

REPORT OF THE EVENTS ORGANISING GROUP 2016-17

Well, I really can't believe it's a year since I was giving my last report – where does the time go once you are retired??

We of the Events Planning Group hope that once again we have provided you with an interesting programme of outings, lunches and coffee mornings and afternoons.

Counting up I see that there have been 15 outings of which you might remember going to Tennants Auction House, taking a trip on the 'Teesside Princess', experiencing the Workhouse at Southwell, and seeing Lotherton Hall decorated for Christmas.

We have held 19 Coffee mornings or afternoons when we have had speakers on a very wide range of topics. We have learned such a lot this year - from the amazing work of the Mercy Ships and the International Rescue Corps, and the local Food Bank, to the history of plant medicine and the wall paintings in Pickering Church and then more lighthearted talks such as the one by Sue Woodcock recalling her life 'From copper to shepherd'. I can't list them all.

We have also held our series of 'Serious' meetings when we aim to keep our members up to date with matters of concern. There have been 6 this year and have included the topics of: dementia, nutrition, tax information for older people and the NYCC Carers' strategy.

In June we had a lovely 5 day holiday in the Cotswolds and the Wye Valley. Organised again by Terry Wray this was a really enjoyable experience. We saw such lovely sights and visited so many lovely places – and what's more we had the best weather of the summer. Those of us who go on the Forum holidays really appreciate all the hard work that Terry puts in to the organisation so 'Thank you Terry' on behalf of that entire group.

Attendance at the Coffee events and the Serious meetings keeps increasing – we have had as many as 90 members at some! So we think we must be doing something right!

Our outings are mostly fully booked and we do hope you haven't been disappointed. We must emphasise the importance of booking early.

The most we can take on a coach is 52 (or 48 if we travel for more than 2 hours). It has been suggested that we should take more than one coach – but we decided several years ago that looking after 100+ people was too much for us to handle (just think of the queue at the loos!).

One thing which has made a great difference this year is being able to park at the Rugby Club for outings. It was getting to be very hit and miss to park at St Nicholas Street in Norton so we are grateful to the Club for letting us do this. And this reminds me to say again how much we appreciate the service we get from the stewards at the Rugby Club – there is no other venue in the District that we know of where there is ample parking and level access, where it is always warm and where the tables and chairs are laid out for us. So ‘thank you Christine and Rob’.

I also want to give a big ‘thank you’ to the coffee and tea team led by Carole and Brenda. They are all willing volunteers and do a great job of providing us with refreshments. Please note the appeal slip on your tables and do please add your name to the list – the more people we have on the list the less often we have to call upon each person – you would only be asked to help at an event for which you have booked.

So, finally, as convenor of the group I would like to give my personal thanks to the Events team – we are a very small group who work very hard for your pleasure. ‘Thanks folks’. Please show them your appreciation with a round of applause - they are: Janet Bates, Barbara Howard, Gaynor Johnson, Barbara Medd, Judith Pickering, Pauline Reeve, Carol Wray and of course Sue Walker who does all our administration.

We always welcome your suggestions of places to visit or speakers to listen to. If you can find details such as opening times, contact phone numbers or email addresses then that really helps us. Please continue to suggest things to us.

Anna Salkeld

April 2017