

Friend to Friend Newsletter September 2019



MELTHAM MEAL

JUNE. Anjie from West Yorkshire Trading Standards was our speaker. Fraud, and how to avoid it, was her subject. She talked about the numerous ways in which scammers approach their victims using cold calling by phone, on the doorstep or computer. She stressed the need to refuse entry to our homes no matter how sad a story the caller was telling and to check the identification of people claiming to be officials from water, electricity or gas suppliers etc. To reinforce her message she handed out booklets containing lots of helpful information.

JULY. Dorothy Norris had celebrated her 90th birthday in June. We presented her with a gift and sang Happy Birthday as she blew out the candles on her cake.

Meltham Community Choir, under their conductor, Kate Buchanan, came



along to entertain us after lunch. Some of our Members were also members of the choir – a well kept secret! To begin with the choir performed alone although there were many lips moving in the audience. Their repertoire included a wide variety of music, some old and some more recent, including numbers performed by Perry Como, The Beatles, Doris Day, and Tom Jones amongst others and from shows including My Fair Lady and The Sound of Music.

Then we had our chance to shine. Song sheets had been distributed leaving us with no excuse not to join in. As always with

music the atmosphere in the room was relaxed and happy and we joined in with gusto. We are looking forward to a second visit from the choir in 2020.

Kate invited anyone who was interested in joining the choir to go along to rehearsals in September – watch this space!

AUGUST. We enjoyed a return visit from Batley Audio and Video Club. This time the presentation was by Gordon and Val Asquith who hadn't been to us before.



Their series of short films included the end of the use of Newbiggin Methodist Chapel in the Yorkshire Dales which was built by the mining community in 1757 and had been in continuous use ever since. In complete contrast we went on a visit to a garden in Lanzarote filled with hundreds of weird and wonderful cacti. Next we were taken on a fascinating trip to Ethiopia which highlighted the stark difference between the fantastic historical treasures and artefacts and the desperate poverty in which many people live.

Barcelona was the next stop and it clearly brought back memories of Members' own visits. Cardale, in Derbyshire, where the TV series "Peak Practice" was filmed showed us many of the locations which had been used, followed by a sun drenched holiday in Tuscany. Finally we were treated to a selection of "letters to the welfare" containing classic misuse of the English language which left us with smiles on our faces as the lights went up.

Richard, as always, introduced and thanked our speakers/entertainers and also thanked the volunteers each month.

Our future plans:

In November we will be visiting Wentworth Garden Centre for lunch and Christmas shopping and in December we will be back at Quirky11 for your Christmas Lunch.

Pat Craven



HONLEY GROUP

JUNE

As both Gill and I were on holiday this month, Gillian Scarborough stepped in and took charge today. She did a great job according to the group and they thoroughly enjoyed playing a name game. I must find out what that is all about! Many thanks Gillian for helping out again.

A new volunteer, Tess Willis, came along too. Tess does a lot of work in the village and has worked tirelessly for the Honley Peace Day which took place on the 20th and 21st June. It was a great success and many Honley ladies attended. You are most welcome to the Honley group Tess. Thank you too to Sylvia who helped out again today.

JULY

This month, David Cockman came along with a different and interesting look at Europe through Flashmobs! He had a collection of short videos from various European cities and it was lovely to see the amazingly talented people singing and dancing their way through the crowds in various planned Flashmobs. A Flashmob is an unexpected performance by singers, actors or dancers in unexpected places like airports or stations. There were some amazing singers including one man who sang "You raise me up" in the centre of Maastricht in Holland. We were nearly in tears! I also loved the Irish dancers in Dublin airport and the "Putting on the Ritz" dancers in a very snowy February day in Moscow. Everyone looked so happy (except for the KGB recording what was going on!) That was really fabulous and no doubt planned for the bride and groom who arrived half way through it.

Many thanks David for another lovely presentation.

AUGUST

This was rather a disappointing attendance today with various illnesses and appointments but we had a lovely meeting nevertheless. It was Dorothy Allport's birthday and we had a surprise cake for her. However, unfortunately, Dorothy was not well enough to attend. Her daughter made the cake and sent it in for us all to share. Many thanks for that and also to Dorothy herself who sent in a box of chocolates for us all. We wished you a Happy Birthday and hope you will be well enough to attend next time.



The absentees missed a great event today though. We had a magician who performed some incredible "sleight of hand" close-up magic tricks. His name is Regan Lewis Backhouse and he is just 21 years old. He has been doing tricks since the age of 11. I kid you not ... he was amazing! It is difficult to recall everything he did but I will try and describe a couple of tricks.

One involved me signing a card on the back and Gill signed one on the playing side. I had to keep my hand over my card all the time as did Gill.

Somehow, my signature disappeared off my card and ended up on hers! We saw nothing honestly! He also managed to make a coin appear on Audrey's shoulder and even underneath her watch on her wrist. In another trick, a cross on his hand somehow appeared on Joyce's palm and there was an incredible trick involving a Rubik's cube. I can't begin to describe that one! Really you had to see it to believe it. It was extraordinary. A brilliant show and he kept us entertained for over an hour. Loved it! Many thanks Regan and also to Gill and Sylvia for their help.

Suzanne



NETHERTON GROUP

It doesn't seem 2 minutes since I was writing the last article, doesn't time fly!

It seems logical to start with a quick rundown of the activities that the Netherton Group has been engaged in since the last news letter with some photos to go with them. The quarter started with an art storyboard session ably managed by Judy Burke which resulted in some extremely creative drawings and stories. I'm not saying that some of the storylines were dark but Stephen King would have been proud!!

At the end of June we had a canal boat trip with the fantastic Safe Anchor Trust which was well received as usual. We were fortunate with the weather for the trip along the canal including at one point being steered safely by our own Mabel Blakeney (see picture). The intrepid travellers also enjoyed an epic picnic/afternoon tea courtesy of Luke and his team at the Sons of The North café based at North Light Gallery where our group meets. If you are ever in Armitage Bridge it is well worth a visit for breakfast, lunch or afternoon tea (best of all it is dog friendly too!).

In July Rebecca Hudson from the National Coalmining Museum gave us an illustrated talk on Coal Queens which was a fascinating look back at the pre politically correct world of beauty competitions. Many of our members had coal industry connections and could recall those times. It was interesting to note from audio recordings of some of the women who won the

local, regional and national competitions that they saw it as a great honour for them and their respective collieries. They did not feel exploited and on the contrary were glad of the opportunity to dress up and travel around the country. How times have changed!

Sandwiched between these were our usual games afternoons where there are some demon scrabble and dominoes players. All in all a busy but hopefully enjoyable selection of activities for our members with more to come for the rest of the year including trips to Cannon Hall and Blackpool, more advice on protecting ourselves against fraud and another visit from the Movement And Games In Chairs volunteers to keep us all moving.

Before I finish I would like to formally welcome 3 new members: Shirley; Janice and last but not least Margaret who are welcome additions to our merry gang. I would also send a huge GET WELL SOON message to Kath Birt a long standing and invaluable volunteer with the group who has had some health issues recently that have limited her attendance. She is missed by us all but hopefully will be back with us on a regular basis soon - not least because Kath is down to lead the Halloween activities in October (she already has the hat, broomstick and black cat - only joking Kath!)

Until next time.



Mabel at the helm!

John

MEN'S GROUP

We have had our usual group of members over the last few months enjoying either a pie and pea lunch or a lovely salad. Men's Group is normally a fairly relaxed gathering where everyone enjoys the company, conversation and a chance to prove their skills at dominoes, Jenga or perhaps a jigsaw. We are always happy to welcome new members and should be pleased to hear from anyone who would be interested.

We were looking forward to our canal trip on 30th July

which should have taken place from Shepley Marina but unfortunately this was cancelled by the Marina at the last minute due to weather conditions and problems with the crew. We hope to rearrange this for a date in the Autumn when we trust there will be no problems.

As always we would like to thank Mick and his team at Meltham Sports and Community Centre for providing us with great food each session and their help and kindness with our members.

Kath

HOLMFIRTH PROJECT AND BIG MEAL

Here are some bits and pieces from the last couple of months at the Holmfirth group:



We were delighted to welcome back Mick, local wildlife photographer, who shared some of his photos of the wild birds he has spotted on local walks.



Our 2nd trip along the Sheffield canal was not dampened by the awful weather.



Fundraiser

Philippa of 'Body and Sole' in Holmfirth organised a quiz night in aid of Friend to Friend and raised an amazing £685! Huge thank you to her for such a kind gesture!

Upcoming Sessions

September Guest speaker from Locala (health services), Visit from Holme School Class 2

October possible Christmas shopping trip, baking with children from Upperthong J&I.

A NOTE FROM THE TRUSTEES

Hello Everyone

In spite of the mixed weather we have been having we hope you are enjoying the summer and have not been inconvenienced by any sudden downpours.

As many of you will now have heard Joan Trinder and Janet Turner Shaw have now retired as trustees which will be confirmed at the AGM. After a long association with Friend to Friend it has proved difficult for them to maintain the link as they both now live in Newcastle and have greater demands on their time from family and new grandchildren. We hope to organise a social event later in the year, which we hope they will attend, to give everyone a chance to express their thanks and good wishes for the future.

Pat Craven has been invited and agreed to become a trustee and will be officially elected at the AGM. Val Hutchinson has taken over matters relating to Office 365 and Kath Lines has become the current treasurer. Given all the recent changes the question of whether we become a CIO is still under consideration along with any other viable alternatives. It is therefore unlikely that anything will change before the next financial year end in March 2020 but we will keep you informed of any progress.

In the meantime all of our groups continue to flourish thanks to the efforts and generous gift of their time from our wonderful volunteers without whom Friend to Friend could not exist. We are forever grateful to them and to Suzanne for her excellent work in producing the newsletter together with all the contributors.

Best Wishes to you all

The Trustees



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