

Message from the Chair

Welcome to our Autumn Newsletter. In this season of mists and mellow fruitfulness and the beautiful colours of autumn, our thoughts turn to how we can help older people in our community to keep safe and well throughout the winter.

Elmbridge Borough Council have produced some information leaflets which we will hand out at our Winter Warmer Lunch on 17th November (see below) and our volunteers will be on hand to offer guidance to their friends.

So far this financial year, CHEER has helped elderly people with benefit claims of £204,000. We now have 29 friends who are visited regularly by our volunteers, plus 25 friends from the local community who we welcome to our Tea Parties

and Pie and Pint events. If you know of someone who may need cheering up with a regular visit from one of friendly volunteers or an invite to one of tea parties, please contact us.

Janis Fletcher, Chair

Approved Provider Standard

CHEER is currently undertaking the re-accreditation process for the NCVO Mentoring and Befriending Approved Provider Standard (APS).

APS is the national quality standard developed specifically for mentoring and befriending services and supports safe and effective practice in this field.

Renewed accreditation will ensure that the charity meets best practices and guidelines set out by the NCVO. There are 10 criteria which need to be met to ensure that an organisation such as CHEER operates a safe, effective and successful befriending scheme.

We are currently midway through this 12 month project, at the end of which we will undergo an assessment when we need to provide extensive examples and evidence of

how we manage our operations; testimonials from friends and befrienders as to the benefits and quality of what we offer; how we monitor and assess our services.

We have also conducted initial consultations and communications with our volunteers who have welcomed the introduction.

Whilst this is a complex and detailed project to undertake, we believe it is

important that CHEER can demonstrate to all its stakeholders, including potential funders, that CHEER delivers its befriending service effectively, that we measure and assess the outcomes and that we seek to continuously improve our practices and services.

We are hoping that we will be able to report in our Spring 2018 newsletter that we have been successful in renewing this important accreditation.

Have you got an hour a week to spare to brighten up an older person's life? Perhaps you would prefer to get involved in organising our social events? To volunteer or to find out more, please look at our website www.cheer-elmbridge.org.uk, or contact us on 01372 879321, or email us at manager@cheer-elmbridge.org.uk

Trustee News

Many of you will know Daniel Geddes as a volunteer for CHEER.

He also produces this newsletter and has been a huge help to CHEER as a trustee. Having recently added a new baby daughter to the family, he is a very busy person! Therefore, he is now standing down from his role as trustee. We wish him and his family all the best and thank him for his tremendous contribution to the governance of CHEER.



The CHEER 2016 autumn lunch at Chessington Garden Centre

"Just wanted to say what a brilliant event today was, with so many gentlemen from all walks of life. Victor and Michael really enjoyed themselves thoroughly"



Concern and Help for East Elmbridge Retired

Autumn 2017

Working in partnership with local communities

With an aging population, there are many elderly people in the community who may need our help, but who don't know about us.

We believe that we can reach more of those people by working in partnership with local communities and organisations such as churches, GP practices and other medical professionals.

**ST. CHRISTOPHER'S
 CHURCH
 HINCHLEY WOOD
 MONTHLY
 COFFEE AND CAKE!**



Take a break from life's hurly-burly
 Relax over coffee and a slice of cake



One of the ways we help elderly people to get out and about is through our tea parties so we joined up with St Christopher's Church in Hinchley Wood to hold our first extended tea party with guests invited by CHEER and St Christopher's Church. It was a great success and we're planning another joint event for the Spring.

In the meantime, if you fancy a break with coffee and cake, why not pop along to one of St Christopher's monthly coffee and cake events, which are held on a Friday morning from 10:00-11:30 a.m.

CHEER welcomes enquiries from local organisations who would like to work with us to help the elderly in our community. Please contact us for further information

Friends of CHEER Derek and Vivien Hall

Vivien and Derek Hall have been part of CHEER since early 2016 when CHEER helped them with Derek's application for an attendance allowance.

Vivien grew up in Thames Ditton while Derek was born in Bournemouth. Derek still supports his home town's football team, but eventually moved to the London area where he met Vivien and enjoyed a lengthy career in engineering with British Airways. Vivien also pursued a long and successful career, working for a variety of local companies including Unilever. They have lived in West Molesey for 37 years, and have a son and daughter as well as one grandson.

Derek enjoys a Wide range of hobbies, including jazz and photography. Vivien loves her garden, and particularly enjoys regular trips to local garden centres with her CHEER friend and volunteer, Monica Baughen.

Together, Vivien and Derek have travelled the world, visiting places as far afield as Hawaii, mainland USA and South Africa. They both enjoy busy family lives, but also very much value attending CHEER-related events, including 'Pie and Pint' lunches, group tea parties and 'Silver Charity' workshops at Whiteley Village.



CHEER Diary

Friday 17 th November	12:00 – 14:00	Winter Warmer Lunch, the Sedum Restaurant, Chessington Garden Centre
Thursday 7 th December	12:00 – 14:00	Pie and Pint, Marquis of Granby, Esher
Wednesday 10 th January	12:00 – 14:00	Christmas Lunch, Marquis of Granby, Esher
Thursday 8 th February	14:00 – 16:00	Molesey Area Tea Party, venue TBA
Wednesday 14 th February	12:00 – 14:00	Pie and Pint, Marquis of Granby, Esher
Wednesday 28 th March	12:00 – 14:00	Pie and Pint, Marquis of Granby, Esher