

### Message from the Chair

The first quarter of 2017 has been a busy time for trustees, with a strategic review of CHEER's future direction being carried out by the trustees with the support of staff and our Elmbridge Borough Council observers. We are in a

strong position, both financially and in terms of the skills and commitment in the organisation, to expand our activities and extend the reach of our services. Some changes to the staff team will be needed to drive this development of our services,

but you will be pleased to hear that the familiar faces of Mark Michelmore and Charlotte Chatwin will still be around. Please refer to the Staff News column for further details.

I have been interim Chair since last summer, but the

time has now come to appoint a permanent new Chair of Trustees. If you know of anyone who might be interested in finding out more about this role, please ask them to contact me via the CHEER office.

Robert Fulton, Chair

### CHEER Tea Party with Dominic Raab

On 13<sup>th</sup> February CHEER held a tea party at Squires Garden Centre, Thames Ditton.

20 friends and volunteers who attended were lucky enough to have our local MP, Dominic Raab, as a special guest. Dominic

spent over an hour with us, speaking to every guest and answering some tough questions on local services. In Dominic's own words from his blog: "*CHEER are a lovely group of dedicated volunteers dealing with an important issue. Their help and*

*support makes elderly people feel included and engaged. I talked to all of the members present who asked me a range of questions on anything from local bus services and*

*planning issues to Brexit. CHEER runs about 20 events every year, and they have recently been awarded Elmbridge's [Mayor's] joint chosen charity of the year."*

### Staff News

Mark Michelmore has stepped up to a new position of General Manager. In this capacity he will play a leading role in developing CHEER's services and extending our reach into the local community. He will be responsible for maintaining and developing strong links with partner organisations and funding bodies, so as to promote the work of CHEER and identify ways of increasing its effectiveness through partnerships, networking and outreach. Our aim is to ensure that no-one who could benefit from our services is left out, and that we are providing the right range of activities to cater for all needs and wishes in the best possible way.

Charlotte Chatwin will stay on the team as a part-time adviser, helping with benefits work and other activities, but sadly Charlotte Atkinson will be leaving us, having done a great job in recent months getting our administrative systems in good order and helping with other organisational tasks. To complete the new team, we will be recruiting an administrator to support Mark and Charlotte by keeping the office running smoothly, dealing with record keeping and financial management, and ensuring a regular presence in the office so that we can answer more of your calls without the need to leave voice messages.



Dominic Raab talks to friends and volunteers in Thames Ditton Squires garden centre.

*"CHEER are a lovely group of dedicated volunteers dealing with an important issue. Their help and support makes elderly people feel included and engaged."*

Dominic Raab, M.P. for Esher and Walton

## Concern and Help for East Elmbridge Retired

Spring 2017

### Spring Tea Party

**CHEER held its Spring Tea Party on Thursday 30th March at Garsons Farm, Esher.**

Clients and volunteers had a very enjoyable afternoon and were served tea or coffee, a scone, jam and cream as well as a selection of cakes. The tea party provided a good opportunity for our friends to chat to each other and to the volunteers, and to meet new people and make new friends.

Two people from "Painting Our World in Silver" joined us to tell us all about the Silver get-togethers they hold on a monthly basis. These are free monthly groups bringing retired

people together to take part in crafts and activities. They are held on the third Wednesday of every month at Whiteley Village.

CHEER hold regular tea parties at various locations. If you know a friend, neighbour or relative who would enjoy an outing, please contact us to receive an invitation.



Jean and Rachel at a CHEER Tea Party last year

### Friendships – Rachel and Jean

Jean has lived in Elmbridge for the majority of her adult life. She was working at J Lyons as a typist when she met her husband, Hugh. They married in 1959 and had two daughters. Jean stayed at home to look after their girls while Hugh worked as a salesman.

When the children were older Jean worked at Surrey County Council and when Hugh developed multiple sclerosis she became his main carer until his death in 1993. Jean also volunteered for Molesey Care, a local charity that helped Jean and Hugh when he was ill.

Jean loves to read but struggles with books these

days. She enjoys watching films and is a big Barry Manilow fan. She loves cats and is often paid a visit by the neighbour's tabby.

Jean's daughters live near by and take it in turns to visit her in the evenings. Her granddaughter pops in regularly too.

Jean and Rachel became friends through CHEER two years ago. Due to a couple of recent falls Jean doesn't go out as much as she used to and likes to have someone to talk to. Rachel pops round for an hour most weeks in between her full time job. They catch up on the week's events over a cup of tea and biscuits.



### CHEER Diary

Tuesday 25th April	14:00 – 16:00	Community Tea Party – Cobham
Saturday 7th May	All day	The Dittons Fair, Giggs Hill Green
Thursday 11th May	12:00 – 14:00	Pie and Pint, Marquis of Granby, Esher
Wednesday 7th June	14:30 – 16:00	Community Tea Party - Thames Ditton
Thursday 8th June	12:00 – 14:00	Pie and pint, Marquis of Granby, Esher
Saturday 10th June	11:00 – 17:00	Molesey Carnival, West Molesey Recreation Ground
Wednesday 14th June	18:00 – 19:00	CHEER Annual General Meeting, Claygate Centre for the Community
Thursday 6th July	14:00 – 16:00	Summer Tea Party, Pheasantry Cafe, Bushy Park
Thursday 10th August	12:00 – 14:00	Pie and pint, Marquis of Granby, Esher