themselves available in a myriad of other ways, they were a cornerstone of our response. Alongside the staff team of Valerie, Lisa and Ashley, this was a massive investment in time, energy, inventiveness and industry. A huge thanks to the team and volunteers for this and the continued support that they have shown us through this period and throughout the rest of the year.

John O'Dwyer, Manager

VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering at Caring Together is about different generations growing & learning together.



Be it giving your time, sharing your expertise, gaining something new, or just wishing to be more involved, we would love to hear from you; together we do make a difference in our community



'A huge THANK YOU to all our volunteers, past and present for everything you do'

www.caringtogether.org.uk

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CARING TOGETHER IN WOODHOUSE & LITTLE LONDON IS GRATEFUL FOR THE FOLLOWING GRANTS AND DONATIONS IN 2019/20

Leeds City Council (Adult Social Care)	£54,828
Leeds Benevolent Society for Single Ladies	£30,000
Time To Shine	£10,128
Leeds City Council Well-being funds	£9,985
Harrison & Potter Trust	£4,000
100% Digital (LCC)	£3,600
Wades Charity	£3,000
Sylvia & Colin Shepherd Charitable Trust	£500
Charles Brotherton Trust	£150
Leeds Older People's Forum – IDOP 2019	£110
Other grant (anonymous trust)	£5,000
Member and Supporter donations	£6,783
<i>In Addition:</i>	
Local Fundraising	£1,311
Group/Trip/Activity contributions	£5,223

THANKS TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS & FRIENDS

Caring Together are deeply grateful to many individuals and supporters.

Patrons, Trustees and all our volunteers and helpers

All our funders and those individuals who generously donate to us

The other agencies and organisations and local businesses who support us and our members in so many ways

The sessional workers, trainers, speakers and activity providers who help to keep our groups successful

Last, but very definitely not least, to the local community for supporting our project in so many different ways.

IN MEMORIAM

We, sadly, lost a number of members during the period covered by this report (01/04/2019 – 31/03/20)

Wilhelmina Johnson

Randolph Bramble

Lea Keeble

Ann Barr

Marjorie Fisher

Charles Walton

Marcella McDonald

Eleanor Wexler

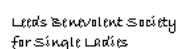
Peter Inman

John Woolford

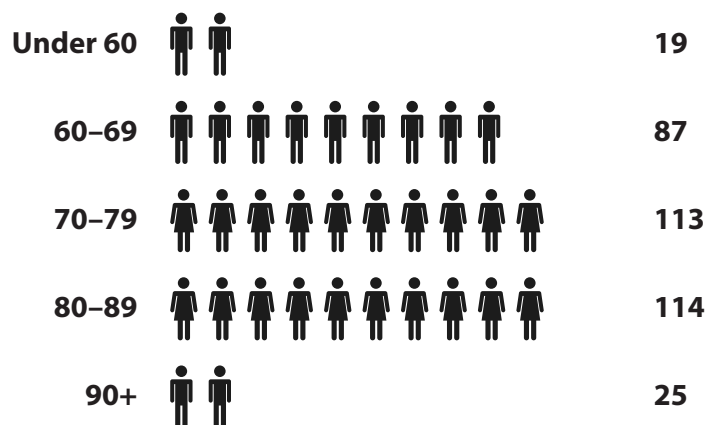
Peter Gaere

Christine Feather

If we have inadvertently omitted anyone from this list, please accept our sincere apologies and please let us know.



We have worked with 358 older people this year



150
volunteer
befriending
visits/calls



3195
phone
calls



870
letters/
emails

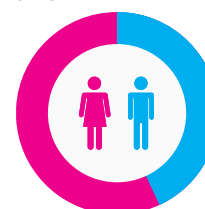


326
visits



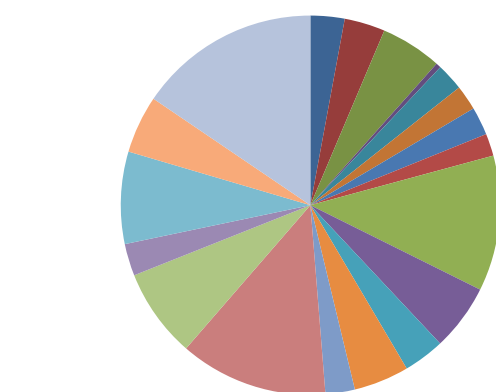
159
drop-ins

221
women



137
men

Issues covered

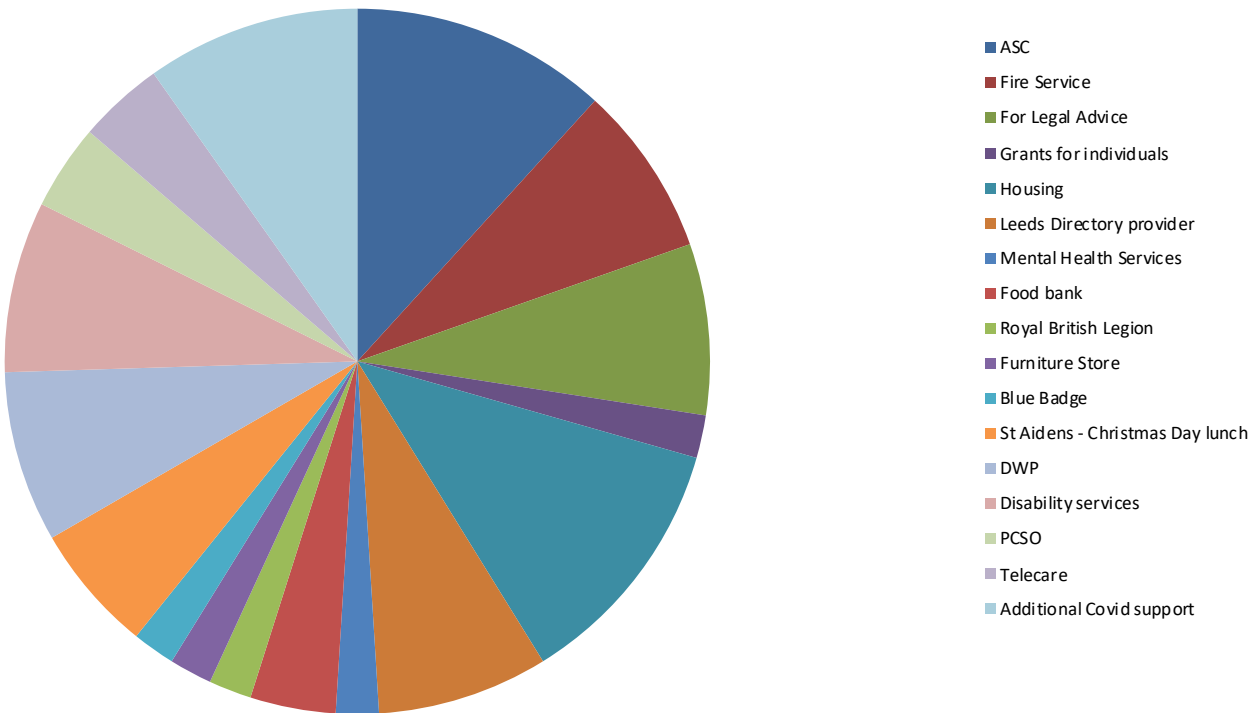


- Advocacy
- Benefits advice
- Caring Together events
- Christmas hampers
- External events/groups
- Form filling
- Friendly Visiting
- Funding
- General advice/support
- Health and Wellbeing
- Local Fundraising
- Other agencies on behalf of members
- Outreach & Publicity
- Social activity
- Transport
- Trips/outings
- Volunteering
- Winter Well being
- Covid Support

In addition

- Most of the regular groups go on occasional outings through the year
- Annual Party for all members in November 2019
- Day trip to Scarborough in July 2019 plus outings to Royal Armouries, Batley Mill, York, Golden Acre Park, Hepworth Gallery, Lower Derwent Nature Reserve – including assisted outings with volunteer support
- Lunchtime meet ups at local venues
- Film outings
- Pantomime outing
- Seasonal Get-togethers – Springtime Tea, Summer Social, Winter Warmer Afternoon
- Caring Together members volunteer in local schools
- Volunteers meet regularly to plan and feedback on the work they do
- First Aid training for members and volunteers
- Awareness/information sessions around issues that may be of benefit to members and volunteers
- Members attended a number of events with other organisations, including Notre Dame Party, , coffee morning and carols at St Mark's Church, Leeds Lions event at St Chad's, Tree Decorating at All Souls, Christmas Day Lunch at St Aiden's
- Cricket matches at Headingley with free tickets from Yorkshire Cricket Foundation
- Live Well In Later Life Sessions with IAPT
- 'Are We There Yet' Heritage Project with Skipkco
- 'Dance On' with Yorkshire Dance
- Part of 'Nature Revealed – Making the Invisible Visible' with Leeds University and Natural England
- Winter well-being visits to vulnerable members
- Winter warmth bedding, snuggles and thermal underwear given to members who need them
- Christmas Hampers to our oldest members, thanks to Caring Together members/volunteers and Grove Methodist Church
- Reflections project for Caring Together's 25th year

Referrals made to other agencies



Social / Educational Opportunities

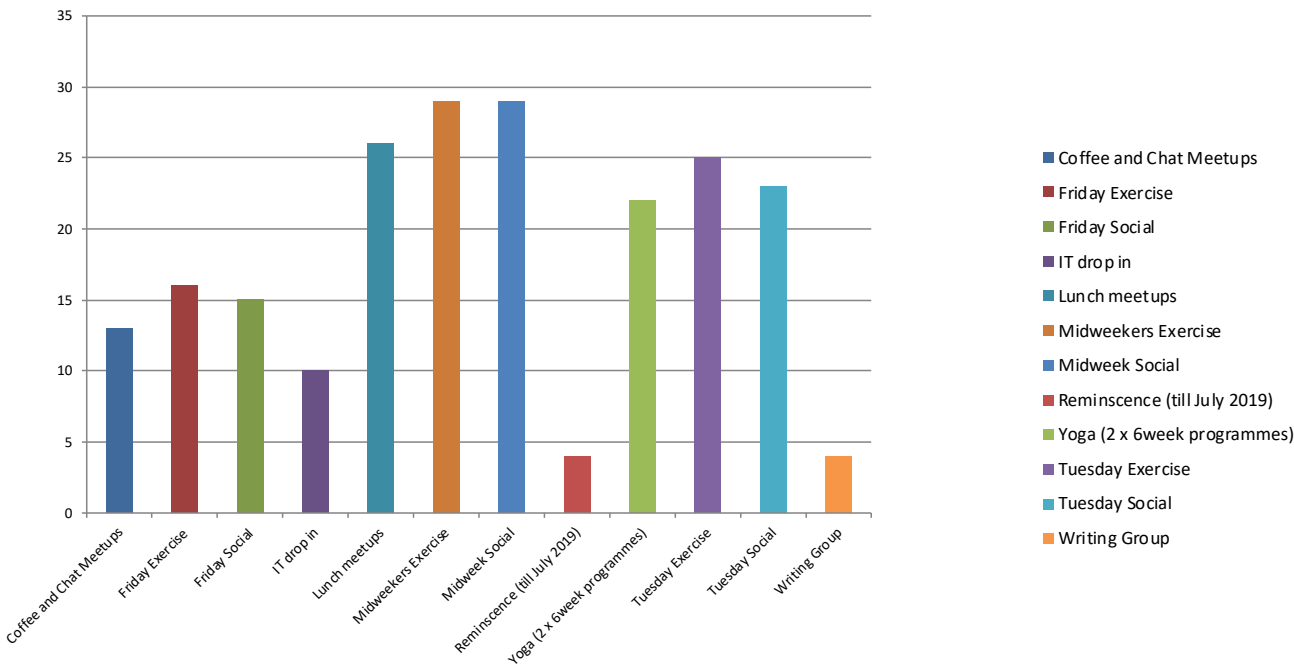


2480



attendances at our groups
and activities over the year.

Member numbers at regular groups





**Promoting the Welfare of
Older People in the Community**

