

Over Day Centre Association

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CENTRE MANAGER'S REPORT

HAYLEY SMITH

Facing Covid-19 has been a challenge for the Day Centre, but one that the staff and trustees could not have met with more commitment, or belief that our charity could fully recover.

During our closure we lost close to half of our clients and have been working hard to build up the numbers since. We now have 26 regulars with assessments for new applicants booked over the next few weeks. Since re-opening, what has been clear to me, is how much our charity is needed by older people and those who care for them around the clock. By Christmas I am sure that it will be necessary to open five days a week.

I was especially grateful and proud of the voluntary support that the Day Centre staff gave during lockdown to the SCDC meals scheme and the telephone support service which they (themselves) suggested as a friendly lifeline for our clients.

Our local community has continued to show their support through donations in various forms. Denise Jackson, for example, presented the Day Centre with a cheque for £2,500 through the sale of handmade face masks. At Christmas, Over residents staged a Santa visit around the village with money from the bucket collection being shared amongst community groups and charities. The Day Centre received £385.50. The sale of Carolyn Redmayne's book on the history of Over has raised nearly £2,500 for our charity so far. (£5 from each copy sold is donated to us). Another £100 was received from the organisers of the Over Village Produce Show. And these are only a few examples of the kindness that we receive and appreciate.

Having been unable to welcome back our longstanding volunteers, we have just tentatively asked if any of them would like to help in the kitchen. Unfortunately, they will not be allowed to mix with the clients and will be subject to Covid-19 restrictions including Lateral Flow testing and the wearing of PPE.

Looking towards 2022, I am sure that we will continue to provide a valuable community service, and I look forward to a time when government guidelines on social distancing for Day Centres will be lifted.