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Celebrating 25 years of serving carers in Uttlesford

On Saturday 16 July 2011 we are marking 25 years of our serving carers in Uttlesford with a celebration in the Jubilee Gardens, Saffron Walden, from 10am until 2pm. There will be a barbeque, cake stall, teas and coffees and a tombola. Entertainment will be provided by the Saffron Walden County High School Jazz Band and a group of local handbell ringers.

The Uttlesford scheme was officially launched on 2 May 1986 at a meeting in the Friends Meeting House in Saffron Walden, with the help of funding from Uttlesford District Council, the West Essex Health Authority and Social Services.

The launch followed four years of lobbying by a steering committee dedicated to bringing help to those with a caring role in Uttlesford. This primary object has never changed as we continue to relieve the stress of local carers.

Crossroads Care Network in Essex

The Uttlesford board of trustees has for a number of years been working to draw all Essex Crossroads schemes into some form of collaborative working for a number of reasons, not least of which is to give us all a much stronger voice and influence with Essex County Council and Social Services. We are pleased announce that a network has now been established for a trial period, in which we retain our Uttlesford identity and improve cooperation across the county.

Funding for Carers

(see page 3)

It is your right to claim for Carers Direct Payments and Personalised Budgets

You can buy extra hours from us privately

Would you like someone to help you at this difficult time?

The Trustees of Crossroads Care Uttlesford
cordially invite all members and friends to attend our

Annual General Meeting

On 19 July 2011

At 7.00 pm at Ferguson Close, Community Hospital,
Radwinter Road Saffron Walden, CB11 3HY

We look forward to welcoming you and updating you on significant happenings
in the past year and our plans for the coming year.

We have moved

We have moved out of our very small old office into a much larger one, which is helping the smooth running of our scheme. Please make a note of our new address:

**Crossroads Care Uttlesford
c/o Citizens Advice Bureau,
Barnard's Yard,
Saffron Walden, CB11 4EB**

The phone number remains the same (01799 513496). Please note there is no car parking available.

Membership of Crossroads Care Uttlesford

Although it is only trustees who must be members of **Crossroads Care Uttlesford**, we would encourage all clients and Friends to become members. You will then receive our newsletter and be entitled to a vote at our AGM. The £12 membership fee will help to offset the cost of this newsletter and help us to keep our office equipment up to date and with many other essential projects.

Another way to support us is to join our '**100' Club** and have an opportunity of winning one of two £30 prizes each month and £50 every three months.

Application forms for both are enclosed and by joining you will be helping us.

We are also grateful for all **donations** and the value to us of these can be enhanced by filling in a simple Gift Aid form available from the office.

New Day Care Centre

We are delighted to announce the opening of our new Day Centre. We recognise that there are many carers and cared for in the district who would appreciate the opportunity to have a regular change of scene in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere, with a chance to socialise with others in similar situations.

A leaflet is enclosed with the newsletter. These may also be obtained from the office. Please do come and join us in this venture. The more support we have, the more successful it will be.

Help with applying for your Carer's funding

The government now provides funding direct to you, the carer, providing you meet the criteria, instead of to us. This is why we now have to charge for our services in order to pay our professional care team. It also means that you have to make the necessary application for funding. Although the process is a straightforward one involving a simple phone call, we understand that some people need support.

If you feel you need some help with sorting out your Carer's Direct Payments or Personalised Budget one of our trustees is available to come and help you. Just call the office on 01799 513496 to arrange a visit or ask for advice.

Whether you have a carer's allowance or not, you can always buy hours, or extra hours, of respite from us at rates which remain very competitive because we are a non-profit-making charity.

Results from our Christmas 2010 events

Our thanks go to Tim and Vic Ham for organising the carol singing last Christmas, which raised a magnificent £833. Our Christmas charity lunch raised £607 and our thanks go to all those who helped to make this a great success. We also thank the

Saffron Walden Rugby Club for the use of their club house and the choir who entertained us with a wonderful selection of carols.



Diary of events

Date	Event	Venue
25 June	Cake stall outside Boots	Market Square, Saffron Walden
16 July	25 Years Celebration	Jubilee Gardens, Saffron Walden
19 July	AGM	Ferguson Close, Community Hospital

Profile of a trustee - Margaret Malcolm

We are pleased to welcome Margaret Malcolm to our Board of Trustees. She moved to the area four years ago and, having retired as a part-time nurse in a GP practice, was keen to do something worthwhile in our community. Her own father-in-law was wheel-chair bound for many years with multiple sclerosis, so Margaret saw for herself the caring commitment required by her mother-in-law to ensure his well being. Her own hands-on experience as a carer was in the Spring last year, caring for her terminally ill husband.



Margaret has been Clerk to Hinxton Parish Council for the past three years and is also actively involved in the village church.

She has two sons, both married, with their own families.

Margaret has already agreed to keep minutes of management meetings and is helping us set up a day centre facility. She will also be looking after our Client Service Quality audits and will be providing help for new and existing clients in applying for carers grants, Direct Payments and Personalised Budgets.

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