

# Friend to Friend

## Newsletter January 2022



**Happy New Year to all our readers!**



### HONLEY GROUP

September 2021

It was so good to be back today and after a good gossip and catch up over a cup of tea we soon got down to business! First of all we had our raffle and then continued with a discussion about 'starting back' with particular reference to school days. We talked about being an ink monitor, slate boards, the nit nurse, good/bad teachers, bullying, scholarships, reports and many other things. It was a really good discussion with some very interesting memories shared amongst the group.





## October 2021

This month, we followed the theme of children's games. In the 50s and 60s we had no electronic games and relied on board games for much of our entertainment. At least, we did in my family! Snakes and Ladders, Draughts, Ludo, Monopoly, Totopoly, Cluedo were all popular. Outside, we played hopscotch, we roller-skated, played conkers, tag and the boys usually played British bulldog! We also invented our own games playing with cigarette cards and flicking them against a wall. The aim was to try and 'cover' your opponents if I remember correctly.



It was good to welcome some new members to our group too. Kathleen Mitchell, Lynda Ainley and Irene Wadsworth have all joined us and are all most welcome. We also welcomed a new volunteer Vikki Holland. Many thanks to Vikki for coming to help.

## November 2021



We had a visit today from Julie who owns Crafters Cottage at the bottom of Church Street. She brought along lots of bits and pieces so we could all decorate a bottle for Christmas. It was a relatively easy task for the ladies and the end results looked absolutely lovely. Julie was a star and everyone really enjoyed the session. Thank you to Gill for all her photos which she put together in this lovely collage for us. Thank you too to Julie for her photos.

We welcomed another new member to the group today, Musarat Hasanie. I think she really enjoyed her first visit with us. Lovely to see you Musarat.



**December 2021** Sadly, Honley took the decision not to meet in December. There were a number of reasons for this. First of all, the huge rise in the Omicron cases were of concern at the time. Secondly, Trinity Court were about to carry out a risk assessment for whether we could attend and they may well have asked us to cancel. Thirdly, the Ukulele group were uncomfortable about coming to a small lounge where several vulnerable people would have been attending. I walked around the village to explain to everyone and, to be honest, nearly everyone was pleased we had made the decision as it was easier for them not to have to choose!



Once again many thanks to the Honley volunteers Gill, Sylvia, Tess and Vikki. Your help is much appreciated by everyone. Suzanne

## **NETHERTON GROUP**

After what seemed like an age we began meeting again in September and despite the ongoing limitations and sadness over members no longer with us it has been a welcome return to some form of normality. The volunteer team has lost Jean Boyce who has moved to North Yorkshire with her husband to start a new adventure but the remaining team of Kath, Isabel, Judy and Laurence are happy to be back enjoying the company of our members.

The staff at Sons of The North have been brilliant as usual and provided us with fantastic meals and delicious desserts, fortunately none of us are counting calories! Activities for this year have been limited by the restrictions however we have enjoyed quizzes, games and an outing to Tong Garden Centre. This was well attended and everyone enjoyed themselves with a meal in the Mezzanine Restaurant and a browse through the sparkingly festive shopping hall. I am sure the members will be pleased to know that have noted the polite feedback for less eating and more shopping next time!

This month we welcomed a prospective new member, Vivienne, who was a familiar face to some existing members which bodes well for her settling in with us. Vivienne also adds some linguistic skills to the group as she has been learning Spanish, initially through the U3A but latterly with some friends in a conversation group. Hola Vivienne, I look forward to improving my Spanish with your help!

Our Xmas meal will once again be at the Travellers Rest, Brockholes who always ensure we are well fed and watered as we celebrate the end of another years meetings. Myself and the volunteers are looking forward to bidding farewell to Covid and its restrictions and ensuring 2022 is full of fun and friendship for our members.

John McFarlane

## **MELTHAM TAI CHI**

Meltham Tai Chi group back in action in September. Following Sheila Sinclair's retirement as Lead Volunteer, we were determined to keep her Tai Chi group going forward. Pat, helped by five volunteers from the Meltham Meal, restarted the sessions in August on alternate Fridays as before but with a new time slot after lunch of 2 -3pm



So far, we haven't managed to build the numbers back to their pre-covid level, but we have welcomed new members over the months. If anyone is interested in joining us, please come along to Meltham Methodist Church on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month for 2.00pm or contact Pat on 01484 364560. Pat



# MELTHAM GROUP

October 2021

At MM on 1st October the entertainment was Rhythm Sticks and we celebrated Jean Howard's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.



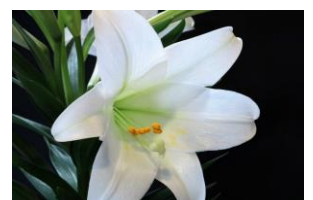
November 2021

Today at F to F lunch we celebrated Pat's 80th birthday. I presented her with a card and money. Entertainment today was Meltham Community Choir.



Sadly, David Armitage passed away on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2021 aged 87. David was a very private person but will be missed by the group. He has no family in the area but here is a photo of him with his brother.

David is on the left and he is with his brother, James Alvin, who lives in Australia.



## MELTHAM MEAL

This is Molly Stead celebrating her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2020. She sadly passed away on 6.10.2021 aged 101.

We were delighted to be able to get together again in September for our first meal since February 2020. There was a degree of nervousness as many of our members had not been able to socialise for such a long time. We are grateful to all the volunteers and friends who kept in touch with members by telephone during the lockdowns.

Alan Stevenson came along again to tell us gruesome tales about our ancestors in the locality as they fought over land ownership. Later in the late 18th and early 19th centuries it was the Luddites who became violent as job losses resulted from mechanisation. Their hammer 'Old Enoch' was their weapon of choice as they looked to destroy the new machinery. Their activities were always cloaked in secrecy as they recruited in pubs, moved about the area and tried to ensure that they stayed one step ahead of 'the authorities'.



In October, Katie Mallard of Rhythm Sticks

Drumming, came along with drums of several shapes and sizes. How she did it we have no idea but, by the end of the hour-long session, we were able to drum in three different rhythms. Much more concentration was needed than is usual after a good lunch and it was a little on the noisy side.

November saw the return of the Community Choir which includes some of our members too. The choir sang 'Over the Rainbow', 'Love Changes Everything', numbers from The Sound of Music and other well known songs. After a short break it was our turn! Fortunately, song sheets were provided. We sang 'Bring me Sunshine', 'Sunny Afternoon', 'Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious' (spelling copied from the song sheet), 'The Black Hill of Dakota' and finally 'Let's Go Fly a Kite'. A wonderful way to put a smile on everyone's faces.

Thank you to Richard Styan for doing the introductions and votes of thanks each month. He always remembers the volunteers who work so hard too.

December - Once we discovered that our plan to eat at Quirky 11 was not to be, all the volunteers rallied round to make sure that a Christmas meal, with all the trimmings, would be served in December.

Members were not disappointed – it was delicious and despite only being 3rd of December we all felt very Christmassy.

Once our mince pies and coffee had disappeared, we were entertained by singer Anita whose repertoire covered not only Christmas songs but many that reminded us of years gone by. There were lots of us singing along, plenty of tapping feet and even some dancing in the aisles! Finally, we had a surprise visit from Father Christmas who delivered a gift for everyone.

Pat





Sheila Sinclair - a thank you present from MM because Sheila retired from being a volunteer.

Sheila Hunt - A thank you present for Sheila after being a volunteer at MM since 2010.



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## HOLMFIRTH GROUP (PROJECT AND BIG MEAL)

Our group restarted after a Covid break on 6<sup>th</sup> August. It feels a lifetime ago!

Since then, we have welcomed guests including regular visitor Simon Wood, who played guitar and sang together with his singing partner Hazel. What beautiful harmonies! Their mix of humour, with both gentle and upbeat songs really got us in a good mood!

Andrew from Cuddy's Farm came to give us a masterclass in pork pie-making in September, and all who wanted were able to make, bake and take their very own pork pie! Delicious!!



In November we were treated to a fabulous Sea Shanty group, all living right here in Holmfirth, about as far away from the sea as you can get! They sang a variety of traditional sea shanties, some of which we could join in with, and most had a colourful story to go with them. We also enjoyed another slideshow of the



lovely wildlife photos of Mick Forster-Jones, with opportunity to buy his calendars, sold in aid of River Holme Connections for the upkeep of the River Holme.

As Christmas approached, some of the children from Holme Village School joined us again for a crafting session. They made stitched decorations and we made crafty Christmas cards. The next session saw us making little paper elves' bodies, which the teachers later gave faces to (photos of their pupils). These decorated school for Christmas week, the children so excited to see themselves as little elves around school!

Our Christmas lunch was another lovely event. Turkey donated by Kev Carter (Upperthong School's caretaker) was beautifully cooked by Heidi and Andrea of Simply Splendid, and members, volunteers and special guests all had a real feast! Louise



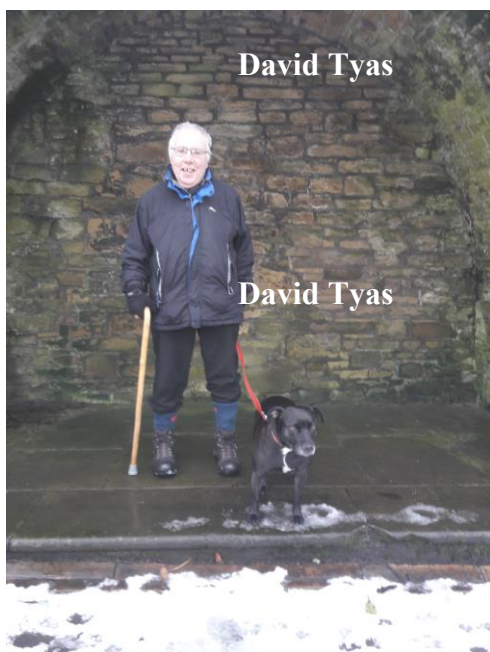


## **MEN'S GROUP**

Our group sessions finally started in August but on a bittersweet note as it also meant saying goodbye to John and Kath Lines who have moved closer to family near Bury St Edmunds. The members wished them well and sent them on their way with a gift and a card thanking them for all their hard work and support over the years. We will hopefully be seeing them again in December for our Xmas meal.

September saw us say hello to a couple of new members Roy Benbow and David Taylor who seem to have fitted in wonderfully and added new layers of interest to the already rich tapestry of conversation. Roy is a keen radio ham and home brewer and David is a former barrister so we look forward to many interesting anecdotes in the future!

October included a trip to the Carding Shed where the men enjoyed a hearty meal before reminiscing over the display of vintage cars and other transport memorabilia. The only problem is that I was having such a good time eating and chatting that I completely forgot to take any pictures to record the event.



What a numpty but hopefully I will be more diligent on future outings! A special thank you must go to Peter, our driver from Denby Dale Community Transport for getting us there and back safely.

Sadly October also saw us lose one of our group, David Tyas who had been with us for the last 5 years and will be missed by all. I attended his funeral along with Damian, John and Kath on behalf of F2F and it was gratifying to see a good turnout of people showing how David had touched



positively on so many lives. I will particularly miss David as we had been walking most weeks during lockdown followed by a lunch and a chat. My dog, Evie will miss David or the 'sausage man' as he became known for his habit of sharing his usual sausage sandwich with Evie.

Thoughts are now turning towards Xmas and the New Year and hopefully being able to plan for a full year of groups with lots of fun, friendship, health and happiness for everyone.

John Mcfarlane

## **MARSDEN GROUP**

This is a photo of the Marsden Friend to Friend Christmas Remembrance Tree in Marsden Church. We put this tree up every year. We do have a framed poem with Friend to Friend on it placed in front but the photo was taken before I had put it out. We do vary the tree slightly each year.

Liz

