

February 2019



Dear Friends

I begin with a very belated Happy New Year to you all. Christmas seems a lifetime ago now and we all manage to get quickly back into normal daytime routines.



Our collections at Christmas were very disappointing compared to previous years however we still managed to make a reasonable amount.

It was very hard going and I struggled due to having pneumonia, the lack of support and most of the time only being just two of us.

We have dates already booked for 2019 but I definitely will not be doing it unless we do get some more help. It will be such a shame if it does not go ahead because that funding will be lost.

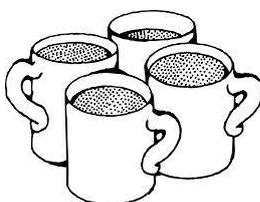


At the end of 2018 we said goodbye to a very dear friend Marie Birch. Marie has supported Ipswich Mencap through various raffles etc. and will be greatly missed. A letter of condolence was sent to her family.

Our regular garage sales will begin again at the end of March so spread the word. We don't raise vast amounts of money but it is good PR and we get to meet some lovely people.



If anyone has items to donate please contact me on the numbers at the end of the newsletter. We can no longer take large items of furniture just small manageable bits, items of clothing, bed linen, books and bric a brac basically anything which we can sell to raise money.



Coffee morning also began again in January. These happen once a month so if you are interested in coming along then please do so you would be very welcome. Apart from tea/coffee and cakes there is a raffle and small items to sell.



On 4th May 11-3pm we will be holding our annual garden sale. There will be a selection of pots, garden equipment and plants available so if you are interested do come along and support it.

If anyone has any garden tools plants they would like to donate please contact us.



On 7th July 4 – 7pm Ipswich Mencap have decided to hold a BBQ at Burgess House. There will be live music. If you are interested it will be ticket only. **Tickets are £5** and will be available from a committee member or Burgess House. Please purchase your tickets at least **TWO** weeks prior to the event so we have an idea of numbers to cater for. Any late requests will not be considered because of catering.



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On 28th September we will be holding a fund raising night at Kesgrave Social Club with a live band. This is 7pm – late. It will be ticket only which are **£10 each** and available from Barbara or the club. A raffle will be held on the night so if anyone would like to donate a prize towards this we would be pleased. There will be food on sale at the club on the night. Please do support us.

In a previous newsletter I actually put that Ipswich Mencap is in its 48th year but that was my mistake it should have 58th year.



In September 2020 we will be celebrating 60 years as a charity and the event will be marked with a ball at Venue 77 Arrangements for this are in hand and details will be given out later. This will also be ticket only so if you interested then watch out for the details in a later newsletter.



I wonder if there is someone out there who is prepared to do a sponsored event, challenge or something spectacular to help us mark the year. If there is please get in touch and we will help anyway we can.

Not many local charities can boast they have reached the grand old age of 60 so let us mark this in style. We need your help to do this so put your thinking caps on



It seems crazy we are also thinking about Christmas when it has only just passed but these things need to be book and organised in advance.

There will be two Christmas Fayre this year. The first will be at The Norbridge social club on 24th November 12-3pm and the second on 30th November at Rushmere Hub. Stalls will be available for the one at the hub so if you are interested please give us a call.

TWO M'S CLUB



I have recently raised concerns with the committee regarding the TWO M's club which seems to have gone downhill very quickly. Our numbers seem to be constantly dropping and I do not know why. As much as we try people just don't want to support it but constantly moans there is little or nothing out there.

I have run the club now for around ten years and did it because there was little available at the time. I would be sad to see it go but it's getting ever more difficult to run with so few people, we are paying out more than we are getting in so has become quite a drain on the charity. I feel I am wasting my time and energy turning out each week but I do it because we have a few who have stuck by us and enjoy the laid back atmosphere.

I say it every time support it or lose it because that's what will happen.



I have added a full list of dates and times so do come along and support us. If you have any questions or suggestions please do contact me and I will do my best to answer them.

Tickets for the BBQ are available now as are the tickets for the September fund raiser. The ball tickets will be available in January 2020

Finally I would like to say a massive thank you to Mo Dickings for doing a sponsored wing walk. Mo raised over £600 and is certainly braver than I am.



Mo also nominated us for a donation from Suffolk Hospital Band which she is a member.

During the Christmas period the band played at various events and raised £3116.18 for Ipswich Mencap.

The cheque was presented by Maggie Porter and the band at a rehearsal evening at St Peters church.

It was lovely to meet people and listen to the band play.

I think and hope I have covered everything in this newsletter but as always I ask if you have anything to add then do let me know.

The next newsletter will be May so don't forget to check out the events.

With it set to get colder I say wrap up well, stay warm and stay safe if driving.

Best Wishes

Barbara