

APRIL 2016



Dear Friends

We here we are already a quarter of the way through the year and spring is upon us. The last couple of months seem to have flown by and I wonder where.

I can report that we now have a new trailer for the Christmas float and work will begin asap to get it ready for this year's Christmas collections.



The annual general meeting took place on 6<sup>th</sup> January with a number of changes to the Ipswich Mencap committee. Our treasurer for 25 years Brian England decided to step down from his role. We would like to thank Brian for the fantastic job he has done over the years and also to his wife Kate for her help. I am sure they know the door is open should they wish to return.

Sue Prentice will now be doing the treasurers role and Tony Houghton will now become Vice chair. The rest of the committee remain the same.



Sadly the Olly Murs tribute night booked for 21<sup>st</sup> May will not now go ahead. There was a distinct lack of interest and no tickets sold so we took the decision to cancel it rather than loose a large sum of money.

This is the second event we have tried and failed so I am not really sure what is required to enable us to raise awareness. If anyone has any suggestions then please do speak to us we are open to ideas.

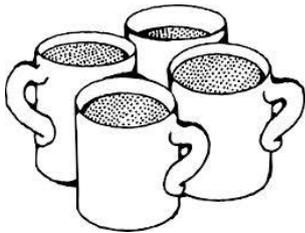


Our regular car boot sales started again on 27<sup>th</sup> March. It was reasonably slow to start but hopefully will pick up during the year. At present there is no need to book pitches, just turn up at 11am to set up and pay on the gate. £5 car £7.50 van/trailer.



The Easter party went well however there was little response until I rang around to find out who was coming and then we had over 100.

A big thank you to all the committee and helpers who helped on the day and Daniel for doing the disco but more importantly to Kesgrave Social Club staff who kindly allowed us to use the hall. Special thanks to Karen and her parents for doing the cooking and endless washing up.



The coffee mornings at Burgess House seem to be a bit more popular this year with some new faces coming along. This is a social event so do come along and say hi! We would be pleased to see you. We have cakes available and also some small items to sell if you are interested. The next one is 3<sup>rd</sup> May 10.30 am



The girls will be out in force again this year for the Needham Market raft race on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June. Why not come along and show them your support. Come and join us for tea under the trees by the side of the lake. Or why not sponsor the girls you never know they might just end up in the water again. Send your donations or sponsorship to Amanda at Burgess House or donate on our web page using Pay Pal and please remember to gift aid it.



Some of the rooms at Burgess House have again been decorated to tone them down a bit. Although they all looked lovely some were very 'loud' and not suitable for people on the autistic spectrum but now they are more subtle with just a neutral colour which has a great calming effect. Thank you to Al's decorating service for doing a great job



We have decided to hold a summer fair again this year. This will be held in the garden at Burgess House on 24<sup>th</sup> July and 2 – 5pm. There will be a variety of stalls as well as charity stalls so if you are interested then please do give me a call. Stalls will be £5 (pre-booked) and a donation to the raffle.

There is no parking on site except blue badge holders. You can come in to unload but all vehicles must be parked opposite in the surgery car park which will enable us access for emergency vehicles.

Let's pray for good weather this year and make it a successful day.



This year the darts league are contributing to having the Guttering, soffits & bargeboards done at Burgess House. Some parts some of it is not bad but other bits are really rotten. Having checked it out we decided it would be cheaper in the long run and far less maintenance.

The work is planned for May when the men will come in a put up scaffolding around the main building. Hopefully it won't take too long and will be a good job done.



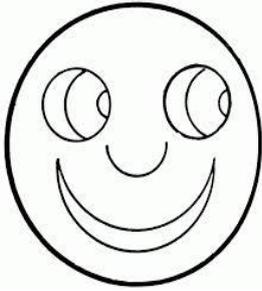
We have come to the end of another season and all the accounts have been closed down now. The new season begins on 4<sup>th</sup> April. The league has remain fairly steady and there has been a slight increase in collections.

A huge thank you to all the teams/players for their Continued support without whom we couldn't do the many projects we do.

We would also like to thank Graham Scott from the Selkirk public House for his support and to wish him luck in his retirement.

I have not yet met the new landlord but I hope to soon because we understand that he is very keen to continue supporting us.

## TWO M'S



The Two M's club seems to be going from strength to strength with a lot of new faces the last few weeks. We always try to do what we can to make the evening as enjoyable as possible but it is not always easy trying to encourage people to participate. We have regular music with Maria, Singalong Karaoke, Frantic theatre and Elatus sports come in as well as cooking and other activities. We are always looking for something new so why not come up with some ideas yourself we are ready to listen and give anything a try.

There is no age level to the group but we do ask that anyone under 16 be supported by a parent/carer for health & safety reasons.



No doubt you have all heard about the proposed changes to benefits and how they will affect us. Despite the rethink on some of them for the moment none of us will escape they will find a way to make the cuts happen with no thought for anyone.

If you are worried or struggling then please let us know so that we can campaign together with National Mencap to ensure that our siblings get the best life can offer. Contact me so I can pass your views/concerns on to the appropriate people



Please remember the Rotary club BBQ 6pm Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June at Rushmere Hub. Everyone is welcome to come along. Please fill in the enclosed slip to let us know if you will be attending so I can let the Rotary club know how many to cater for. There will be a raffle on the night and some entertainment.

Well I think that's all folks for now. I look forward to seeing you at some of our events. A list is enclosed for you use or to pass around as you think.

Kind Regards

*Barbara*

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