

Brampton and District 50+ Forum

Report of the meeting held on Tuesday 18 October 2011 in Brampton Community Centre.

14 members were present for lunch and 20 members attended the meeting.

The chair, Ann Oswin, welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave updates on local issues:

- Rural wheels: a new leaflet details the increased hours this transport is available: 08:30 -18:00.
- Carlisle locality stakeholder group (the NHS group which includes members of the general public). Ann attended the last meeting. Some of the points from the meeting:
The consequences of the forthcoming changes in the NHS structure, especially the financial implications, are being investigated before the changes are implemented. Caroline Griffiths is responsible for managing the change.
A priority - care of people being coordinated to avoid crisis points being reached.
IT now provides a link between GPs and specialists in Cumbria and beyond allowing them to share information, data from scans, interpretations of scans, etc. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
The next meeting of this group is Wed 9 Nov. Anyone wishing to attend should see Ann.
- The Brampton and Beyond Trust is now responsible for the running of the Irthing Centre (Brampton Community Centre). Negotiations with the County Council and others over extra-care housing on the site are ongoing. A questionnaire on extra-care housing is available. Extra-care housing requirements were discussed at the July 50+ Forum meeting and the results of this discussion have already been passed on.

Events:

- Carlisle healthy city week: Age UK are displaying the results of their 'Never too old' poetry competition in the Lanes this week.
- 22nd Oct. Brampton Community Centre - 'The ragged trousered philanthropists' musical comedy. Repeat performances at Castle Carrock and Armathwaite.
- 'Walkers are welcome' launch on Sunday 23rd Oct. Three walks starting from the Moot Hall.
- Sat. 12 Nov. Crafts and Coffee.
- Fri. 18 Nov. John Crouch demonstration.
- Mon. 12 Dec. Christmas lunch in the community café.
- Heysham Gardens, Carlisle. Memory café is opening.

Ann then introduced our speaker, Mike Hannon, from Carlisle Carers based in Fusehill Street, Carlisle. He gave a brief history of the association and his own roles. He explained what a carer was, their importance in our society and what support the association provides. This includes:

Assessment - looking at a carer's situation and problems they may have, not just with the caring role but financial and other problems such as the deteriorating health of the carer.

Advocacy - e.g. with a hospital, adult social services, insurance companies, with benefits, bereavement.

Transport / shopping. The association is trying to involve volunteers with this.

Lunches / occasional trips. For example, there is a male carers' club to provide some male company for male carers whose contacts are mainly women.

Other support includes power of attorney, some (limited) funding, therapy sessions, a carer's card (which has essential information on it in case anything happens to the carer).

Carlisle Carers is funded mainly through the county council. Mr Hannon expressed a concern that, now carer organisations have to tender for funding, if contracts are awarded to agencies from outside the area problems may arise because of their lack of local knowledge.

After questions from members had been discussed, Ann thanked the speaker and the meeting ended with tea and biscuits.

The next 50+ Forum meeting is on Tuesday 22nd November 2011.