

## **Cluster Care Group Report for the Bourtons' APM 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

The Cluster Care Group's ability to provide a day's care for older people has been severely affected by the Covid 19 pandemic. The Trustees are aware that our members and volunteers are vulnerable to infection by the virus and so we closed Cluster after the session on 10/03/2020, reopened on 10/08/2021, closed after the session on 14/12/2021 and reopened 01/02/2022,

However, during those times of closure our Coordinator, Mo Sayer, kept in weekly touch by telephone with all our members and their families. In addition, members received hand delivered gifts on their birthdays and at Christmas. The feedback we received from these contacts strengthened our conviction that Cluster is important for our members and our carers.

We continue to provide a day's stimulating environment, a hot lunch (prepared by Henry's Café in Middleton Cheney) for our members and a welcome respite for their carers. We strive to provide a safe environment for all concerned so we provide frequent hand sanitizing and monitor our environment with a CO2 monitor.

We have appointed Lara McDonagh as Assistant Coordinator last Autumn and she has proved be a strong support for Mo and is very popular with our members.

Our team of volunteers who assist Mo and Lara each Tuesday and our drivers have all received enhanced DBS checks.

Cluster's funding by Oxfordshire County Council has stopped, so we are relying entirely on the weekly subscription by our members and donations from charities – both local and national and from parish councils – including a generous donation from the Bourtons PC.

Rising costs of commodities and heating will mean that our costs will increase, and we are reluctant to pass all these increases onto our members, so we will be looking for more ways to fund our activities over the next few months.

Cluster could not function without its dedicated Coordinator, Assistant Coordinator, our volunteers, and the Trustees, so may I take this opportunity of paying tribute to their hard work over this past difficult year?

Andrew Johnson

Chairman