

**Report from the Cluster Care Group  
for the Bourtons Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting  
9<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

The Cluster Care Group continues to provide day care for up to 12 older people from the area around Cropredy, every Tuesday apart from Christmas and New Year.

We meet at the Cropredy Sports Pavilion, on Williams Scot Road, and provide entertainment, a hot meal and above all a chance to talk. We have committed a group of volunteers who assist the Coordinator, Amanda Thomas, and Assistant Coordinator, Lara McDonough, at each Cluster session – without them Cluster could not provide the care and support it does. Our entertainment is varied and includes quizzes, Bingo sessions, singalongs illustrated talks and games. The lunchtime hot meal is cooked by Henry's Café at Middleton Cheney. We are also aware that Cluster provides important respite for our members' carers.

Each member pays £17 for a session which includes a raffle ticket. Members arrive by taxi, with family members and some get a lift from our volunteer drivers who also pick up the lunch from Henry's Café

Mo Sayer, our long-standing, and much-loved Coordinator retired last year and was presented with a garden seat by the Trustees to mark her long commitment to Cluster.

We appointed Sarah Smart to replace Mo last year, but unfortunately, she had to give notice due to an unexpected bereavement. Earlier this year we appointed Amanda Thomas to the post, and she is settling in very well.

This year has seen our annual expenditure rise to £19,000 pa. This increase is mainly due to an increase in the cost of the lunches and higher salaries. As at the end of March this year our expenditure in excess of income was almost £6000. We manage to continue using our reserves, but these will not last for more than a few years, so the Trustees are facing some very difficult choices in the immediate future.

In the past Cluster and similar social care charities were funded by OCC. Last year we received a grant from them for £2,000, our final payment from OCC.

In the last financial year we have had a grant of £1400 from the Sir George Earle fund and £450 from OCC community grant courtesy of George Reynolds.

We are fortunate to be supported by local groups and have received donations from The Cropredy Welfare trust, the Barrows Coffee morning, the Bourtons coffee morning, Cropredy Film Society, Wardington WI, and From the Bourtons, Wardington and Cropredy Parish Councils, totaling £1920.

May I close by thanking all our Trustees, Volunteers and Coordinators and our benefactors without them Cluster would not exist.