



Good Morning Carrickfergus

Chairperson's Report 1st April 2022 - 31st March 2023

It is a privilege to present this annual report for Good Morning Carrickfergus, covering the geographical areas of Whitehead, Carrickfergus and Greenisland.

I am pleased to report again that we did not miss one day of phone service delivery during the year.

Staffing and Volunteers

During the year we enjoyed relative stability of our volunteer group, with Elaine Rajkumar continuing to manage the service in a consistent and thoughtful way and we very much appreciate her reliability and dedication to the service, clients, and volunteers. During the year we lost a couple of volunteers who had been with us for only a short time but gained two new volunteers who have proven to be very faithful. One had been a client for some time and had been well enough to transition to become a volunteer. That, for us, is what the service is partly about.....empowering our clients to become more independent and outgoing.

As always, we would like to publicly thank each one of our volunteers and to boast that we have a team of volunteers who excel in their dedication, loyalty, and compassion for the clients we serve. I know I say these words year on year but how better can I express the facts as they are!

We had 3 events for our volunteers during the year and, as usual, this involved food! It is incumbent on us as an organisation to care for our volunteers and to ensure they are getting the support they need and deserve.

I must also express my appreciation to our Board of Trustees:

Robert Barfoot, Honorary Treasurer; Alan McManus, Secretary; Julie Patterson, Safeguarding Officer, and Philip McAlister; Church of the Nazarene Rep.

Thank-you each one.

Funders

We are incredibly grateful for the support of the Mid and East Antrim Agewell Partnership (MEAAP) for their ongoing support in sourcing funding for us from the Community Planning Partnership led by the Council. This funding has enabled us to carry out our service and functions without the added burden of continually having to source core funding.

During the year, we also received funding from:

- The Big Lottery
- Department for Communities (Henry Gill Fund)

The Lottery funding enabled us to provide a substantial Christmas pack for clients as well as a new desk top computer, a laptop computer, and a printer. The Henry Gill monies covered most of our phone costs for the year.

Clients

Sadly, we experienced the passing of 6 of our clients during the period December – February this year. This was unprecedented in the history of our service, and we were all devastated at the loss of so many valued clients.

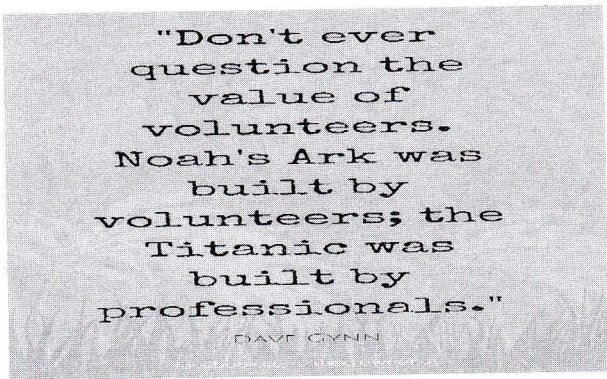
On a brighter note, we were able to restart some social events for clients in the New Year. It was good to get back to providing lunches/men's breakfasts and clearly the clients were pleased to be back together as well. In some respect, it was sad too because we did clearly notice significant deterioration and increased frailty in quite a few of our clients.

Partnerships

We continue to make every effort to maintain our strong partnerships with other agencies such as the Mid & East Antrim Agewell Partnership, PSNI, Mid and Est Antrim Borough Council and the Northern Health & Social Care Trust, among others.

We continue, as always, to appreciate the practical and prayerful support of our host.... Carrickfergus Church of the Nazarene.

In conclusion, and continuing my love of quotes about volunteering, I really like this one!



Respectfully Submitted

Joan Stephenson *JStephenson*

Joan Stephenson: Chairperson, Good Morning Carrickfergus