

Horspath Friends Catch Up Meeting

Wednesday 30th November 2011

Everyone was thanked for coming and a thank you to all those who have attended and helped to organise events throughout the year. Photos were shown of events that have taken place and discussion about their success.

The cake decorating classes are still taking place on a Monday and on Tuesday evenings, short mat bowling is proving popular, walks are happening once a month on a Sunday the fact that these are no longer very local to Horspath and a car is required to reach the start of a walk was a disappointment to some members while others agreed that it did expand walking areas for others. Peter who leads the walks said that most people in Horspath could easily walk through Shotover or indeed to the local villages without his help but it was agreed that some of the walks could be in and around Horspath again and to continue with out of village walks as well. The workshops for singing arranged by Barbara Walton were a huge success, but because of the cost and no guarantee to cover this it is hoped that a leader could be found to make these events more regular so that numbers could be guaranteed.

Information about activities and events is best gained from having emails sent (see Sheila to make sure you are on the list,) looking at the Horspath website which is kept up-to-date very efficiently or having the St.Giles Church magazine delivered or bought each month from the shop or church. Also look out for posters on the village notice board, in the village hall and on the church notice board.

The meeting was then opened to the floor for ideas and discussion about future events. So far there are planned Christmas events, Carol Service with a choir on Sunday 18th December at 3.00pm. All singers are welcome to join the choir practices in church at 7.00pm on 7th and 14th December. Carols around the tree on the green is to take place on Wednesday 21st December beginning at 6.30pm. A further talk and film show about 'Old Horspath' to take place in the Manor House during early spring. another Easter Egg hunt is planned and then discussions took place about Jubilee celebrations and Open Gardens as the dates are rather close. Most people at the meeting are in favour of some form of village activity for the Jubilee but what when and how is still a big question. Involvement of other village groups (school, parish council) will be essential. At this point Charles Gurden who has headed the events group for the previous year and achieved a tremendous amount, announced that he was stepping down and that the group had also waned, so new blood was needed. By the end of the evening three more had volunteered and it is hoped that more will attend the inaugural meeting on January 25th 2012 at Barbara Walton's 7.30pm.

The rest of the evening brought up discussion about the possibility of making Horspath a sustainable community, and the fact that we now have a thriving allotment association, a busy conservation area was a start, but some of these ideas about informing the residents about insulation etc. would need discussion at the Parish Council. Litter picking around the roads leading into the village became an important topic and it is hoped that a group will be established to further this.

The idea of recording life in Horspath through the last century could be a very important part of Horspath's history and a way of researching this is something to be thought

about. The possibility of another Quiz is certainly on the cards for spring and perhaps a monthly coffee morning held in the chapel is also to be acted upon.

Questions were asked about the chapel and the post office, but these are now parish council matters and the Minutes from these meetings are very informative as is attendance on the first Tuesday of every month in the Morgan room.

Our Neighbourhood Watch representative informed the group that it is very active in the village and it is important that everyone remains vigilant as this really helps to make the village a more secure and safe village to live in. It is very important to report incidences to enable the police to record patterns of unwanted occurrences along with other localities. After these interesting discussions the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Sheila Frankum