



Team effort: Long-serving volunteer Maureen Hajdu, centre, with colleagues Mark, Marina, Rose and shop manager Saedah with her son.

Volunteer marks 25 years at hospice charity shop

By David Melsome

Maureen Hajdu runs a charitable trust that was set up by her father nearly 50 years ago to provide financial support to scientists undertaking a medical degree to pursue research projects.

But every Friday morning she can be found behind the till in North London Hospice's Muswell Hill shop. Maureen began volunteering at the Muswell Hill shop just three months after it opened 25 years ago and she's rarely missed a shift.

"It's a role I take very seriously, and I love the people I work with and meet," says Maureen.

"I've done a bit of everything over the years but am now mainly on the till and on the shop floor. It never fails to amaze me how much money the 17 shops raise to support the hospice. When you consider the average price of an item is £4.50, we provide almost a million pounds in income each year to support patient care."

As a charity, North London

Hospice relies on donations and volunteers to support its specialist palliative and end-of-life care services for more than 3,500 patients and their families each year in the boroughs of Barnet, Enfield, and Haringey.

Sociable work for an important cause

Maureen added: "It's not my profession and people often ask me why I choose to work in a charity shop when I have a busy working life already. It's very different from my day job. It's very sociable work, my manager is fabulous, and I have no responsibilities. I do my shift and I leave, but I really feel attached to the hospice and it's a nice feeling to know we are supporting this wonderful organisation."

The hospice welcomes new volunteers who have a few

hours to spare. Find out more at www.northlondonhospice.org/work-for-us

Pasture winter opening hours

Now the weather has deteriorated over the winter and conditions underfoot have become difficult, Long Lane Pasture is restricting its opening hours to Saturday mornings between 10am and 12noon.

Weather permitting, volunteers are on site during these hours at the nature reserve opposite the fire station in Long Lane, N3. Visitors are asked to be aware that the paths and grass of the pasture can become waterlogged and unsafe in places.

Pollinator project starts to take wing

By Roger Chapman

The nature project aiming to create pollinator trails in East Finchley based on a series of 'nectar cafés' formally starts this month and there is an open invitation for everyone to get involved.

Kate Brown, Chair of the East Finchley Community Trust, which is promoting the Pollinator Project, said: "We know many gardens and public spaces in East Finchley are already pollinator-friendly. This project is about expanding our existing pollinator potential and supporting local people to do this."

The nectar cafés will be areas full of flowering plants or trees that provide a network of food sources and habitats across N2 for insect pollinators.

Project organisers say they are grateful for support from Sim Branaghan at East Finchley Library for purchasing adults' and children's books about pollinators for the library. They plan to mount a display on the project in the library foyer soon. Project volunteers have also planted up the bed in front of the library with wallflowers and bulbs.

New garden

Work has also begun on creating a small community garden on The Walks at Oakridge Drive led by the Friends of Market



Pollinator: A mining bee foraging in an East Finchley garden. Photo Alison Roberts

Place, East Finchley Community Trust and local Leopold and Leslie Road residents. Part of the garden has been planted up with daffodil bulbs and other flowering plants. It is a work in progress.

To find out more about the project or to join the launch call on Zoom on Monday 31 January, email: efpollinators@gmail.com. If you can't make the meeting but want to know more, or to invite a project member to speak to you and others about the project, you can email the same address.



Festive: The carollers sing in the High Road. Photo George Baughan

Fine voices for the food bank

Carol singers were out in force in East Finchley on Saturday 9 December singing along the High Road and spreading festive cheer at The Old White Lion, The Bald Faced Stag, Budgens, Gertie Brownes and Madden's. On the day they raised more than £215 for the Finchley Foodbank and there is still time to donate to this local project, which supports many people in need, by donating via BACS Account no 62229714 and sort code 40-05-20.



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