
Friend to Friend Newsletter Summer 2023



Our Marsden Group meet for the final time



On 22nd June our Marsden group held their final meeting, as lead volunteers Liz and Cynthia finally achieved their long-held desire to step down. Sisters Liz and Cynthia have led the Marsden group single-handedly for around 15 years, keeping in touch with their members throughout the Covid lockdown as well as during individual illnesses, despite themselves having tough times on occasion, and having expressed their desire to step down from leading the group over 5 years ago! They have proved themselves to be truly dedicated to their group, but we are so glad they put their foot (feet?!) down finally to close this chapter of their lives and move on to the next.

Charity Trustees Val, Damian and David accompanied Meltham's Lead Volunteer and friend Jenny to



interrupt the Marsden group's final session with a presentation of flowers and restaurant vouchers for Liz and Cynthia.

While the Marsden group has now disbanded, Val and Jenny took time to explain to the members about our other groups in Meltham, Holmfirth and Honley. This seemed to be well received by several of the ladies, who do seem already very well-served by other social groups and events in Marsden. We wish all our Marsden members well for their future beyond Friend to Friend, and lots of love and our wholehearted thanks go to Liz and Cynthia for all their time and care given so generously over all those years.



Meltham Group News

The February session of our Meltham Meal played host to Dominic and his "Pheasant Pluckers", Shelley Over 60s music group. Their jokes and humorous introductions all added to the enjoyment and we hope they will be back next year.

March saw the group take a day trip by coach to Wetherby Whaler for a fabulous lunch of fish and chips. Jenny's report is below.

In April, the group were joined by local sea shanty singing group "Ship to Shore", pictured below. We all love the fact that they sing traditional sea shanties so well yet live about as far away from the sea as is possible!



Interestingly, they also explain the background to each song including one modern number, written to highlight how much Grimsby has changed from its heyday as a fishing port. The theme through many shanties involved the 'demon drink'.

Our Meltham Group's Grand Day Out

33 members & volunteers at Meltham Meal had a great lunch on Friday 3rd March at Wetherby Whaler. Everyone enjoyed the lunch out.

Thanks to the staff at the restaurant who made us all very welcome & to Ian from Ross Travel who did a great job making the coach accessible to everyone.

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped on the day.



Meltham Coffee Morning success

Our latest Friend to Friend Coffee Morning on July 1st was well attended by the people of Meltham. The cake & tombola stalls sold out!!!!

A big THANK YOU from Jenny to all the volunteers who helped on the day.



Flautist Simeon Wood joined us in May. He played various tunes on panpipes, his flute and even a walking stick! He is another guest we will add to our repeat visit list!

Local lad Tim Szoradi came along in June once again with a programme of music we could remember and join in with.

We have been joined over recent months by several new members and we hope they will enjoy coming along each month.

At last the weather warmed up for our July Meltham Meal on the 7th. Our lunch was Ham Salad with New Potatoes & all the trimmings. Dessert was fresh fruit salad & cream. Thanks to Heidi at Simply Splendid. We had 6 prizes on the tombola & marmalade was available to buy. Our entertainment was

Graham & James from Meltham Fire Station. The West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service offer a FREE home fire safety advice. You can arrange a visit by calling 08005874536. A BIG THANK YOU goes to all the volunteers on the day.

Jenny

Holmfirth Group News

We have been joined in recent months by quite a few new members, both at Zumba and our Friday sessions. Welcome to Pauline G, Jean E, Elizabeth, Mary M, Doreen M, Barbara T and Margaret T. We are also in touch with long-serving members Dorrien, Olive, Phyllis and Muriel who have not attended for a while but are often spoken of and are always thought of so fondly.

Each month in Holmfirth we run 2 Zumba sessions, one 'Big Meal' (hot 2 course lunch) and one light lunch gathering with a speaker or similar.



March saw us joined by Jeff Jacklin, sharing video clips, anecdotes and images of all things "Yorkshire". Touching, funny & interesting, we are sure to have him back at some point.

In May we celebrated the coronation of King Charles III together with excellent food put together by our fabulous team of volunteers and entertainment by Dom Beresford and friends. What a shame we only found all the Union Flag table decorations Louise had bought after the event! (Never mind, at some point we can trim up again when it is the Coronation of King William!)



In June we welcomed Rod and Pam from the Yorkshire Dialect Society, who led us through their collection of facts, anecdotes and songs linked to Yorkshire dialect.

July is always tricky for us, as our hall is not available due to the Holmfirth Art Week. This year we thought we'd have a change and we booked into Philomena Foggs at Thongsbridge for afternoon tea. What a lovely change it made. 50 of us; members, volunteers and drivers, were served with a selection of sweet and savoury nibbles and bottomless pots of tea and glasses of iced water.



Our Men's Group

The Men's Group continues to thrive on its usual diet of pie & peas, dominoes and friendly chat interspersed with the occasional trip out. April saw 12 of us heading to Brooklands Cafe in Holmfirth for a delicious lunch and a sunny walk around the grounds which was very enjoyable. A planned barge trip had to be cancelled due to low numbers, but we will have other outings later in the year when hopefully everyone will be in good health and back from their holidays!

Our best wishes go to John Manning and his family for his recovery; John A for his rehab after a knee op; David T after a couple of hospital stays; Sid G for good health so he reaches his 100th in January and to the rest of our members for good health and happiness.

Thanks also go to Damian for his expert shopping and food preparation when our usual caterers were away on holiday. The men really enjoyed the ham salad followed by apple pie and custard. I think the desperate cries for trifle were made in jest!

Our Netherton Group

The group has had a busy start to the year, starting in February with a talk from Rachel Purdy, a medical herbalist, who introduced us to the benefits of nettles, brambles and sundry other foraged herbs and plants, very tasty they were too! We then had David Cockman on life after Covid which was funnier than it sounds!



A planned March trip to Philomena Foggs had to be moved because of the snow (it's hard to remember given the sunny weather recently!) We finally got there in May and had a lovely time with excellent food.

May also saw a visit from Jeff Jacklin to talk about life in the NHS which again despite some hard-hitting statistics was very funny with some great clips from comedy greats such as Tony Hancock.

In June we had a tranquil and sunny trip on a barge with the excellent Safe Anchor Trust which included a delicious packed lunch from Sons of The North. It was gratifying to hear the positive comments from everyone who attended, which made all the planning worthwhile!

Rachel made a return visit in June to give us more interesting information on the medicinal properties of plants available in summer and again a chance to sample her infusions!

Sadly, we had to say goodbye to Mabel B and June H this year although both had a lovely and well attended send off. The volunteer element of our group has also been impacted with Friend to Friend stalwart Kath B requiring an operation and now facing months of therapy before hopefully she can return

to the fold. I and the other volunteers and members wish her a speedy recovery so she can come back and boss us about again!

To finish on a positive note, my thanks go to Damian H, Dave G, Sarah H and Karen B who have all helped with transport this year. Your involvement has been much appreciated by me and the members.

Regards until the next time.

John

Trustee news

In the last couple of years, we have had a full change of Trustees. Most recently, Val Hutchinson, who has served as Trustee, Treasurer and lead Volunteer for Friend to Friend for more years than she would like to count, decided it was time to step away.

Val has been immensely supportive and helpful to new Trustees Gillian and Louise (Holmfirth group), Damian (Men's Group, Meltham and Netherton) and David (David's mum used to attend F2F and he also has a wealth of relevant professional experience). Val, who has overseen our charity largely single-handed in recent times, has been so generous with her time and expertise to help us take on our new roles with more knowledge and confidence than would have been the case without her, and we are hugely grateful to her for all her commitment over the years to the smooth running of Friend to Friend.



David, Damian, Louise and Gillian will continue to oversee our charity as its Trustees, submitting official documents when required, keeping a check on our finances and other requirements and supporting the other lead volunteers with anything they need for the smooth-running of our groups. We will persuade them each to do a little autobiography for our next newsletter!

Friend to Friend Contact Details

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**You can find up to date information about us on Facebook and our website
www.friendtofriend.org.uk**



Our groups

You are most welcome as members of our charity to attend any of these:

<u>Group & Details</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Times</u>	<u>Location</u>
<u>Honley</u> – Listen to a speaker or play table games, hot drinks & biscuits served, comfy chairs to sit & chat! About 10 members.	3 rd Thurs	1:30 - 3:30	Trinity Court
<u>Zumba</u> - Gentle exercise to music. Most do this seated. Hot drink & chat. Around 20 members.	2 nd & 4 th Thursday	1:30 - 3	Holmfirth Methodist Hall
<u>Holmfirth Lunch Club</u> – Listen to a speaker or other entertainment, soup & sandwich lunch, quiz sheet or similar, hot & cold drinks & chat. About 30 members.	1 st Friday	11 - 2	Holmfirth Methodist Hall
<u>Holmfirth Big Meal</u> - Hot 2 course lunch. Quiz sheet or similar, hot & cold drinks & chat. Free raffle. About 30 members.	3 rd Friday	11:45 - 2	Holmfirth Methodist Hall
<u>Meltham Meal</u> - Hot 2 course lunch, speaker, hot & cold drinks & chat. About 40 members.	1 st Friday	11:30 - 2	Meltham Methodist Hall
<u>Tai Chi</u> - Gentle exercise. Can be seated. Chat & hot drink. Around 15 members.	2 nd & 4 th Friday	2 - 3	Meltham Methodist Hall
<u>Men's Group</u> – Hot lunch & drinks, licenced bar, chat, table games. Around 8 members.	1 st & 3 rd Tuesday	12 - 2	Meltham Sports & Community Centre.
<u>Netherton</u> – Chat, speaker, entertainment or craft activities, drinks & lunch. Around 8 members.	2 nd & 4 th Friday	12 – 2:30	North Light Gallery, Armitage Bridge.