

Brampton and District 50+ Forum

Report of the AGM held on Tuesday 22 May 2012 in Brampton Community Centre.

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

The Chair, Ann Oswin, welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave her annual report. A printed summary of the previous year's events was circulated. Ann shared the concern at the falling numbers attending the meetings but said that this was even worse elsewhere. The economic climate had some influence: potential members in the 50+ age group were having to continue to work; many older potential members were grandparents fulfilling a role as carers. She felt that it was still important that the forum continues to supply information and help put people in touch with appropriate agencies. We can put our information on the internet. The forum also provided an important social role. So we will continue to operate.

The treasurer then presented the financial report; printed copies were available. Members' contributions cover only the cost of food, the overheads are covered by generous grants, primarily from Age UK and Laurel House. Appreciation for these was expressed by the meeting. The Chair then gave some updates:

- The police community officers have a regular drop-in session on Mondays. They publish a newsletter, available online and through Neighbourhood Watch schemes. A reminder that the non-emergency contact number is 101.
- Age UK: recent booklets, including one on finance, are available in the community centre.
- Adult social care: latest report is available (contact Ann Oswin).
- Carlisle local stakeholder group who meet with the NHS commissioning group are to discuss concerns over the ability to cope of those discharged from hospital. Ann will report back.
- Wed 23 May, 7:30pm: a concert in the café, a trio led by a Dutch fiddler.
- The May Quiz is available in the community centre, £1.
- A Jubilee Celebration grant is available from Age UK. Ann is arranging, if suitable dates are available, a tea followed by a concert by Annie Mawson of Sunbeams Music Trust.

Election of the committee: Ann has to stand down after her 3 years as chairman but is willing to continue doing most of the work. Jean Taylor has agreed to act as Chair. She was proposed by Ann Oswin, seconded by Leonard James; none were against. The present committee were all willing to stand. Ann proposed that they be elected; none were against. Leonard James thanked Ann on behalf of the members for all the work she has done.

Ann then introduced Joan Bailey of Carlisle and Eden Age UK, and one of our committee members. As a follow-up to the talk at the last meeting, Joan demonstrated a large number of gadgets readily available through Age UK or elsewhere which make tasks at home easier for the elderly and infirm. These included: non-slip work-top mats, jar grippers, plastic strips to put around an electrical plug to make removal easier, jar and can openers, including electrical types, grabbers, tubing to increase the diameter of cutlery, a key grip, a liquid level indicator for the visually impaired, a button fastener, an aid for pulling on socks. A catalogue is available.

Our guest speaker was Jim Jones of Brampton Old People's Association, accompanied by his wife, Sheila. Formed in 1953 the aim of the OPA is to help older people in Brampton to socialise. A local benefactor donated Laurel House and, when this became unsuitable as accommodation, its sale provided and continues to provide income to fulfil the aims of the association. They have regular pie and pea suppers, a Christmas dinner and two trips per year. The OPA has 200 members; membership is currently limited to those living in Brampton. It was suggested by forum members, some of whom live outside the town, that it would be good for them if OPA membership were from a wider catchment area, such as the area covered by the Brampton medical practice. Jim said he would pass this idea back to the committee. Jim also reminded us that Brampton has one of the oldest bowling clubs and that this club also provided some social activities for older people. Members expressed the hope that Jim would publicise the Forum.

After thanks had been given in the usual way, the meeting ended with tea and biscuits.

Further information, including links, can be found on our web pages:

http://www.bramptonandbeyond.org/index.php?group_name=50plusforum