



## Winter 2019/2020

Wishing all our readers a Very Happy Christmas  
and for peace in 2020

**REMINDER - Haven Day Centre is closed to all  
weeks commencing 23 & 30 December.**

**We reopen Monday 6 January**

For urgent messages the office phone and Simon's email  
will be accessed during the closure on just a few days. If  
using email, for just the holiday period, email Simon  
David. [See the contacts section on p8]

As usual there has been much going on in recent months,  
with only a fraction stated in the following pages. I hope  
that you have checked out our new website, where past  
(and this newsletter and key dates) can be found.

## Member Matters

### Free Lunches

Further to the information sent out in October we are, as a direct result of a grant, going to offer free meals (from Wiltshire Farm Foods) for 3 weeks commencing Monday 13 January.

### Logistics!...

**For the first week back (w/c 6 Jan) please bring in packed lunches as usual then...**

- We shall, where possible, ensure that those members who attend more than one day each week have a different meal each day.
- For those who attend once a week perhaps a different meal each week. However, as you will appreciate, we are not going to be able to produce as many as 10 different meals each day but will ensure that all have a meal from their preferred choices as indicated on the forms returned.
- Deserts will be provided, either a yoghurt/mousse or ice cream.

**Please put a note in your diaries that packed lunches need to be brought in again w/c 3 Feb.**

## Activities

### Trips, Outings and Events

We are really appreciative of a number of Trusts and Foundations that have awarded us grants towards many of our recent outings and for our Christmas Party. One such organisation who supports us each Christmas is the John James Foundation. That gift enables our members to have a fantastic meal and experience at Cadbury Garden Centre. Their entire

team looks after all our needs on the day so we can focus on helping our members to have a great time.



•Sue

said - I liked feeding the fish (not with turkey but fish food!)

- Stephen said - I liked meeting people and chatting to them
- Elizabeth commented... I really enjoyed the whole experience

(More comments to appear on our website in the new year).

**Music sessions** - We have been enjoying some lovely (lively!) music sessions with our members, singing songs from the 40's, 50's and 60's. Some of the members have been playing along with drums and tambourines. Two members are very good at joining in on the ukuleles. Hand-bells are being used for our Christmas parties.

**Fellowship meetings** (December to March) Many of our members have been attending Fellowship Meetings recently. This week, we are busy preparing for a short nativity play that we will be performing at our Christmas parties over the next two weeks. Some of our members will also be performing 'Little Donkey' on the hand bells we have recently purchased with money from a grant for such stimulating equipment.

In the New Year, we are planning visits to the Mullers Museum, and will be looking at his life in our meetings. We will also be working through a 10-week course exploring the Christian faith called 'Access to Life in Jesus'. (For those that do not wish to attend, other activities take place as usual).

## **Warm Clothing**

Please ensure that you wear suitable warm clothing on the minibuses each day, namely a warm coat.

We do have some blankets and two of our newer minibuses have secondary heating which is very effective. However, this is no replacement for home to minibus and minibus to Centre exposure to the cold, and where the minibus takes a while to warm up.

## **Transport**

Thank you to our members, carers and families for bearing with us and for your understanding during the Autumn whilst we transitioned from the minibuses, we used to rent from Bristol Community Transport. (BCT)

As a direct result of a substantial rental increase sought by BCT, which we could not have sustained, we have had to purchase (at considerable investment by the Trust) three used WAV minibuses.

Many minibuses are not adapted to suit our purposes. In addition to transporting our Members there are walking aids and wheelchairs to store and tie down so they do not move during our journeys.

Simon (the manager) made three trips to Minibus Options (in Whaley Bridge) to source two which he drove back to Bristol.



(The other was purchased from BCT)

We hope this investment will pay off in the coming years.

## Staffing and Volunteers

Many of you will know that **Simon Hamar** left HDC for pastures new a few weeks ago. Simon had worked for HDC for over 16yrs and was known and respected by many and was out on the minibuses almost at every opportunity. We wish him well for the future.

**Peter and Zoe** also stepped down from their weekly visits to undertake the Bible Study. They too shall be missed but we are sure that their skills and talents will be put to good use elsewhere.

**Jonathan** who joined us on a temporary contract is now a permanent employee. Both he and Paul Meager have recently been through their MiDAS minibus driver training theory and on the road assessment and passed with flying driving colours!

**Students** from St Brendan's 6<sup>th</sup> form College returned in October. Each student visits for a one-day placement as part of their social care studies. One or two students are to undertake work experience with us in the coming weeks/months, to include perhaps administration, publication or form design.

We receive positive feedback from the students and most categories of their feedback forms state their experience was rated 'Excellent'.

**Jane** continues to support us in the production of Care Plans and taking notes in the actual meeting themselves and general admin.

### **Volunteer Vacancies -**

We are looking for the following volunteers:

A skilled administrative volunteer who could give us half a day each week (or a day a fortnight) to help with a variety of tasks. This might include documents, newsletters, records, (perhaps updating our website each month!) and more.

We would also be interested to hear from someone with a flair for finances (assistant treasurer/bookkeeper) as our current bookkeeper retires in the coming weeks.

If you, or someone you know, are interested in any volunteer position please email [lisa.perkins@havendc.org.uk](mailto:lisa.perkins@havendc.org.uk) stating the position that interests you and she will follow up with an application form/more information.

### **Thank You**

We are grateful to grant-making bodies and a couple of individuals for their generosity in funding outings, the Christmas Party and gifts, the meals in January, certain equipment and grants towards our replacement used minibuses (x3).

### **Other Matters**

#### **Visitors**

We are always pleased to welcome many visitors to the Centre, most of which phone to book in to see us in advance. Many are here of course to meet with a member, for Care Plan meetings, assessments of just to engage with them about their needs.

### **Shoebox appeal**

For the 5<sup>th</sup> year running we were involved in the Blythswood Care Shoebox Appeal by being a local depot for all who wish to drop off, or ask us to collect locally, filled shoe boxes. Over 150 filled boxes were collected from us on 12 November. (1953 boxes were picked up in the Bristol area)

### **Feature - Care and Safeguarding**

- by Juliet and Jonathan

The staff have built up good relationships with our members, many of whom have been attending HDC for a considerable number of years.

The members know that they can talk to any member of staff about any worries or concerns they have, which will be addressed. This is written on posters displayed in the centre reminding the members they can talk to us or others.

Each member has an allocated key worker who spends time with them. They are usually able to pick up on changes in behaviour and try to find out with the member why this could be. A cuppa is always on offer and a space to talk in confidence.

Care plan meetings held yearly review the members plans as well as any issues.

All staff support workers complete incident logs where concerns are logged, and a decision is made by senior members of staff about what needs to happen next with this information.

This could be:

- i) Contacting the carer or care provider by telephone and have a conversation about our concerns.
- ii) Send a copy of the log home and seek further support/advice.
- iii) Complete a safeguarding referral.

We have good relationships with both health care practitioners and social workers and work well as part of the team focusing on the needs of the member.

The safeguarding team at HDC meet regularly to discuss safeguarding matters and to review policies and procedures.

All staff (and some volunteers and trustees) will be undertaking safeguarding refresher training on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2020, facilitated by our safeguarding advisors.

The trustees have safeguarding on the agenda of every trustees meeting (usually 5- 6 a year) and annually review other data like H&S, accidents etc.

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## Holidays

Details of our 2020 holiday closures can be found on the magnetic coaster enclosed.

This can be put on your fridge, so the dates are to hand and we are not repeatedly asked for them. (The dates will soon be on our website).



Alex, Juliet, Lisa, Jackie, Denise, Philbert, Angela,  
Paul J, Paul, Jonathan and Simon



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Coordinator of volunteers & students

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[trips and outings](#))

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