

Chairman's Report to the AGM on 11th November 2015

Following the AGM in December 2014 and the election of a new Chairman, the group has continued to adhere to its aims in promoting the health, well-being and quality of life of the older people in NP3 (Henleaze, Westbury-on-Trym and Stoke Bishop). Two local residents have attended our meetings and we also welcomed James Lynch, representing the Bristol Older Peoples' Forum.

Pick-Me-Up Outings

In December 2014, we took 41 people to Cadbury Garden Centre, Congresbury. This included a seasonal two course lunch, and a fun quiz was enjoyed by the participants as they sat at the festively decorated lunch table. There was time for Christmas shopping before and after lunch, and a calendar was given to each attendee on the way home. Several cards of thanks were received.

In March 2015, 21 participants were taken to the Mansion House, Clifton, for Tea with the Lady Mayoress. This was restricted to people who had not been to this venue before. They were able to see the City's Silver on display and learn about the history of the Mayor and the house.

In July, 39 people enjoyed a successful trip to Weston Super Mare. We had been fully booked but 4 people cancelled on the day. The three Dial-A-Ride buses all arrived in time for coffee and then all were free to stroll along the promenade, do a bit of shopping, etc, before returning to the Winter Gardens for a delicious two course lunch overlooking the sea. Afterwards, there was time for more shopping or a visit to the Grand Pier. Even before we were back home residents were enquiring about the next trip! The delight and appreciation from the residents who join us makes these trips a very worthwhile activity.

These Pick-Me-Up trips have been subsidised by a Well Being Fund grant from the Neighbourhood Partnership. A Christmas outing is planned for the 9th December when we are again visiting Wyevale Garden Centre (formerly Cadbury) for coffee and shopping, followed by lunch at the Walton Park Hotel, Clevedon. Following this trip, the Group will need to seek further funding from outside sources and the NP Well Being Fund.

'Activities for the over 55s' Booklet

The second edition of this illustrated Activities Guide has been updated and produced by WGOP and has been available in the community since September. The publication, produced by LinkAge using their city wide format, was mainly financed using a grant of £500 from the St Monica's Community Fund, for which we were very grateful. This second edition has been well received, with our local libraries asking for additional copies as they were flying off the shelves.

Bluebird Care Event

WGOP had a promotional table at the Bluebird Care Event on Monday 11 May in WoT Village Hall. The pull-up banners were used to publicise NP3 and display boards showed photographs of our past activities and outings. The group felt that it was a worthwhile exercise and one that we could repeat in other NP3 community venues. It had been poorly attended due to location and poor advertising.

Other Activities

WGOP is aware of all equalities issues whilst planning activities. Following a visit from Tony Hall of Bristol Dementia Action Alliance, the group is actively encouraging awareness of those who have Dementia, particularly in our Neighbourhood Partnership.

The Constitution of WGP

The Constitution of the Group has recently been reviewed and updated. It had been hoped that the revised edition being presented to this AGM would have been adopted but more work was needed on it. It will return to the Committee at a later date.

Valerie Bishop
November 2015

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