

LONG EATON 50 PLUS FORUM

NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2015 ISSUE

Editor Ian Neill

10TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL SOUVENIR EDITION

Website www.lead50plus.com



CHAIR'S REPORT

What a great celebration event we had in September at our last Open Forum. We could look back over our 10 year journey from humble beginnings in 2005 to the vibrant and thriving community we enjoy today. We even made it into the Long Eaton Chronicle. The story of the journey is given later in this newsletter. There are also some great pictures on the news page of our website if you get a minute to have a look!

Even better, far from feeling we've reached the end of the road, we can look forward to more of the same progress for the next 10 years.

My sincere thanks to you all for your support and to my marvellous committee and its officers, to Erewash Borough and Derbyshire County Councils and to Jo Marples, our Forum Support Officer.

See you in December!



CHAIR PETE WITH HIS YACHT NEXT MEETING

December 14TH 2015

10:15 TO 12:00 Noon

TOWN HALL LONG EATON

Speakers

Jim Stevenson Erewash Canal Association
Richard Windsor Pride in Erewash

Theme Environment

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Attendance 108

Raffle made £73.00 Thanks to Jenny and Marion who ran it and all those who contributed, both financially and prizes.

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THE NEWSLETTER ARE THOSE OF THE CONTRIBUTORS AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE FORUM

LEAD 50plus The First Ten Years!

The “Better Government for Older People Team”, Adult Social Services, Derbyshire County Council organised a development Meeting in February 2005 It was well attended with free lunches and discussion groups to talk about what’s wrong with Long Eaton. This was led by Jem Brown and Jo Marples. Age UK kindly donated £500 to help us get started

Our first Open Forum was held in September 2005 on topic of Crime and Fear of Crime. It was held in the evening to allow working members to attend.

Our second Open Forum was held in the morning in Dec 2005 and was much better attended. Cheryl Holland from Trent Barton came along and went on to help us with our Bus Shelter Campaign

In December 2006, Inspired by then committee member Jenny Bartlett, we invited the Regional Director of U3A and the Chair of Ashbourne U3A to propose the start of a U3A group in Long Eaton. A conference funded through Cllr Camm was held to launch the Support Group Project in April 2009 at Trent Lock Golf Club. Action Groups were set up and met monthly including partners. They then reported back to the Open Forum.

In 2006, Roy spotted an opportunity in the local library: 5 PC’s sitting idle during school hours. With the expert help of committee member, Ann Bennett, retired Boots IT staff member, and others, the forum ran 5-week Beginners Courses on Thursday afternoons from 1- 3 PM These were for forum members only . They incurred a small charge for the course booklet and covered the basics of a PC, e-mailing, surfing the web and poster/card design.

Later in August 2009, a second Library Opportunity came up for the use of same PCs , now on a Monday morning. This was taken up to provide free drop-in sessions. They became popular with a variety of activities and a chance to ask for help.

In 2009, the forum was represented on the Townscape Heritage Initiative steering group which invested over 2 million pounds of lottery

and other money in regeneration projects including Market Place redesign and 20 commercial properties. A heritage day was organised for forum members to help them appreciate the work being done
In June 2011, we held our first Lap-it-Up session. The need for laptop help at the library had outgrown the room available and pleasingly Erewash Borough Council had now grown very supportive of the forum and its work on digital engagement. They funded the hire of an excellent venue at Parklands Connexion for monthly sessions. The laptop sessions proved challenging for tutors with a variety of Operating Systems and some antiquated machines! We concentrated on using laptops for photos, social media, surfing etc. Further funding came from DCC Cllr Hosker’s Community Leadership Fund.

Over 400 copies of our Newsletter are printed and sent out to members and to our local library and to the Town Hall. Another 400 are sent out by email. Much gratitude to Ian Neill who took over the editing of this valuable document in 2009.

The newsletter reports on the speakers and discussions which took place at the Open Forum to help keep the 800+ members up to date even if they cannot attend the meetings.

Our website www.lead50plus is written in house and includes a diary, news and pages on coach trips and IT help.

Our members were enthusiastic about going on coach trips and so we have been organising 4 trips a year from 2009. These have been very popular and not too expensive. Thanks to Ian Neill again for all his hard graft getting these off the ground. Finally we have a Forum Astronomy Group started in 2012 and meets at Long Eaton School Observatory monthly during the winter.

Acknowledgements

Early advice to me from ex MP Liz Blackman “***work with not against organisations***” given in June 2006 on the terrace of the House of Parliament

Special thanks to Ian Marsden, the late Bill Camm, Roland Hosker, Dave Bramwell, Richard Windsor

Jo Marples, Forum Support Officer and of course our marvellous committee!

Speakers:

1st Speaker - .Pete Wearn Chair

Pete plans to make this summary of our first decade available on the website, and possibly also as a souvenir booklet for members; this booklet would have to be costed though

2nd Speaker: Jem Brown, Group Manager – Prevention, Adult Care, Derbyshire County Council

He went over the initial aims of the forum back in 2005 and explained how the original team had worked out of the box compared to how Adult Care was generally run; this had had an impact towards the forum's success – unfortunately our reins have now been tethered. He is so pleased the forum has gone on to do so much more and asked members to show their appreciation for the commitment of the management committee. Members were then asked to write down one word they felt described the forum and a suggestion for the future.

3rd Speaker: Inspector Katie Andrews, Derbyshire Constabulary and Nick Pitt, Safer Neighbourhood Sergeant

Katie introduced herself and her colleague Sgt Nick Pitt, the Safer Neighbourhood Sergeant for the area and continued to say that she has been the Section Inspector at Long Eaton for over 2 years now and has thoroughly enjoyed her time, in particular working with the community and having the opportunity to improve the area where she works, lives and socialises.

She informed the members that she will shortly be taking on the challenge of merging the Long Eaton and Ilkeston stations into an Erewash Team but asked the members to rest assured that there will continue to be a 24/7 presence in Long Eaton along with the local safer neighbourhood team.

There have been significant changes in policing in the last 10 years, many areas members will be

aware of, but due to the need to make financial savings, Derbyshire police has to change how they work, so that they work more efficiently and effectively.

As many members would have been aware, in 2005 the forum consulted with the local community asking them specific questions on crime and the fear of crime. The results of the survey were presented to the forum at their first meeting in September 2005. A report was completed summarising what had been learnt through this consultation which outlined the crime issues affecting older people in the local community.

The local police and crime prevention officers provided an update in regards to the crime figures in 2005 which showed that crime had fallen that year by a 1000 which took crime reports to just over 5000 for 2004/5 – to compare this to crime figures 10 years on, we had 2000 less crimes than that figure in 2014/15. Dwelling burglary has halved, as has non dwelling breaks, violent crime, theft from motor vehicles and criminal damage. Crime has changed over the years due to many reasons including technology and improvements in security. Our detection rates have continually improved in the last 10 years and you will be pleased to hear that crime continues to fall.

It was highlighted that there were currently 5 PCs and 3 PCSOs on the SNT – which does remain a similar figure to today, although their roles have changed.

Reporting methods for contacting the police were mainly via phone, however although this remains the main method, people are able to contact the police by a variety of methods including phone, e-mail, on line, twitter, Facebook. In regards to lighting, this has improved along with a fantastic new CCTV system in the town. The brilliant work between the police, the community safety partnership, the council, partners and you the community have assisted in seeing the improvements in the community. The fear of crime is certainly bigger than the risk of being a victim.

Between March and Sept 2014 the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner along with Derbyshire constabulary ran a number of events including one at Long Eaton town centre where face to face surveys were carried out with the community – in addition an online survey was available.

It was run by the OPCC, the police, our partners along with the support from the community. The surveys covered a number of areas including Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in the area, how effective the police are at dealing with ASB and crime, what the public's top priorities were: 3455 surveys were completed.

3/5th's agreed that the police and local council are dealing with ASB and crime issues that matter in their area

More than half felt that the level of crime and ASB in their area had stayed the same and a third thought it had decreased. Top 5 priorities were burglary, drug taking and supply, child abuse and exploitation and speeding. Crime has continued to fall, although it has changed over the years.

Some of the areas of change which affect the public directly include the introduction of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act in 2014 which gives the police new powers and tools to deal with ASB. We have secured a number of criminal behaviour orders at Long Eaton, for offenders of not only ASB but also shop theft. The act also gave the community options to seek remedies to ongoing problems.

Offending has changed over the years, due to not only technology, which has offered criminals new channels to offend but also improvements in security, both dwelling burglary is down as is car theft. The reasons: it is much harder now to commit these offences, there are much easier targets such as insecure vehicles and shop theft. These could often be resolved by the owner or store manager increasing their security measures (lock your car!)

A key change that affects us all has been the budgetary cuts, Derbyshire police have undergone an exercise called priority based budgeting, where every area of work has been looked at to see exactly what we do and to identify where cuts can be made along with improvements in performance. This continues to take place over the next 5 years so changes will be realised.

Many of you will have heard of restorative justice, which was introduced a number of years ago, you mentioned in your 2005 survey that you wanted to see better sentencing, this process allowed the victim in lower level crimes to have a say in the punishment of the suspect.

The Police have to make some significant savings and consequently changes to how we police, one of the decisions that has been made has been that Long Eaton and Ilkeston Stations will merge, realizing 1 Inspector and 8 Sgts rather than the current 2 Inspectors and 12 Sgts. The first stage of this will be taking place on the 1st of October, where Inspector Daines will be moving to Derby North section and I will be taking over both Long Eaton and Ilkeston. The reactive police officers will not be moving over to Ilkeston in the immediate future, therefore the public will not see any change in the response by the police. Long Eaton station has been earmarked for closure in 2018/19 so there is some time to work out how and where officers will be deployed from locally. Katie assured members that there will continue to be a SNT based in Long Eaton.

A further change locally has been the closing of the enquiry office at Long Eaton; this has come about not only due to the savings that are needed but an assessment of the use of the enquiry offices and the change in how people contact the police. We have to respond to change to ensure that we can provide the best service to the public.

Nick Pitt, the Safer Neighbourhood Sergeant explained that he has been at Long Eaton for several months, taking over from Liam Caldecott. He went on to speak about the Safer Neighbourhood Team, their roles along with their responsibilities along with some examples of their good work.

CHARITY ADS.

PARKLANDS STROKE CLUB

HAVE YOU OR SOMEBODY YOU KNOW HAD A STROKE

Why not come along to Parklands Stroke club.
We meet every second Friday, starting on the 7th
of November, from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Where? At Petersham Hall

Contact:- Pat on 0115 972 2389

LONG EATON AND DISTRICT FRIENDLY INVALID CLUB

Meets every second Tuesday of the month at
Sawley Memorial Hall.
Come along and join us
We run 3 coach trips per year
Pick up points are too numerous to mention but
there will be one near you,

Try something new – Volunteer at Calke Abbey



Have you ever wanted to travel back in time?
Do you want to use your personal skills to make
a difference within Europe's largest
conservation charity? Or just fancy trying
something new?

Calke Abbey – a gorgeous but faded early
eighteenth-century mansion in South Derbyshire,
is looking for volunteers. We would love Room
Guides to join our growing house team and help
to bring this fascinating place to life for people
of all ages.

If you love meeting people, having fun and
learning new things, this could be the role for
you!

Please get in touch - Call 01332 695344 or
email calkeabbey@nationaltrust.org.uk

We'd love to hear from you.

LONG EATON INDIAN ASSOCIATION

Meets every Monday (except bank holidays) from
12:00 until 3:00 PM
United Reformed Church, the Green, Long Eaton
Chair based exercise and social
£4.00 per month
All welcome

LONG EATON ALL MEDIA AND ARTS GROUP

Meets every Thursday evening from 7.00 PM
until 9:00 PM at Petersham Hall
Contact
All Welcome

PETERSHAM HALL

The fully refurbished hall is now running the
following clubs or meetings

SureStart Monday Morning
Flower Arranging Monday Evening
TVH Tuesday Club Tuesday Afternoon
Bingo Tuesday Evening
Social Line Dancing Wednesday Afternoon
Serious Line Dancing Wednesday Evening
Social Thursday afternoon
Art Club Thursday Evening
Stroke Cub Friday Afternoon
Private Function Friday Evening
For more information on these events
www.phca1969.org.uk
or phone Ian on 0115 972 6057

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

MARCH 11
SATURDAY 2 PM

AGE UK ARE PUTTING ON A CONCERT
AT PETERSHAM HALL

PRICE £2.00

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Photos from the celebration



Rowland Hosker presenting a cheque to Roy for our Tablet project



David Pinney with the Mayor and his great Raffle prize



The Entertainer

THE FOOD

The Forum would like to thank our caterers CRESSWELLS for the excellent food they put on for us. These are a few of the photos of the spread.



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TRAVEL CLUB NEWS

NEXT TRIP

The committee have decided that there will not be a trip based on the December meeting.

The March based trip will be announced later
Date 14TH April 2016

The June based one will be Whitby.

Date July 7TH 2016
Price £15.00

Could you advise at the December meeting if you would like to reserve a place on the Whitby trip so we can see if one or two coaches will be needed



THE BOAT



CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone :- 0115 972 6057

Email trips@ianconsult.co.uk

Post: 50 Plus

10 Pennine Close

Long Eaton

NG10 4JT

OCTOBER TRIP

GREENWICH VIA BOAT FROM TOWER PIER

DATE 1ST October

Can I firstly apologise to those who did not want to go on the boat. There was a misunderstanding with the drivers getting poor instructions.

We had a record number of members going on a trip. There were 90 who went on the boat and 13 almost going direct to Greenwich making a total of 103.

Some pictures from the trip



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LAP IT UP SESSIONS

Suspended due to lack of funding at present

BEGINNERS ASTRONOMY

This course at The long Eaton School has restarted over the autumn and winter months meeting monthly on Wednesday evenings from 7.30 to 9.30 PM in The Observatory. If you'd like to join us, drop Pete a line at petewearn@hotmail.com and he will get back.

CAN WE HELP YOU?

Are you having difficulty using your laptop, notepad, iPad, tablet or smartphone? or would you like to try one before buying?

Maybe we can help you at one of our IT "Buddy" sessions held every Monday afternoon during school term time at:

The DCC ACE (Adult Community Education) Centre, Community House, 173, Derby Road, Long Eaton, (Derbyshire), Nottingham, NG10 4LL. from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM the telephone number for Community House (0115-9732827) and their email address: communityhouse.ace@derbyshire.gov

Erewash (884) Branch,

Royal Air Forces Association, would like to invite any serving or ex-RAF & Fleet Air Arm personnel to their new "Comrades' Club" at the Erewash CVS Connexion Annex, Grasmere Road, Petersham Estate, Long Eaton, for a chat and hot drinks with branch members. Please contact the Hon Welfare Officer, Marion Robinson, (Tel: Mobile 07961264893) for opening days & times

FREE COMPUTING FOR THE ABSOLUTE BEGINNER

EVERY MONDAY MORNING FROM 10:00 - 12:00 AM

COME ALONG TO THE LIBRARY AND FIND OUT HOW A COMPUTER CAN HELP YOU

FREE
1 DAY WORKSHOP
EMAIL
Introducing Email
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Ilkeston
DE7 8AS
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0115 9 300 199
Also
FREE
On-Line Course
Make Money Work
Contact them by calling
0115 9 300 199

Your Views

In future editions we propose to have a letters page so send you views to 50plus@ianconsult.co.uk or LEAD 50plus C/O 10 Pennine Close Long Eaton NG10 4JT