

## **Brampton and District 50+ Forum**

Report of the meeting held on Tuesday 24 November 2009 in Brampton Community Centre.

15 members were present for lunch and 20 at the meeting; the very wet weather and late notice of the meeting probably contributed to the lower than average attendance.

The chair, Ann Oswin, welcomed everyone to the meeting, apologised for the late notice, and introduced the main speaker, Andrew Nicholson of Green Spaces team, Carlisle City Council. Apologies were received from Maureen Granville.

Ann Oswin gave an update on events and activities relevant to the Forum members.

- The William Howard School Christmas party for senior citizens will be held at the Brampton community centre in the afternoon of Thursday 10 December.
- A Tea Dance on 2 December in the community centre.
- The Community Café Christmas dinner will be on 7 December. Booking is essential.
- At a police drop-in session last week personal alarms were given out. There will be two more sessions: Mon 21 December and Tuesday 19 January from 12:00 to 1:00pm with PCs Turner and Watson. The second date coincides with the next open Forum meeting.
- The community centre's December newsletter is available.
- The Forum's computer is soon to be housed in a secure cupboard in the café alongside two computers provided by the centre. Several useful internet links have been placed on these computers including one to the 'Dignified revolution' newsletter.
- Adult social care are looking at changes to the charging system for care at home. Part of their consultation process will be with members of the Forum. Anyone interested in giving their views should see Ann.
- Ophthalmic services are to be offered locally rather than at hospital. Look out for details.

Ann then invited Andrew Nicholson to speak to the Forum.

Andrew used to work for East Cumbria Countryside Project and is now with Green Spaces. His team is responsible for maintaining the 800km of public footpaths and bridleways in the Carlisle district. Many of the paths outside centres of population are only occasionally used and so become overgrown. Using slides taken over the last 20 years Andrew described the types of signpost and stiles that are employed and showed a range of paths he has helped maintain and some of the problems his team have had to solve. Andrew gave members of the Forum chance to identify the locations shown in the slides - an interesting challenge, especially for regular walkers. He also answered members' questions about rights of way and where responsibilities lay for their maintenance.

He can be contacted about problems with public footpaths by telephone: 01228 618590 or email: [andrewni@carlisle.gov.uk](mailto:andrewni@carlisle.gov.uk)

Ann thanked our guest and the meeting ended with tea and biscuits.

**The next 50+ Forum meeting is on Tuesday 19 January 2009.**