The Parish of Great & Little Bourton, Oxfordshire

Annual Parish Residents Meeting

Tuesday April 10th 2018 at The Village Hall, Great Bourton

Update on the Cluster Care by Cllr Andrew Johnson

Cluster provides a service for the elderly population of the local parishes around Cropredy (the origin of the name). We can look after up to 12 people each Tuesday throughout the year, apart from bank holidays, at the Cricket Club pavilion at Cropredy which we hire from the Cropredy PC Sports and Social Club. Presently we have 2 vacancies.

The people we look after often live alone have limited mobility and benefit from meeting others and joining in the activities we provide. We can also provide respite for a caring relative or friend. Every session is overseen by our trained supervisor who also vets any person who wishes to join Cluster to ensure that they will benefit from the care we provide. She is ably assisted by several volunteers. The weekly programme includes, armchair exercises, skittles, Kurling, and basketball all designed to use limbs in different ways. We have games, quizzes, films and a variety of speakers and musicians and singers. We have visits from the children of Cropredy School and from Oxford Heritage who bring “old time items” with them. Lunch is provided between the morning and afternoon activities. Each person pays £12 per week to offset expenses.

Cluster is a registered charity and has a Board of Trustees (which I chair) and meets bimonthly to oversee finances and the care Cluster provides.

We have a number of DBS checked volunteer drivers who take some of the people we care for from the Bourtons or Cropredy; others make their own way to the Cricket Club or are taken by taxi or a relative or friend.

Until recently we were funded by an OCC grant and donations from individuals, groups or public bodies such as the local parish councils. This year funds were boosted by a most successful coffee morning courtesy of Mrs Brooks assisted by Cluster trustees. May I, on behalf of Cluster Care Group, say how grateful we are for all the support we have received from other bodies.

OCC are finding it increasingly difficult to fund organisations like Cluster Care. We have had excellent support from our County and District councillors and this year have bid successfully for Transition fund from OCC and, thanks to Cllr Reynolds who told us about it, we received a Community Fund grant as well.

We have a healthy bank balance at the moment, but since the funding from OCC is like to become more difficult we will have to rely on locally raised funds and are currently talking to a professional fund raiser to ensure that we continue to provide this care for some vulnerable members of our community.