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# Friend to Friend

## 2020

## Newsletter

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What a year this has been! Who would have believed back in February that we would be spending all our time at home under 'lockdown'. Covid 19 has certainly made its mark.

### HONLEY GROUP

On the whole, I think the Honley ladies have coped remarkably well during this Covid pandemic. All miss their families, of course, but generally they have been getting on with life. In the early days, it was good to have decent weather and many sat in their gardens with neighbours next door and were able to have a chat to pass the time. Phone calls to each other have been helpful – thank goodness for the phone! Gill and I have been ringing round the group and mostly the conversations have been positive. However, it is not easy when you have health issues and cannot easily contact your GP. Enid Smith has found that to be the case but she is at last getting somewhere. Hilda Green mentioned to me how difficult it has been to keep occupied when you have poor eye sight, but she is always so positive and I think has good memories of people and places which she often thinks about. During this year, Hilda celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday with her family. We hope that we can also celebrate with her whenever we can get back together. Also turning 90 this year were Mollie Fearn, Helen Milton, Vera Taylor. All young at heart though!

Other members have been thankful to live near enough to their friends and family. All have been grateful for the help they have received either from family, friends and local groups.

Sadly, we have to report that others have fared less well. Audrey Fenwick was struggling a little before covid and during the lockdown has suffered a few falls



which resulted in hospital admissions. She then had a short spell in a Care Home but sadly passed away at the end of September. Audrey was always a “glass half full” kind of lady and I will never forget her walking stick covered in tinsel every Christmas. She was always keen to get up and dance around her stick too. She was involved in so many activities such as the Drumming group, Zumba, and various Friend to Friend groups, not just Honley. We will all miss her greatly. As Gillian Scarborough said, she had an amazing ability to talk to anyone and be inclusive - a vastly underrated skill! Thank you for being such a lovely member of the Honley group Audrey. You inspired many of us.

Finally, very best wishes to all of you in the Friend to Friend family. Can't wait until we meet again!

Suzanne





**COLLAGE OF PHOTOGRAPHS WITH AUDREY FENWICK, COURTESY OF GILLIAN SCARBOROUGH.**

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## MEET A MEMBER!

### MARGUERITA BAILEY HONLEY GROUP

Marguerita joined the Honley group in late 2019. She is a remarkable lady. At the young age of .. well shall we just say 80+ years .. Marguerita is pursuing a degree at Huddersfield University. She enjoys working with young people who she says have also taught her a lot. Sadly the coronavirus has affected her course but Marguerita was not put off! This is what she had to say:

“As I approach the final year of my Contemporary Art and Illustration degree, the uncertainty of working at Huddersfield University poses a problem. Luckily, I have found the ideal space to display my work. Moll Springs, formerly a silk mill, is now a complex of units occupied by several young entrepreneurs or small business men. Here amid beautiful woodland I am able to work and complete my portfolio in a peaceful environment which inspires my creative work. A well-kept secret on the edge of Honley ... magic!”



We wish her well in her new venture!

Marguerita was also interviewed by Amanda Crowther from the Honley Community group and she very kindly sent me her picture and article. I have therefore added it to our newsletter. I hope it will inspire others!

#### **Marguerita The Artist**

At 84 years old Marguerita Bailey is forging ahead with her passion for art despite

the uncertainty around her final year as an art student at Huddersfield University. In the current COVID climate Universities are still trying to work out how the student experience will look come October, so Marguerita has decided to take matters into her own hands and create a space for her to work in and continue her exploration of all things nature, blended with her love of music.

The studio in Moll Springs Mill is just large enough for her needs as an artist and is situated in the woods, surrounded by streams and trees and all things natural. She explains why she chose this location for her latest project

It is just so quiet and peaceful here. I have three windows with wonderful views of the trees and birds. I have even installed a bird table to encourage the wildlife to my little balcony outside the window. There are a few young people here in the Mill, mostly with their own businesses, so it is great to have the privacy and peace yet also have some company at the same time. Here I can keep on producing the large scale work I started in my first two years as a student, my little flat just simply could not accommodate all the materials and artwork so I am delighted to have found the space I need so I can continue with my final year of the degree course. Later in the year I plan to

use the space to exhibit my work. It's exciting to be here and be creative again. I've been encouraged by many people and helped along the way on my creative journey. The many friends I have made, old and new, have spurred my enthusiasm on. If it hadn't been for the people who believe in me, I don't think I would have had the confidence to do this. Their support and validity has been invaluable. If you believe you can do it, if you want something in life, I have learnt that everything is possible. I am moving into a lively and colorful world with my work – it is so exciting and energising.

Amanda Crowther

## **HOLMFIRTH GROUP**

Well, instead of making pork pies on March 20th, Gillian and I had to tell you all that we would be parted for a while! Many of our volunteers and members have since kept in touch with each other by phone, with sporadic visits between some to wave through the window, chat in the garden when allowed, and regular shopping was done for some as well. Gillian and I are immensely proud of how resilient you have all been, and how well you have looked after each other. We know that some of you continue to struggle with aspects of your health, and we hope you are getting the help and love that you need. If not, and there is anything Gillian, I or any of our amazing team of volunteers can do to help, you only have to ask. Here are some bits and pieces about our time away from each other: Betty Law had a surprise visit to see her son in Scotland, taken up there on a girls' road-trip by her granddaughter in a camper van!! Betty had a fabulous view of the landscape from her elevated seat,



and while there visited St Andrews, Callander and the Trossachs. Betty's granddaughter even braved a swim in the North Sea!!! Maureen Bake wishes us all well. She has a daily walk when the weather permits, and has enjoyed some social get-togethers on the communal patio at Holme Valley Court. They are lucky to have plenty of space, so can chat safely at a distance from each other. Twice a week, around a dozen of the HVC residents including Betty, Maureen and our own Monica Lockwood, Carol Addy, Mavis Brennan, Audrey Woodings, Julie Gardner, have enjoyed takeaway meals delivered hot, but Maureen has missed

having the freedom of unrestricted days out, restaurant meals and shopping trips. She has kept in



touch with friends by phone, including Mabel Wadsworth in Scholes, and has visited her a few times when allowed. Ann Holmes was relieved to finally get to the hairdressers after all those weeks. What a great feeling to spend a few hours in that chair, being pampered, fed and watered, and having a good old chat. Mary Rollinson took her granddaughter Nell for a lovely day out in Blackpool when they were allowed back together. Fish and chips and the amusement arcade made the day complete, if only to visit their toilets! Mary resisted the temptation to visit Gypsy Rose the fortune teller while she was there. Not sure any of us know what the future holds at this point!! Rosemary Mallyon was delighted to receive pictures of family, in particular her brand-new great grandson Reggie! She and Maud Hunter were chuffed to receive a gift of a lottery ticket from one of our volunteers: Neither has moved to the Seychelles though, so we assume they weren't lucky! Rosemary was surprised to receive a mystery gift of ginger biscuits on her doorstep one day, and other members found similar gifts of food items and even loo rolls on their doorsteps! Random acts of kindness are what make the world a better place!! Margaret Barritt took her neighbour's dog out for walks during lockdown, Fran Bailey got new wireless headphones to drown out her 3 children and the dog(!), and took homemade jam and scones round to the members she was in touch with. Avril Bisset and Julie Wozniak dropped off books to their members, and Avril chatted to Helen Amster, discovering that at the age of 6 she had presented a posy of flowers to Princess Mary when she came to Holme Valley Memorial Hospital. June Howden had a lovely Mother's Day meal provided by one of her neighbours.

Pauline Coldwell, Phyllis Ainley, Daisy Walker and Mary Whitwam, as with many of you, have felt well-supported by their families, and were so glad to see them properly again after weeks of separation. Despite these restricted times,

Pauline had a lovely day out at her Grandson's recent wedding, enjoying a meal after at The Weavers Shed. Dorrien Duggan kept up well with her knee exercises after surgery, and Juliana Sykes cleared her garden path for daily walks, inspired by Captain Tom. Christine Lockwood has done lots of walking too, in between looking after her little group of members. Her local miles the equivalent of a trip to Scarborough! Eileen Hirst has regular chats and coffee with Jess Gregory, and Madeleine Langdon is loving spending time again with grandchildren and her daughter Catherine. Rachel Boothroyd and Mollie Fearn enjoyed mutual support over the garden fence due to being neighbours with each other! Gillian Scarborough and Louise Swift both took on roles coordinating

the Holme Valley Mutual Aid Group during lockdown, managing around 400 volunteers to do shopping, deliver prescriptions, and provide emotional support for people not able to get out.

Our group will forever be the poorer for the loss of Robin Huxley, a fairly recent member, and more recently our beloved Audrey Fenwick. Audrey was always one of the first to have a go at a new activity, and always got up to greet any new members with her famous friendliness. We will treasure our memories of your hilarious sausage-making, sensitive poetry reading, and getting up to dance at any opportunity, your stick always festooned with tinsel at Christmas.



Dance all the way to heaven, sparkly fairy.

I pretend I'm the greatest dancer.

I feel like a sparkly fairy,

I touch the sky with my fingers.

I worry I might fall over.

I cry when I see children playing.

I pretend I'm the greatest dancer.



Poem by Audrey Fenwick

## **NETHERTON GROUP**

It seems very strange to be writing an article for the Netherton Group having not been able to meet up for such a long time. It does however force me to sit down and reflect on the impact of the pandemic and how it has affected everything we took for granted previously. Who would have thought in March that 6 months later that we would not be able to meet up for chat and a brew; enjoy each others company over a nice meal or engage in our usual range of activities without having to think about face coverings, safe distances and hygiene.

Along with having to deal with these constraints on our daily life many of us have also had to deal with the sadness of losing people who we cared about during this period. The Netherton Group is not immune to this having lost Christine Hoyle very early on and Joan Sierant in September both at the ripe old age of 91. Being unable to properly say goodbye is hard but at least we have some wonderful memories of these 2 inspirational and lovely ladies which will ensure they are not forgotten.

Some of our members and volunteers have also had some health issues to deal with however have come through them and are well on the path to recovery. All the members send their get well greetings to Sheila Merewood, Nancy Hayes, Judy Burke and Kath Birt.

I do not want to dwell any longer on the negative aspects of these current times because there is always something positive that comes from adversity. I would thank the brilliant team of volunteers

(Kath; Isabel; Judy; Jean; Laurence) who have kept in regular contact with each other and the members to ensure that no-one feels alone or unsupported.

I would also pay tribute to the families who from our members feedback have been on top of ensuring that all their physical, emotional and mental needs are being met.

We have had a lot of birthdays that although we could not celebrate together have not gone unrecognised. All birthdays are special however those ending in '0' deserve a special mention so a big shout out to Stella (80); June (80); Kath (70) all in August; Elaine (80) in October and the biggest one of all, Roy (90) in November.

I will end by wishing all F2F members, volunteers and trustees good health and happiness and a hope that soon in the words of Vera Lynn, 'We'll meet again some sunny day'. Although to be honest I'd be happy with rain as long as we could get together!

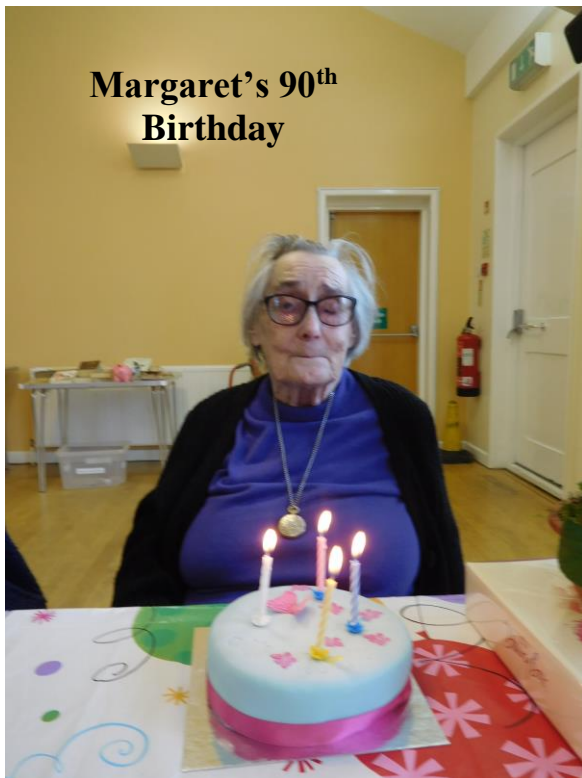
John

## **MELTHAM**

We had lots of special birthdays in 2020.

At our January lunch we celebrated Mollie Stead's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Mollie's birthday was actually in November but January was the first time we had chance to celebrate it with her.

Margaret Garside celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> in January, so our February lunch gave us all a chance to celebrate too.



At our lunch in March we celebrated Moira Davison's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Moira's daughters Gwen & Gill joined us for lunch.





Unfortunately due to lockdown we were not able to celebrate anyone else's birthdays but Marian Jackson (a volunteer) celebrated her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday in May at home. Mamie Sharples celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in July with a visit from her family. Roy Maitland & Iris Haigh will both be celebrating their 90<sup>th</sup> birthdays in Nov/Dec 2020.

Now for some sad news. Jean Garside passed away in July and Dorothy Lorrman passed away in September. Condolences were sent to both families from Friend to Friend.

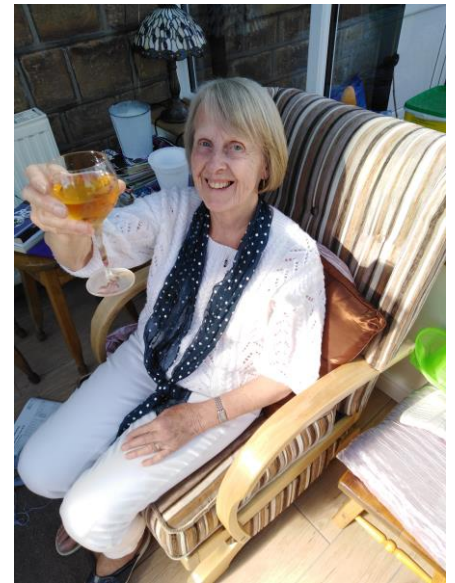
I would like to

thank the volunteers who have been telephoning Meltham members during the Covid outbreak. I know the members have much appreciated their calls.

Unfortunately our annual trip in September to Wetherby Whaler had to be cancelled but hopefully we will be able to organise a trip in 2021.

Meltham Volunteers would like to wish you all a Very Happy Christmas & we look forward to seeing you all sometime in 2021.

Regards to you all from Meltham Meal.



## **HOLME VALLEY COVID MUTUAL AID GROUP**

On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020 Friend to Friend in Holmfirth were supposed to be meeting to make Pork Pies with Andrew from Cuddy's Farm – instead we had to inform members that we would not be meeting for some time due to the Corona Virus. It became very clear, very early on that older people were going to be most at risk from this new virus.

Louise and I immediately started to think about how we could best serve our members and decided the best thing to do was to split up the members who wanted regular phone calls between the volunteers and try to call them regularly to check that they were doing ok and help them if they needed anything. This has worked amazingly well, with some of our volunteers really going over and above; delivering home cooked cakes and biscuits, waving from the pavement, chatting through windows, taking prescriptions and shopping and most importantly giving them a regular phone call to see that they are doing ok. Louise and I are massively proud of what our volunteers in Holmfirth and Honley have been doing – thank you all so much!!

At around the same time a few local Parish Councillors and others set up a community meeting to discuss if they could put together a community Covid response. There had been mention of Mutual Aid Groups setting up across the country to help out local people that needed support with shopping, prescription collections, dog walking and other support.

The first community meeting was attended by approximately 25 people that had various local interests – the churches, the Scouts, Parish Councillors, the local Labour Party volunteers, business

people, the food bank, ex GPs etc. We had some amazing people volunteer their skills readily and very soon a core team of 8 people were planning and co-ordinating the response.

From that initial meeting we started to ask for volunteer helpers and set up a dedicated telephone line, printed flyers and distributed them around the whole Valley, a web page was designed and a new Facebook Group set up. What was achieved in less than a week still amazes me to this day!! It was hard work at the beginning as requests were coming in faster than we could complete them. During the first week of the telephone line being up and running and the flyers being delivered we had between 20 and 25 requests for support every day.

At the height of the crisis we had over 400 volunteers on the books!! It became very quickly apparent to the core team that we would need 'area managers'. So that is what happened – we managed to recruit about 15 leaders and split the volunteers between them so that they had a band of local volunteers for each area. This worked amazingly well and the use of modern communication tools like Zoom, Facetime and Whatsapp groups was fantastic. We could keep in touch with all our volunteers quickly and easily by email or text message. We had some great donations of support from Company's, the Parish Council and the local Labour Party. One individual got his business to buy us a huge text bundle so that we could send out regular free texts to volunteers to let them know how things were going. Gin Divine in New Mill made us some hand sanitiser to give to volunteers.

We set up regular helpers for the food banks, the pharmacies and some local shops that were struggling to cope with the demand for home deliveries.

The main ethos of the group was to try and match up a local volunteer with a person in need. We have seen some amazing friendships and support systems grow from this group and it really was astonishing how well the volunteers looked after their new 'neighbours'.

Eventually, Kirklees Council caught up with the scheme and we then started to work with them on some of the more challenging cases – where there were issues with care packages, parents and children in need of extra support and cases of ill health that were too complex for volunteers to cope with. The core team has continued to 'meet up' on-line and once the restrictions started to lift, they felt that the demand had dropped right down. The organisation has now 'moth-balled' and passed the baton back to the Council for them to continue to support those that still need help. Some volunteers are still helping and supporting their neighbours and some volunteers have transferred to the new local 'Anchor Organisation for the Holme Valley', which is the Holmfirth Tech. The idea is that this Anchor Organisation will be the hub for any future help that people need and they will send out emails to potential volunteers when/if the need arises. This group has recently helped with Elmwood's flu clinic, telephone calls to patients to book flu vaccinations, helping to pack kids' activity packs for half-term etc.

I know that we are not out of the woods yet and whilst none of us thought that it would ever last this long, the sense of community and pride in what we achieved during that time is amazing. I know that many of you long to get back together again and for Friend to Friend to re-start – which it will – but we need to be patient and accept that this virus is something that we are going to have to live with for a bit longer and we will meet again.....but only when we feel that it is safe for us to do so.

Take care and stay well,

Gillian



## **A MESSAGE FROM THE TRUSTEES**

Hi Everyone

We are living through very strange times at the moment and we hope that you are all well and coping with the issues that Covid-19 has thrust upon us.

At our Board meeting, on 1st September, we discussed how the charity can progress following the suspension of all our meetings due to Covid-19. Our volunteers have been doing a wonderful job keeping in touch with members by telephone and providing additional support, where possible, and we are all anxious to resume meetings as soon as it is safe to do so. Unfortunately, following the latest government announcement of renewed restrictions for West Yorkshire it seems that our activities must remain on hold for the time being.

Clearly the safety of both members and volunteers must be our overriding priority and many issues will need to be considered before meetings can recommence. When the current restrictions are eased we shall be contacting you to establish your thoughts and needs with regard to a number of questions which we shall have to take into account when assessing the risks of future meetings taking place.

There is obviously still a long way to go before we are all able to get together again but be assured that we shall be thinking of you and will let you know as soon as it is possible to move forward.

Please keep letting us have your photos and news items which we can circulate in the newsletter and on Facebook as everyone is keen to know what is happening in other members lives.

With our very best wishes

The Trustees



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## FANCY A QUIZ?

Here goes ...

Answers on various  
pages of the  
newsletter.  
No cheating!!

Can you sort out the proverbs below?

1	A man's home is	a	skin deep
2	Laughter is	b	another day
3	Beauty is only	c	nothing gained
4	Every dog	d	a sinking ship
5	Curiosity killed	e	and he will take a mile
6	There is more than one way	f	teacher
7	Nothing ventured	g	Godliness
8	Cleanliness is next to	h	his castle
9	Give him an inch	i	to skin a cat
10	Rats desert	j	has its day
11	Experience is the best	k	the cat
12	Tomorrow is	l	the best medicine

Ok, so that was too easy yes?

So try this next one ... Where so I come from? (See next page)



Where do I come from if:



1	I wear a kilt?	a	Hawaii
2	I wear a Sari?	b	Australia
3	I wear wooden clogs?	c	Spain
4	I wear a Ten Gallon Hat?	d	Singapore
5	We have the Eiffel Tower?	e	New York, USA
6	We have Uluru or Ayre's Rock	f	Scotland
7	We have the Great Wall?	g	Japan
8	I wear a Kimono?	h	India
9	I wear a lei around my neck?	i	Holland
10	We have Raffles Hotel?	j	China
11	We have a Statue of Liberty?	k	Texas, USA
12	We have bull fighting?	l	Paris, France

Too easy again? Try the last one! (See next page)



This is a “collection” quiz



1	A punnet of	a	roses, flowers, oysters
2	A hand of	b	lorries
3	A string of	c	lions
4	A library of	d	paper
5	A convoy of	e	wolves
6	A pod of	f	bees, insects
7	A swarm of	g	strawberries
8	A sack of	h	pearls
9	A pack of	i	Cards or bananas
10	A bed of	j	potatoes
11	A ream of	k	dolphins, whales even peas!
12	A pride of	l	books, records

Proverbs answers		
1h	2l	3a
4j	5k	6i
7c	8g	9e
10d	11f	12b

Answers for Where do I come from if?		
1f	2h	3i
4k	5l	6b
7j	8g	9a
10d	11e	12c

Collection Answers		
1g	2i	3h
4l	5b	6k
7f	8j	9e
10a	11d	12c