

31st July 2024

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1. Our organization is in rude good health. This is due to the hard work and contribution of a number of people, our volunteers, our users, our trustees, our unpaid events manager Penny Leigh, our technical support Charlie Coke-Smyth and our reviewing accountant Mr Meech.
2. I leave matters of finance to our very able treasurer Richard Knox but I can say without him we may well not be as well placed as we are.
3. This year, the minibus: the principal asset of Age Concern Liphook: has been made available for use by the Day Centre on three days a week but as you will see from Penny's report it has also been used by us to bring and return users of the Cuppa Club, for a regular programme of outings and for use by residents of the Parish. As we have a wheelchair capability it can take wheelchair users and their friends and family out particularly at weekends for a change of scene and a social outing. We hope to expand that use. What we could do with are a few more people prepared to drive the minibus say once or twice a month.
4. People who came last year will be aware that we trialled our new website. Thanks to Charlie this has been a great success and now has the programme of our events, and more importantly details of issues such as housing adaptation assistance, telephone support and contact with useful organizations clearly sign posted. Charlie ran a number of computer support classes and now meets people with user issues in the Cinema and helps them become more confident computer users. Alongside helping us he is taking an MA in London and an art course in Chichester.
5. We held a Christmas lunch last December, some 29 users came along to the Premier Inn at Petersfield so with trustees, helpers and drivers we filled the place. The only complaint was that portions were too large. The food was delicious and the service was just right.
6. This year for the picnic on the green in May; we offered lunch to our volunteers and users and ended up providing lunch and some liquid refreshment to about 20 people. Richard, Sue, Kay and volunteer Kevin erected

the awning kindly lent to us by the Day Centre and after one windy escape and some help from the River Wey Trust it was safely secured. We ran a small sideshow of Guess the Sweets in the jar to attract younger visitors. This was won by the first contestant. With donations of everything from the awning to the furniture from the Church centre, the food and a lovely cake the day cost us nothing and we received a few donations. Gill Sneddon let us use the kitchen in the Millennium Centre to wash up, most equipment, plates and cutlery was hired from the Library of Things in London.

7. Like all organizations we have to ensure our systems of governance are up to date and meet the needs of the organization and our objectives. Having consulted with Age Concern in Petersfield and other resources we will be asking our members to consider a change to our constitution which Richard will tell you about in a little while.
8. August is a very difficult month to ask members and others to come to a meeting so the last change we have decided to make is to move our AGM forward so next year it will be held at the beginning of July.
9. Our concern is to provide services that local people need; the social prescribers attached to the local surgery identified loneliness as the biggest unmet need in the area. We have set out a programme of trying to meet this need by providing activities for the elderly and a befriending service. This needs volunteers who can give anything from a monthly phone call to a visit to perhaps taking an elderly person out for tea. Volunteers need to be DBS checked. We could do with some help in this direction so if you have a small window of time please think about joining us. Remember in years to come you may be in the very same position to need a friendly contact.
10. Put the 21st October in your diaries. Penny is organizing a cream tea in the Millennium Centre for a very modest cost of £3 a head. Come along and eat scones jam and cream, sandwiches and a selection of cakes. Just remember we have Bill Graham a great cake maker as a volunteer and his offerings are delicious. If you miss that one, all members and non-members are very welcome at the Christmas lunch in December so look on our website for details of that event in the next month or so.
11. So, all this is achieved by volunteers especially Penny. All donations given to us are used to provide services but we feel that with the growth of our activities we feel we may be approaching the point where we need a co-ordinator to help us to achieve our objectives which is to expand and enrich the lives of all seniors living in the Parish.

Susan Garnett
Chairman