

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER - JUNE 2010 - NO. 104

On 10th May we held our AGM which was very well attended and I attach a copy of my report. You will probably not be surprised to learn that the following appointments are as follows: - Chair - Sue Cheshire, Secretary - Barbara Neale, and Treasurer - Mike Bedward. As I have said before, Fellowship will be changing slightly in the future and further details will be given at a later date. Please do not think it will affect our meetings - we will continue as usual but there will be a few formal changes.

The AGM was followed by a most interesting presentation by Ian Carnell and his 'ladies' on the work that is being carried out by EducAid Africa which is a Solihull based charity supporting around 50 students in secondary schools in Kenya. In addition, money is sent to three nursery schools to support children where AIDS orphans can begin their education. We were so touched by a short film of the children's response to this help that an impromptu collection raised £115 and we are now the proud possessors of a Certificate of Participation. Long may this excellent work continue.

As you all know, Fellowship supports the County wherever and whenever called upon and we have recently supplied catering and help with serving refreshments at Blythe's 'Gang Show in a Day'. It was most successful and much appreciated. My personal thanks go to Dick for providing equipment and food, Elaine for her cooking skills and to Mick, Kath & John, Marion, Pat and Barry who were all so supportive with their time and assistance. Not least, my thanks to my husband (I sound like the Queen!) John who is always there to encourage and spur me on and is an absolute gem when it comes to washing up!

Dave informed us of the sad passing of June Smith who was at one time a member of Fellowship together with her husband Peter. Our condolences to the family.

On an equally sad note, you will probably have heard of the sudden and tragic death of Christine Milne who was connected with Triton some years ago and also 2nd Olton. Her funeral is to take place at Yardley Crematorium on Monday, 14th June at 2.30 pm.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Monday, 12th July

No meeting at County HQ as there is a trip to Hall Green Little Theatre to see 'Move over Mrs Markham'. We will meet at the Theatre at 7.00 pm.

Monday, 13th September

Alan Winterburn will be returning with Part 2 of his presentation of 'Little Known Warwickshire'.

Monday, 8th November

An ever popular evening of entertainment followed by a fish and chip supper. Details to follow.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING - MONDAY, 12th JULY AT 7.00 PM. AT THE THEATRE. SEE ABOVE.

FELLOWSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2010

I can hardly believe a year has gone by since Betty stood down as Chair and I took on the role. I was extremely honoured to have been asked but at the same time very nervous at the daunting task of following in Betty's footsteps as she has done sterling work over so many years and is an extremely hard act to follow! However, I have enjoyed the 'job' very much and we seem to have had another most successful year and happily increased our numbers.

Whilst continuing in a relaxed atmosphere and enjoying speakers on a wide variety of topics, we must not lose sight of our prime objective which is to support both County and the two Districts. Our members have a wealth of experience and I know I can count on your support whenever help is required and I thank you all for your willingness and co-operation.

Barbara, as always, manages to find speakers covering a whole range of interesting topics - we have learned about aeronautical navigation, the role of a Pharmacist, the work of 'Samaritan's Purse', a singsong with a group who mime and sign to music, the work of 'Drip' in Uganda and entered the world of musicals. As usual, something to suit everyone.

Sadly we have lost two members - Ron Armstrong in August 2009 and John Mason in February of this year. However, we have also gained a few new members which is excellent news and we hope we can continue to attract new members.

We celebrated Betty's 90th birthday last June when her family had an 'open house' for her many friends. Our annual Carol Service was held at Olton URC and we were able to send a donation to Edward's Trust. In March we enjoyed Beer & Skittles at the Home Guard Club followed by an excellent meal. This again is an annual event and one which is most popular evening.

As I said earlier, we are a very happy and informal group who are always available to give support when required. In November last year a Support Day was held to advise us of HQ's decision to change our name from Fellowship to 'Scout Active Support- Hence we shall become the SAS! I do not envisage that it will bring about a great change but at the moment do not know the full implications and wait to receive more information. We were requested by Blythe District to take on the task of feeding over 100 at their 'Cub Gang Show in a Day' on May 8th and we were delighted to have been able to do so - my thanks to all who offered their services.

Finally, my grateful thanks to both Barbara for her excellent role as Secretary and Mike for his work as Treasurer - neither of whom we could do without. I must also mention Dal who always ensures we have a warm room in which to meet!

Thank you again to everyone for your continued support and commitment to Scouting and I am sure we will have another successful year ahead.

Sue Cheshire - Fellowship Chair