

## **Update from Community Friendship Café**

Good Evening Everyone,

My name is Victoria, I just wanted to send My apologies for not being present this evening to represent the volunteers of the Wroughton Friendship group.

Firstly, I would like to give you a little more insight into what the friendship group entails and the important role it offers to the community.

Wroughton Parish council kindly highlighted there was a need and desire in the community for a social hub which is all inclusive to anyone who needs or wants community and social interaction.

With the help of some incredible volunteers the Friendship Group Cafe was formed. We offer a warm, friendly, inviting and sociable hub every Monday afternoon from 2pm-4pm where anyone from the local area (Wroughton and Wichelstowe) is welcomed with a nice cup of tea, biscuits and homemade cakes to socialise, chat, make new contacts and friendships as well as partake in a weekly quiz kindly provided by our Parish Councillor Diane. We strive to supply a comfortable and inviting environment to build community interactions and relations.

The feedback from our lovely attendees has been truly heartwarming, commenting that it has become a part of their weekly calendar and a highlight of their week, with lots of new friendships and acquaintances being made. One attendee said they had spoken to more people in the two hours at the friendship group than in three years. This shows the importance of the friendship group cafe and that it has become an integral part of our Village life for lots of people. With on average between 25-30 people attending each week.

Lastly, I would like to say a huge thank you to a few people. Firstly, the Parish Office in particular Amanda and Cathy for their continued unhinging support and guidance and all their hard work, dedication and irreplaceable knowledge, the volunteers are extremely grateful.

Secondly, to Lisa Campisano, Dianne Archer, Graham Overbury and Eric Shaw our parish councillors for their commitment and support to the Cafe.

However, I would like to extend a very special thank you to Lisa, who so kindly hosted and paid for an Easter Afternoon Tea for everyone in the friendship cafe in the memory of her late mother Carmella. It went down an absolute treat and we are so truly grateful for your kindness.

Lastly, to all the volunteers of the friendship group, thank you for all your hard work, kindness, support and commitment to making the friendship group so successful not forgetting those lovely smiley faces and excellent waitressing skills.

I hope this has given you all an insight into the Friendship Group and would love to welcome you on Mondays between 2pm-4pm. If you are interested please don't hesitate to pop in and I can assure you a friendly face and a cup of tea will be there to welcome you.