



## NEWSLETTER NEW YEAR 2019



This is a bumper edition, and, in respect of our Members, there will be a few other documents that require looking through, signing and returning to us, either by the member or their carer.



|        |  |                      |
|--------|--|----------------------|
| Page 2 | Activities                                 | and Members' Matters |
| Page 5 | Staffing Matters                           |                      |
| Page 6 | New Staff Members and Volunteers, Students |                      |
| Page 5 | Thank You's                                |                      |
| Page 8 | Other matters and Dates for your diary     |                      |

## ACTIVITIES

## **Occasional Trips and Outings**

Simon H and Lisa had the opportunity to take some members to the M Shed on Friday 9 November. It was a very enjoyable visit and members have said that they would like to have more outings such as this in future and have suggested other places to visit on Fridays. (Such Friday trips are subject to funding being a day our staff do not usually work).

## **Christmas Parties**

This year Haven Day Centre held two Christmas parties for members and volunteers. These were funded by a generous grant from the John James Foundation. They took place on 5& 18 December. Members who do not normally come in on those days were given the opportunity to attend either one of the parties.

All who attended had a marvellous time and these are some of the lovely things' members said about the parties.

“Good”

“Good, had a few sandwiches and dancing”

“It was lovely. I loved it”

“It was brilliant. We all enjoyed ourselves and ate a lot”

“It was alright”

## **Christmas Trips**

In December members enjoyed trips to Blue Diamond Garden Centre at Congresbury (formerly Cadbury Garden Centre) on Tuesday 11 and 12 December. We travelled by minibus from the Centre, enjoyed refreshments, a look around for ideas of what to buy.

Then we had a two-course lunch (very filling!) and another opportunity to browse or purchase, before we were taken home.

Comments, mostly from Members included:

“I liked looking around”

“I liked it all”

“Going home and teasing the staff on the minibus” said RT

“It went well”

“Good. The singing reindeer were a hit with some” said JV and he added, “Us all being together”.

Simon and SM also liked the Reindeer but refrained from pushing the button!

“I really enjoyed the roundabout with a member... she gave me no choice!” Said a member of staff.

SM said “It was lovely. The dinner ladies were lovely. I said Hello to them.”

“Tea and food beautiful. Me sat by my girlfriend.”

“I liked being around everybody. Nice to see Father Christmas. Nice to see the children having fun as well. Fun all around. I got nice pictures on my camera and can’t wait to go next year.”

“I think it was great with my friends and you lot. It was something different for us to do. I liked looking at all the smiley faces and liked the decorations.”

### **Blythswood Care Shoeboxes**

Thank you to all the people who sent in filled shoeboxes for the Blythswood Care appeal. 62 boxes were collected (some delivered to us from other groups) which is a magnificent number. These were greatly appreciated and a ‘Thank You’ letter from Blythswood said...

*“Every gift in every shoebox makes a difference to the life of someone in need. It lets a person know that they are valuable,*

*that they are loved. Your care and kindness has brought happiness to someone in need this Christmas.”*

## **MEMBERS' MATTERS**

### **MEMBERS' COMMITTEE MEETING**

Each year the day that the Members' Committee meets is changed so that all members can have the opportunity to serve on this committee. The membership has changed since the last newsletter was issued.

The first meeting of the new committee was held on 14 November and we discussed Students, Christmas Parties and members' activities.

We also talked about the outcome of Care Plans and suggestions which were made at these meetings. Members would like to go bowling in the new year, do gardening, and some suggested Strictly Come Dancing/Singing.

Members have shown an interest in spending time in the IT Suite and we now have a computer in a quieter space in the Contracts Room for those who would like to use it.

The bread-making sessions were very popular so this activity will continue. Members enjoyed working on a project to produce a Christmas present for themselves, making a personal scrapbook.

## STAFFING MATTERS

### A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A MINIBUS DRIVER

Rain or shine, the day starts at 8 o'clock by checking the phone for last minute changes. Then every morning vehicle checks are done - tyres, tail lift, lights, seat belts, fixings for wheelchairs/ walker aids, and many others, to ensure the bus is safe to drive. If something fails ... we're on the phone to Bristol Community Transport (BCT) who respond efficiently and may drive up a replacement minibus.

Sometimes we might be a little late due to changes, swapping around vehicles etc but far more likely the reason would be due to heavy traffic or roadworks! And where would we be without roadworks? If on the journey there is an issue with a minibus, BCT are usually able to respond.



Some pick-up journeys take us from one corner of Bristol to another and the driver's trusty passenger assistant has to knock on the door, accompany the person to the bus, using different access points help them on, strap down any walking aid, ask whether help is needed with strapping in the passenger then shut the doors.

Parking to pick up people sometimes can be tricky. If we're not outside the front door, then we'll be further down the street or round the corner. Sometimes, if there's a school near where you live, we need to drive around until all the mums and dads, who've dropped their kids off at school, have gone and we can at last park!

But rest assured, we **will** pick you up!

## **NEW MEMBERS OF STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS**

In October we were pleased to welcome Paul Jackson as our latest full-time staff member. Paul is our Facilities Manager but will be involved with Health and Safety matters along with Simon D and Juliet. Though Paul initially started accompanying members on the bus as a Passenger Assistant he is now qualified as a minibus driver.

On 20 November we were pleased to welcome Paul Meager who has joined us as a part-time Support Worker. He commenced working with members on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and will also be helping on the minibuses as a Passenger Assistant. He is a talented musician (I can hear him playing as I type this!) and has been putting his skills to use each week in a variety of forms and occasions, to also include the weekly Fellowship meetings.

## **STUDENTS**

We are pleased that a new regular volunteer, known to us as Weni, has been helping in the Craft room on Wednesday mornings. She will be with us until her placement at college begins. Weni is very artistic and has been helping with scrapbooks, poppy crafts and she has done a great job updating notice boards.

Students from St Brendan's 6<sup>th</sup> form College... were welcomed once again from November, each visiting for a one-day placement as part of their social care studies. This programme continues to the summer 2019. Students who have come here in

the past have found it to be a very positive experience and a few have gone on to make a career in social care.

We have received positive feedback from the students and most categories on their feedback forms were rated 'Excellent'.

Below are some of the comments we have received from students:

"I have had an amazing experience at Haven, and it has made me want to explore this as a career even more."

"We learned how to communicate with other people better."

"Getting to know how this environment differs to other environments and learning how to communicate with people who lack some physical/mental abilities."

"The staff were friendly and kept me in the loop about service users' preferences when doing the activities. They also allowed me to get involved with helping one to ones which helped my communication section. It has validated that I would like to work in a similar environment."

"I really enjoyed my day, would love to come back and see everyone again, felt so welcome and included, all the staff do an amazing job."

John Cabot Academy students visited last year for a week's work placement. This worked so well that their tutors have asked whether more students can come back at some point in the future.

**THANK YOU**

We would like to say Thank You to the John James Foundation for their donation towards the cost of our Christmas parties. We sent them some photographs to demonstrate what a wonderful time everyone had.

We are also grateful to other grant making bodies and a couple of individuals for their generosity in funding other outings, equipment or items during 2018.

## **OTHER MATTERS**

### **Members following E type diets**

We support numerous members with eating their E type diets, using the instructions from the Speech and Language Therapists reports. These reports are usually sent to the home or carer and we are also copied in.

We are finding that packed lunches received from some care homes, on some occasions, do not conform to the strict requirements. We have been advised that if lunches are not as recommended by the SALT team, and this re-occurs, that we have a duty to report this under Safeguarding. Please support us with this.

### **Quality Paper**

We have a large supply of quality paper in very large and heavy rolls. This paper is good for Arts & Crafts activities etc. If anybody is interested in receiving some of this paper, at no charge, please email [alex.porwal@havendc.org.uk](mailto:alex.porwal@havendc.org.uk) We can cut into 1-2-meter lengths or into small rolls of longer lengths.

### **Food Bank donations**



The members committee decided that it would be good to support a local Food Bank. If you would like to donate tins or dried food, we will be happy to receive donations during the period 25 Feb - until 7 March. A reminder will be sent in a couple of weeks.

## Holidays

We all look forward to holidays, a time for relaxation, or exertion, seeing and trying new things etc. You may not know that when a Member has a holiday the funding we usually receive ceases and only recommences when you return. We are required to provide this information to Local Authorities and for those who are funded by homes, or personal funding we do not invoice you.

Therefore, it would be very helpful if you would inform us of the dates you will be away on holiday at least two weeks in advance (if a two week break then one month) before you go. This will help us when scheduling the transport or allow staff to have a flexi-day holiday themselves.

On this theme, and perhaps to help you to avoid, where possible, booking holidays when we are open, please see the dates below. If you have mislaid the dates for the entire year as sent at Christmas email [Juliet.wynne@havendc.org.uk](mailto:Juliet.wynne@havendc.org.uk)

## Closure dates: 2019

**Closed** Mon 15 April to Mon 22 April.  
April 2019

**Reopen** Tues 23

**Closed** Mon 6 May (Bank Holiday)

**Reopen** Tues 7 May 2019

**Closed** Mon 27 May (Bank Holiday)  
May 2019

**Reopen** Tues 28

Alex, Juliet, Simon H, Lisa, Jackie, Denise, Philbert, Angela,  
Paul J, Prathibha, Paul and Simon (Genesis 8:22)



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Haven Day Centre is the working name of DCF Premier Workshops Trust  
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