
Friend to Friend 2021 Newsletter



MELTHAM GROUP

Meltham Meal Newsletter Piece

Hello Everyone from Meltham Meal.

We hope you are all keeping well and looking forward to meeting up with your family and friends as we come out of lockdown. We can't wait to welcome you all back to Meltham Meal.



All our members received a tin of Belgian Chocolate Biscuits as a gift in December along with a Christmas Card. Sorry I couldn't find any photos.

Rosie Fisher celebrated her 90th birthday in January 2021 and received a card and a bottle of wine.

John Ashley and Christine Ward both celebrated their 80th birthdays in April 2021. John received a card and a bottle of wine and Christine received a card and a hanging basket full of pansies.

I would like to say a **BIG THANK YOU** to all the volunteers who have continued to call and support members during this last lockdown.

Thank you also goes to Rachel Chadwick at Morrison's who kindly donated the daffodils and cards which the volunteers delivered as an Easter gift.

Jenny





Jenny found this little saying and wanted to share it with you. Isn't this lovely?

The Best of Friends

The best of friends can change a frown into a smile when you feel down.
The best of friends will understand your little trials and lend a hand.
The best of friends will always share your secret dreams because they care.
The best of friends, worth more than gold, give all the love a heart can hold.

One of the most beautiful qualities of true friendship is to understand and to be understood.

Seneca

HONLEY GROUP

Hello from Honley!

As with the Meltham group, we hope that you are all safe and well and looking forward to getting back to our meetings. Honley can't wait from what the members tell me when I ring! In many ways, they have kept me going too. When you feel a little down, it is so good to hear how well you ladies are coping, in spite of some health issues and yes, loneliness at times.



At Christmas, we delivered cards and a little gift to everyone in the Honley group. Thanks to Zebra in Honley, we were able to send each member a spoon rest and tea bag holder. I wanted to shop local for a lasting gift and June at Zebra was most helpful. The afternoon teas were also well received at Christmas as you can tell by the smile on Audrey Iredale's face! The Wrinkled Stocking Tea Room certainly came up trumps with those!

At Easter, I delivered some beautiful plants which I got from Taylor's in Honley. Tony was so helpful and the members were clearly delighted to receive the little gift. One member said it was so nice "to be



thought about." Well ladies, you are always in our thoughts and much missed I assure you!

Finally, we would like to wish a speedy recovery to two members, Enid Smith and Eileen Hirst, who have both been suffering a bit recently, and also to Pat Craven after her long awaited operation too! We hope you are all on the mend now and wish you all the very best. Lots of love to everybody.

Suzanne

MEN'S GROUP

Although the Covid pandemic has been very isolating for many people we have kept in touch with all our members with regular weekly telephone calls and visits at Christmas and Easter. When Covid restrictions permitted



David Tyas and John MacFarlane have met on a regular basis to have a walk and a chat.

Roy Maitland celebrated his 90th birthday in November and we were able to make a socially distanced call to take him a card and present to help mark this happy occasion. At Christmas we visited everyone with cards and presents to

bring a little festive cheer and everyone seemed in good spirits.

Most of our members have kept very well during the Covid pandemic although sadly we lost Philip Green and Eddie Ford last year although not to Covid. They will be greatly missed especially when our domino groups are able to start again. Our condolences and best wishes were sent to their families.



Roy Allen and John

On a happier note we visited everyone again at Easter to take cards and chocolates which helped to brighten the day and it was good to see our members in spite of masks and social distancing.

The trustees have recently met to discuss the possibilities of restarting our sessions as everyone is keen to get together again as soon as possible. We are still not able to give a definite date as we are waiting to hear from all the groups which venues and facilities will be available. However, we shall be in touch with all our members as soon as a final decision has been made. We really look forward to being able to meet and see you all again.



John and David



**Roy Maitland with
John**

NETHERTON GROUP

Hello to everyone at Friend to Friend especially the Netherton group.

I am writing this whilst beginning to think hopefully about the group meetings resuming in July or August. How good does that feel!

Obviously this news is fantastic but is also tinged with a little sadness for those members who will not be with us. We will however celebrate their memory when we meet.

That is really the only thing I wanted to say and from my conversations with the members the thing they most wanted to hear.

Fingers crossed the next newsletter will be the size of a book, full of stories from every group about the new beginnings!

Until then stay safe and be happy.

John



MARSDEN GROUP

We at Marsden Friend to Friend wish to extend our heartfelt sympathy to all FtoF members who have suffered the recent loss of a loved one. You are our in our thoughts.

We are all looking forward to meeting again hopefully very soon. I have kept in touch with the members on the phone. We exchanged news and it was nice to chat, given we were all self isolating. In the summer, members and volunteers received a bunch of flowers presented in a glass jar. They were very pretty. Marsden Covid Community Group were responsible for this kind gift. We thanked them for this thoughtful gesture.

At Christmas members were pleased and surprised to receive the gift of a plant from FtoF. Thanks go to Sarah and Bob who kindly delivered the presents. FtoF members and volunteers each received a box of Christmas goodies from the Marsden Covid Community Group. I was really touched. The kindness of the group made us all feel we were not forgotten. It was such a nice gesture. We sent the group a thank you card and letter. During the on going Pandemic the group have offered support to our group with offers of shopping, collecting prescriptions etc which all have really appreciated. I feel blessed to live in such a caring community. We look forward with hope to meeting people and thanking them for the kindness and support given to so many people in Marsden at this time. Wishing everyone well. Take care.

Liz Askham



HOLMFIRTH GROUPS

What a strange time we have all had!! Hopefully in the coming months we will be able to start meeting up again. We are pleased to report that most of our members and volunteers have received both of their vaccinations and are ready and raring to come back to Group meetings – however they happen! We have been starting discussions with our venue and trying to formulate plans about how we can safely get back to Friend to Friend. If nothing else, this terrible time has reminded us of how important our Friends are and how much we value getting together.

At Christmas time we managed to get some Kirklees Council Funding to add to our Group monies and delivered over 100 cream teas to our members and people in the Community that the Kirklees Community Support Team and our Ward Councillors felt would benefit from being thought about. F2F members also received a small gift. It was great to be able to see members in the flesh – even if it was from a distance.

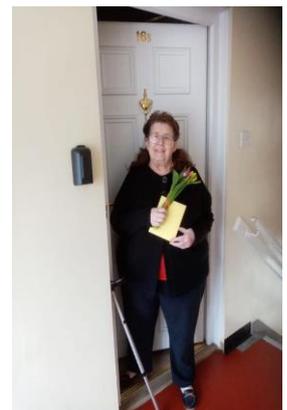


Just a little note – the lovely June in the photo above is leaving the area soon to relocate to Scotland to be nearer her family. We wish her well and will miss her smiley face.

We have also kept on telephoning the members regularly and sending them little things through the post – including silly Valentine's Cards – one member was particularly thrilled as she said she had never received a Valentine Card before!!

Getting through the miserable winter months was tough for many of us and as the Spring started to arrive, we turned our thoughts again to how we could cheer members up and remind them that we were still thinking of them all. We managed to partner with Morrisons in Meltham and Rachael, their Community Champion (who is always so supportive), donated the vast majority of the flowers we delivered. All Holmfirth Group members also received a poem that was co-written by the Volunteers and Pam Ayres.

Gillian



NOTE FROM THE TRUSTEES

Hi Everyone

The period from March last year has been a very difficult and strange time for many people but with vaccinations and the easing of Covid restrictions we can hopefully look forward to better days ahead.

As a result the trustees met recently to decide how best to facilitate a return to normal sessions. Our main priority remains the safety of our members and volunteers and we are currently checking the availability of venues and their facilities in order to assess the best way to proceed. It may be necessary for the format of some sessions to change, at least for the time being, if kitchens are not in use, and cold refreshments may have to take the place of a hot meal. The overwhelming feeling is that meeting together must be the primary objective of Friend to Friend and refreshments are an added bonus. We are hoping to recommence our usual activities within the next couple of months and will be meeting again in early June to discuss what is feasible when we have the relevant information regarding venues etc. Rest assured that we will notify you all when a firm decision has been made.

In the meantime we would like to say a big thank you to all our volunteers for the wonderful work you have done keeping in touch with members throughout the periods of lockdown and for the thoughtful and imaginative ways you have helped to celebrate Christmas and Easter with them. We also thank Suzanne for her usual brilliant work in producing the newsletter especially at such short notice this time.

There is probably a long way to go before Covid becomes an insignificant part of our lives but as we begin to slowly move forward it is good to be able to say see you all again soon.

With best wishes

The Trustees





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