

CHRISTMAS 2020

Dear Friends of CARE,

From all of us involved in CARE we wish you a peaceful, safe and comfortable experience over Christmas and the New Year. We have managed to keep in contact with many of you and in 2021 we will certainly aim to continue to offer as much help and support as possible.

Last Easter I wrote the following words - *'This Easter will be the strangest and, for many, the hardest they can remember. Instead of the relief which comes from lighter and warmer days, many of us will continue to be isolated in our homes, missing contact with our loved ones. The CARE volunteers want you to know that we are thinking of you at this time and we hope, as volunteers, we can bring some relief and support to add a little spring time sunshine'*.

Since then we have experienced the intense heat of Summer, two phases of social lockdown and we now have a glimmer of light at the start of 2021 in the form of a vaccination programme. That spark of hope will be much in our hearts as we move through winter and in to Spring 2021. It is quite possible that CARE volunteers will be asked to provide transport to vaccination appointments and we are in a strong position to help with such a keen and committed team.

Thanks to our volunteers, we have made weekly shopping trips for house-bound clients, provided transport to NHS appointments and operated a 'phone buddy system with many clients. We have successfully recruited several new volunteer drivers which will enable us to offer additional help and support in 2021.

As an organisation CARE has benefited from the work of many dedicated volunteers over the 30 plus years in operation. This last year we have reduced our volunteer frontline from about 25 active drivers and 20 duty officers to a corps of about ten drivers and four duty officers. This is because of the need to shield many of our volunteers. However, the spirit and ethos of CARE is not so diminished and, with the new and enthusiastic recruits, we will bounce back in the coming year and beyond.

We welcome new clients and also new volunteer drivers, for more information please do call the CARE office on **01784 431031** between 9am & 12noon Monday to Friday.

In closing, it is my pleasure on behalf of all the Trustees of CARE in Egham & District to extend seasonal greetings to all of you, heartfelt thanks to all our volunteers, past and present, and also to those who have joined CARE recently as new drivers and clients.

With best wishes,

Huw Evans

Chairman

CARE in Egham & District