

DECEMBER 2017



Dear Friends.

With summer out of the way and Christmas almost upon I guess everyone is busy with preparations. The months just seem to roll into one once the summer is passed and the clock change.



We ourselves are busy preparing to do collections with the float. Volunteers are very few on the ground so it is going to be a difficult three weeks I think.

It is important that this keeps going because it raises a considerable amount of money for the society which in turn offers support and respite to families. It is also part of the history of Ipswich Mencap.

If anyone can spare an hour to join us it would be great, so much enjoyment and meeting so many lovely kind people. It also adds to the spirit of Christmas I am sure when people know we are out and about.



In October we were saddened to learn of the death of Malcolm Crane. Malcolm had been a member for many years and will always be remembered for the person buying the most raffle tickets at our events. Bless him he would spend a fortune just so he could win prizes for his family.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this difficult time.

We also said goodbye to Rita Greaves. Rita was a regular at Burgess House so was very well known to many. She always enjoyed staying in her 'jarmies' (pyjamas), feeding the birds and the regular coffee mornings. She had a lovely infectious giggle. Sadly Rita passed away after a very short illness which was a shock to us all.

Our thoughts and prayers are with her sister Jean and all her family.

More recently we have learned of the passing of Edith Allen on 24th November. Edith was one of the very early members of Ipswich Mencap & Ipswich Mencap darts league.

She was well known along with her husband Bill for running the John Bull pub on Woodbridge Road. She was a lady with determination and very forceful in getting the right support for people with learning disabilities.

Our thoughts and prayers are with her family at this difficult time



As in previous newsletters you may all be aware we have been in talks with Leading Lives and Suffolk County Council to secure the respite care service at Burgess House and The Bungalow. These talks are continuing and nothing has yet been agreed.

With all the new framework arrangements with SCC we need to make sure we get it right so we can protect what we have. Once things have been agreed a meeting of members/public will be called to bring you up to scratch.



During the recent re-structure at Leading Lives some of the managers were offered redundancy and accepted. We are saddened to say goodbye to them but especially Rob Illingworth, Tracy Markwell and Milly Gaskin with whom we have worked closely with and have been a great support to Ipswich Mencap over many years. We wish all of them good luck in whatever they choose to do here on but thank them for their valuable support and hope our paths will cross again in the future.



We welcome Tony Stanway new team leader at Burgess House and and Hannah Adams the new operations manager. I am sure we will continue to have good working relationship with both of them.



The garage sales this year were extremely successful and certainly much better than doing the car boots as every penny has been profit and not paid out in site fees. We have met some lovely people and have our regulars come in for a chat.

They have finished now for this year but will start again in March.

Thank you for all your donations they are very much appreciated and a great help with raising funds.



Don't forget to continue saving your used postage stamps and foreign coins as these raise money for the society. We get paid by weight so it soon mounts up. They can be popped into the letterbox on the garage at Burgess House or to me at 189 Highfield Road.

PLEASE NOTE WE ARE NO LONGER COLLECTING BOTTLE TOPS.



Remember also to register for GIVE AS YOU LIVE and donate to your favourite charity every time you spend. It's so simple to do. Once registered you just click on 'shop & raise'. All of your favourite shops are on site Ebay, Amazon, Next, Argos, Tesco, Sainsburys, Asda and many more. Click on their logo and shop. Your visit will be recorded and a percentage of your spend will go to the charity of your choice. It's a great way to donate to good causes if you regularly shop on line.



Some of you may be interested in a new organisation which has been set up and so I have included with this newsletter details of this and the contact details are included.



We held a good presentation night for darts at Kesgrave Social Club on 17th November with a reasonable turn out of teams. This is always a stressful but enjoyable evening. This year we presented long service awards to Rita Wheeler, Sandie May, Sandie Skeet and Pat Dee. All have been with the darts since it began so very well deserved. Thank you to Kesgrave Social Club and Staff for their continued support which is very much appreciated.



The Christmas Fayre held on 26th November was very successful. There was a variety of Christmas gifts and decorations available. I know a lot of effort went into organising it. Thank you to the Norbridge club for allowing us to use the hall for the event.

Thank you also to Keith, Diane, Carl Brett their family and Jean Southgate for all the hard work on the day and for organising it all.



The AGM was held on 29th November at Rushmere Hub with a reasonable turn out of people. The accounts were audited once again by Ensors and there were no issues.

The committee was voted in and remains the same.

We welcomed John Stevens, Steve Doshier and Rachal Waters to the committee.

Issues were raised regarding the new contract with Leading Lives but were unresolved because no decisions have yet been taken.

Well this is quite a long newsletter with so much going on. If you see us out with the float do come and say hello.

All that remains now is for me to wish each and every one a truly Happy Christmas and a very prosperous New Year.

Barbara x