

Brampton and District 50+ Forum Tuesday July 24/7/07.

Approximately 34 members attended the Forum which started with lunch at 12.30 p.m.

Maureen Granville welcomed everyone to the meeting and Ann Oswin gave updates on a variety of issues:

The Celebrating Age Day in Whitehaven on June 21st had been very well attended. Annette Gibbons, celebrity chef had provided the buffet and Annie Mawson from Sunbeams had sung. Joss Naylor had been in attendance, both he and the leader of an over 80s walking group being introduced as "Older Peoples' Champions".

Ann pointed out that forthcoming events were listed on the reverse of today's agenda.

Funding has been made available to update the Community Centre kitchen.

Walking Group news:

Alison Whitworth the Healthy Lives Officer is putting together a book of walks for older people, Ann urged Walking Group and Forum members to have some input by highlighting any difficulties experienced on any walks.

Cumbria County Council Adult Social Care Directorate has set up a "Working Together" Group whose members include Age Concern amongst others. They have bid for and received £30,000 to spend on engaging with interested parties.

The planned farm open day at Low Luckens has been cancelled.

Jean Taylor gave feedback from a focus group she had attended regarding the state of care homes in Cumbria. The group had been formed by the Adult Social Care Directorate of Cumbria County Council and included professionals, carers and service users. Householders aged 65+ account for 27% of the county's population and this figure will increase. Most people in care homes would want privacy and their own accommodation in addition to activities and quality nursing care.

Jean had attended the Falls Prevention Steering Group and told of interesting presentations given by a paramedic and a lady from Careline.

Jean has discovered that reconditioned computers can be bought very inexpensively from C2 Enterprises at Port Road Business Park, Carlisle.

Apparently, Inland Revenue has been guilty of issuing notices to pensioners with an incorrect tax code. If you are in any doubt, contact HMRC.

Ann advised the forum that a training workshop has been arranged for 3/9/07 at Penrith Methodist Church entitled "How To Have Your Say". The workshop has been put together by Adult Social Care and is designed to boost confidence in those not used to speaking out in meeting situations.

The latest Help the Aged newsletter highlights age discrimination as a major issue. Any comments to be forwarded by 4/9/07.

Ann advised of "Promoting Housing Choice for Older People", a document which links with Cumbria Care modernisation.

Maureen then welcomed our guest speaker Noreen Haselden to the Forum.

Noreen is a staunch campaigner on a wide range of older peoples' issues and is also chair of the Lancaster Older Peoples' Forum.

Noreen outlined to the Forum some of the Lancaster Forum's vast achievements, showing them to be a true force to be reckoned with. The Forum's campaigns have managed to bring about changes which have made a real difference to the lives of those people they represent.

Noreen's presentation contained both great humour and poignancy and was greatly received.

On behalf of Brampton Forum, Maureen extended thanks to Noreen for her fascinating talk.

The meeting finished with refreshments at 3 p.m.

Next meeting Tuesday 25/9/07