

# **NORA PARSONS NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2016**

It has been some time since we last wrote to you, therefore we thought you might like to hear how we fared last year and also to bring you up to date with our fundraising plans and events for the next couple of months, for you to put the dates in your diaries.

Firstly we would like to advise of our new name - The Nora Parsons Friendship Group, as this was felt to more accurately reflect the nature of our group. New Year, new name! We do hope that you like it.

(For legal reasons, 'Nora Parsons Day Centre' will still be the registered charity name.)

## **Trips**

Members enjoyed two trips out again last year, with a wonderful visit in the spring to the Butterfly Centre at Stratford followed by lunch at The Masons Arms on their return. This proved very popular with the members.

In the autumn we had a trip to The Hop Pocket at Bishops Frome where members had opportunity to do some Christmas shopping, before sitting down to a lovely lunch in their restaurant.

## **Coffee Morning – 31<sup>st</sup> October**

We held a very enjoyable coffee morning at Martley Village Hall on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October, where the variety of wonderful, delicious cakes on offer was amazing. Perhaps not so great for the waistline, but we all need a treat sometimes! It is always great to hear the sound of lively chatter, whilst everyone enjoyed a leisurely coffee. Together with the raffle held that morning, proceeds were £344, which was fabulous. Our huge thanks have to go to the regular Martley Coffee morning team for running it on our behalf.

## **Christmas Fayre – 28<sup>th</sup> November**

The Christmas Fayre is our main fund raising event and this year we again had a lovely selection of stalls including homemade pickles and preserves, fabulous toys, bric-a-brac, wooden crafts, Christmas goods and plants. The home made cakes, quiches and sausage rolls proved very popular, as too was the ever popular tombola run by our patron Cath Mackie.

This year we also held a rather successful raffle with a Christmas hamper and a Goodman's goose up for grabs, along with a tempting number of bottles! This brought the total raised to £1,250.

Well done and thank you to everyone who pitched in to help, before and during the day, donated goods, or who came and supported us on the day itself by buying some of the goodies on offer. It was hard work indeed, but a lovely afternoon.

## **Christmas Lunch Party**

We were very lucky to have our Christmas lunch this year cooked by Andrew Haines a professional chef, the son in law of one of our members. What a treat! Members, trustees and other guests were served up a fabulous Turkey dinner with all the trimmings, followed by cheesecake, or trifle, all washed down with a glass of wine.

After a short respite, encouraged by the Reverend Canon David Sherwin and 'friends', we endeavoured to sing a few carols, before Father Christmas arrived!



### **General Situation**

As you are aware, the Day Centre is a registered Charity and is run on a totally voluntary basis. We do not receive any funds from government, or Worcester County Council. Whilst we do receive small sums from the local Parish Councils whose area we cover, the amount received does not in any way cover the costs of keeping the facility going, hence the importance of our fund raising.

Last autumn we lost a substantial part of our income. The Friends of the Elderly who rented our premises on a Wednesday, were unfortunately forced to disband due to financial reasons. The loss of this valuable income has given us a few headaches, not least as we've tried to come up with some new fundraising ideas. Any suggestions would therefore be gratefully received!

### **Quiz Night – 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

The first date for your diary is our Quiz Night, to be held at The Lion, Clifton on Teme on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March, 8pm. We shall also be running a raffle on the night, so please do come along to support us if you can and join in the fun! We look forward to seeing you there.

### **Easter raffle – 2016**

This year we have decided to have an Easter raffle. Prizes are currently being sorted out, so watch out for the tickets going on sale next month. Contributions to either of our raffles would of course be most welcome.

### **AGM**

This is usually in April. Please do come along if you can, to put forward any suggestions. We will circulate the date nearer the time.

### **And finally.....**

New members are always welcome, therefore if you know of anyone who sits alone during the day who might benefit from some company, a chat over coffee and a hot lunch, then please encourage them to contact us on Tel number: 01886 888 374.

**Many thanks from all the volunteers & Committee**