



## Charing Cross Re-development

We have been informed that the long awaited redevelopment of Charing Cross Square is due to start in November 2023 and is expected to take about 12 weeks. The plans involve resurfacing the square, adding trees and a new sign, putting steps at the front of the square to the pavement (near the bus stop) and changing the steps at the back of the square—taking away part of the large step area to create more space as you enter the square from the back and repairing the steps to make them safer.

This work has been planned since before Covid and we hope it will make a big difference to this, previously fairly neglected, square. It is however going to cause some disruption. The contractors have assured us that they will ensure access to all the businesses in the square.

Here at Caring Together we have lots of activities happening over this time and we are intending to continue these as planned if we can. If you are planning to visit us, or attend an event/activity, and you have any concerns about it, please contact us.

## Caring Together Premises



We have been having our own redevelopment in the Caring Together premises recently too.

In September we had an internal wall removed to open up the front area and create more space for our activities and events.

We are really pleased with our new space and have had very positive feedback from all who have visited so far.

### Digital Switchover Information Session—with BT

**Date:** Thursday 1st February

**Time:** 1pm to 2pm

**Venue:** Caring Together premises, 127 Woodhouse Street, LS6 2PY

By 2025, the UK's phone lines will be switching over to a new digital landline service.

For most people this will be a really simple change, and all phone companies have to provide help and support to anyone who might have issues with it.

Come along to learn more about this and how it will affect you.

Someone from BT will also be on hand to answer your questions.

No need to book, just come along. Open to all

## Winter Warmth and Wellbeing

We want to start this section by saying **please make sure that you keep yourself, and your home, warm enough.** This is especially important as we get older and become more susceptible to the cold.

### Winter Warmth items from Caring Together

Caring Together will have a small stock of items, for our members, to help keep warm this winter and this includes “Hotties” (microwavable heat pads), blankets, duvets, gloves, hats, scarves, and socks. These will be available at our premises at Charing Cross, and at our get-togethers and activities that are held in our own premises. Or you can call us if you would like some of these items and we can arrange to get them to you.

### Help if you are struggling to pay your bills:

If you have energy debt or think you will not be able to pay your energy bills, it's important to contact your supplier – most suppliers have hardship funds to help customers but they do also have an obligation to help you find a solution, so speak to them as soon as possible. There may also be help available from other sources. Caring Together can help our members to look at the options and to access the support that is available so please contact us. Even if you are not a member, we can try and put you in touch with the organisations that can offer help.

### Can you save on other bills?

A number of phone and broadband companies have cheaper ‘social tariffs’ for people on low incomes – it is worth calling your provider to ask or look at other providers and it may be worth switching.

Yorkshire Water also have schemes to help customers on a low income, you can contact them for advice on 0345 1 299 299.

You can, of course, ask Caring Together to look at these options with you.

### Financial Support for Winter 2023-24

- ◆ Winter fuel payments will be paid to those who were at or over state pension age on 25th September 2023 and will be either £500 or £600 per household this year. You should get a letter telling you what you are due and it will be paid into your bank.
- ◆ Warm Home Discount—this scheme gives you £150, credited directly to your fuel bill (providing your energy supplier is part of the scheme). It will be awarded to people getting Pension Credit and also to some people on low incomes and in properties with high energy costs. You don't need to claim—you should get a letter telling you if you are eligible.
- ◆ Cost of living payment—there will be a further £300 cost of living payment for people on some means tested benefits, including Pension Credit, Income based ESA or JSA, Universal Credit or Tax Credits. This should be paid into your bank account between 31st October and 19th November. There will be a further payment in Spring 2024, exact dates are not confirmed yet.
- ◆ Cold Weather Payments—an additional payment of £25 for those on means tested benefits if the weather in your area is zero Celsius or below for 7 consecutive days between 1st November 2023 and 31st March 2024. Paid automatically for each 7 day period.

All of these payments/discounts should be made without you having to apply for them.

**Watch out for scams asking you to apply for them. The DWP has said it will never ask you for personal details or banking info over text or email.**

If you think you should be entitled to one of the above and don't receive it, Caring Together can help you look into it, if you wish.

## A CARING TOGETHER CHRISTMAS

We have a number of events coming up for the festive season, as listed below.  
**Full Details are on the enclosed flyers.**

### Festive Craft sessions on

**Wednesdays 22nd and 29th November and 6th December 11am—12.30pm**

### Festive Get-Together

**Wednesday 6th December 1pm—2.30pm**

in partnership with Leeds University Music in the Community. Sing a long with the choir and enjoy hot drinks and mince pies/cake

**And a festive film afternoon at 1pm on Thursday 21st December**

**All at Caring Together, 127 Woodhouse Street**

Outing to **Batley Mills** for a festive shopping afternoon - **Monday 4th December**. Leaving Woodhouse at 11.30am and returning by approximately 3pm

**"Young at Heart" Festive Lunch and entertainment at Britannia Hotel  
 Friday 15th December.**

Leaving Woodhouse at 12noon and returning approximately 3pm

### Christmas Cards



We have a small selection of beautiful hand crafted Christmas Cards available for sale. Lovingly made by one of our volunteers.

They are priced at 3 cards for £1. If you would like some let us know.

### New Year Pantomime at Carriageworks Theatre



If you missed the invitation to go to the pantomime with us in the last newsletter, there is still time to reserve a place and we have a few seats left. So please let us know if you would like to join us

The show is Snow White and it is at Carriageworks Theatre—Thursday 4th January at 2.30pm. The cost is £15.

You will need to book before 30th November.

### Christmas Opening Hours at Caring Together

The Caring Together offices will be closed from 4pm on Friday 22nd December 2023 until Tuesday 2nd January 2024.

If you need urgent help over this time, there are lots of numbers on the enclosed 'Useful Numbers' list that may be helpful.

***Wishing everyone a safe and peaceful Christmas and looking forward to a happy and healthy 2024***

**Legal ‘Surgery’ at Caring Together**

Following on from our ‘Dying Matters’ legal advice session in May, Jenna Keough, from Blacks Solicitors, will be visiting Caring Together again on **Wednesday 7th February 2024, 11am –12noon**

She will be able to give basic information/ advice on issues such as making a will, power of attorney etc.

This will be running alongside our **Warm Space, Soup and a Roll session** so you could come along and enjoy some warming soup and have a chat with Jenna.

**Abbey House Museum presents...  
The Power of Persuasion!**

**Dates: Thursday 11th, 18th & 25th January 2024**

**Time: 1pm to 2.30pm**

**Venue: Caring Together**



Join curator Pat (Abbey House Museum) ahead of a new exhibition on advertising, from sweets and shopping to homeware and fashion .

This is a chance to reminisce about your own personal memories of old adverts, or just come along and enjoy a trip down memory lane as Pat shares items and images from Leeds Museums’ collections. There will be a chance to have your memories recorded too, but this is optional.

**Caring Together Prize Draw**

Thank you to everyone who takes part in our monthly Prize Draw, it helps raise much needed funds to support our work. The draws take place on the third Monday of each month.

If you join our monthly Prize Draw you will be helping to support our work as well as having a chance to win a small cash prize each month. Each entry costs £1 per month and half of this goes to Caring Together funds while half is paid out in prize money. Please let Valerie know if you would like to take part.

<b>August 2023 Total Prize Fund £26</b>	<b>September 2023 Total Prize Fund £25</b>	<b>October 2023 Total Prize Fund £25</b>
1st Prize £14 No: 124	1st Prize £13 No: 100	1st Prize £13 No: 076
2nd Prize £6 No: 118	2nd Prize £6 No: 121	2nd Prize £6 No: 069
3rd Prize £6 No: 134	3rd Prize £6 No: 136	3rd Prize £6 No: 002

**Caring Together Staff—and how to contact us**

Our office telephone number is 0113 2430298

Alternatively you can call us on these mobile numbers or email us:

**John O’Dwyer** - Manager - john@caringtogether.org.uk - 07458303015

**Valerie McGregor** - Advice & Support Worker/Administrator (Deputy Manager) - valerie@caringtogether.org.uk - 07483333115

**Lisa Argyle** - Community Resilience Worker -lisa@caringtogether.org.uk—07436530073

**Ashley Rose** - Finance Worker—ashley@caringtogether.org.uk—or on the office landline on Tuesday mornings (0113 2430298)

Our office address is: 127 Woodhouse Street, Leeds, LS6 2PY.

