



Ringmer Disability Social Club



Incorporating Ringmer Curling Club News



Christmas Party at Deans Place Hotel – 18 December 2019

***Newsletter 13
Winter 2020***

*Email: ringmerdisability2@btinternet.com
Website: www.tbds.org.uk/ringmerdisabilityclub*

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To join Ringmer Disability Social Club,
contact Coralie on 01273812596 or email
ringmerdisability@btinternet.com

To join our Friends

Group, contact Sandra

Schueler on

01273479326 or email

sandra.schuler@btopenworld.com

Chairman's Message



Welcome to the Winter edition of the Ringmer Disability Social Club (RDSC) Newsletter, and may I begin by wishing you all a Happy New Year.

In this edition we look back at the tail-end of 2019, when in September we held our annual Kurling Cup Competition. Congratulations to the Orange team of Chris, Laura, Jim and Susan (skip) who were this year's winners.

At the beginning of October, we had a fish and chip lunch at Paradise Park Garden Centre, and the following week we held our fourth Annual General Meeting.

November was also a busy month and our last social meeting of the year saw us having a Christmas Singalong with carols being sung in fine voice by the members.

As usual we finished the year with our annual Christmas Party at Deans Place Hotel where it was quite a shock to see all the flood water surrounding the Garden Room.



We now move on into 2020 and our members will be meeting up again on January 8th, all ready to start all over again!

Robert Benfield, Chairman

Club Events September – December 2019

11th Sept Bingo **Robert**



There were 22 members present for our September social meeting at the Village Hall. It wasn't quite a full-house which would have been good as we were going to have an afternoon session of bingo! As usual we started with lunch and our four separate tables were full. It was at this point we welcomed our two new members Val and Ray. We also sang a belated 'Happy Birthday' to Jane, Jim and Evelyn who had kindly brought in some cakes for us all to enjoy.

After lunch we remained in our seats to play several games of bingo with Edwina as the caller.

In the first game Gill was the first member to complete a line. Then Brenda and Coralie called full-house at the same time. In the second game Chris was first to complete a line and Susan a full-house. In the third and final game, Evelyn was first to

complete the line and John called for a full-house.

All of our winners received a small prize kindly donated by Susan. Thank you, Susan, and thank you Edwina for doing the calling.

18th Sept Eastbourne Visit **Edwina**



A number of members asked Coralie if it would be possible to organise a shopping trip to Eastbourne. In response to this request, she went ahead and organised the outing on a sunny autumn day. Because we can't all fit on one bus, two buses were booked from CTLA; one for Lewes members and the other for Ringmer members.

For our outings, each member is given an approximate time for the bus to arrive at their pick-up point. This was the case for the Lewes bus but for the Ringmer bus, it did not pick us up until about 2 hours later than expected. Not only did we suffer that inconvenience,

the driver turned up in a bus that would not accommodate a person in a wheelchair. I spent considerable time taking Coralie's chair apart and positioning it at the back of the bus. The driver was very apologetic and explained that no other bus was available that morning. He promised to return to Newhaven after dropping us off in Eastbourne and return later in the day with a bus with a tail-lift which he did.

The Lewes bus arrived in Eastbourne around 10.30am and members started their day. Brenda needs someone to push her wheelchair and help her husband John, and Graham had kindly offered to do this.



However, Graham was on the Ringmer bus and did not arrive until after 12 noon. This caused Brenda and her group to be restricted for nearly two hours until Graham was able to take up his assistance duties.

Again, CTLA were apologetic and offered to give us an extra hour at end of the visit to compensate for the loss of time we had suffered. However, due circumstances such as carers coming to help members get ready for the

evening and also pets being left on their own for too long, we decided to leave at 3pm.

Anyway, putting our tale of woe aside, once we arrived in Eastbourne. I think we all enjoyed having something to eat, doing a bit of shopping, and having a good look around the town as the area is being refurbished. Most of the Beacon Centre has been completed, but the outside area is still very much under construction with roads being turned into pedestrian precincts, etc. Attention is needed to getting the access slopes on pavements right; we struggled getting across the road!

All too soon the day came to an end and we arrived home around 4pm.

Thanks, Coralie, for a very different day which came good!

25th Sept Kurling Cup Competition

Robert



On Wednesday, 25th September, we held our Kurling Cup Competition for the third time.



*Jim, Chris and Susan
Annual Kurling Cup Competition Winners*

We were not sure if the competition could take place as the previous day nine members pulled out due to other commitments. Thankfully, everything fell into place when 14 members managed to attend and we were able to continue.

In the first match, the Red team of Robert, Brenda, Graham and Edwina (skip) drew 4-4 with the Blue team of John, Jim, Margaret and Coralie (skip). The two skips then had two play-off shots each but could not decide a winner. Graham then stepped up with the winning shot to put the Reds into the final.

On the other side of the room it was a bit more straight forward with the Orange team of Chris, Laura and Susan (skip) beating the Yellow team of Cliff, Theresa, and Jane (skip) 4-1.

In the match for the third and fourth spot, the Yellow team beat the Blue team 6-1.

In the final, Laura had to leave just before the end, so Jim stepped across and took her place. This was a good move as the Orange team beat the Red team 5-2.

In the end, Jim and Susan were presented with a certificate, a memento of the day and the cup which now has been engraved. Laura was presented with her certificate at the next meeting. The afternoon finished with photos of the winning team and a large group photo.

Thank you to everyone who participated and congratulations to the Orange team.



Fish & Chip Lunch at Paradise Park

2nd October - Fish & Chips at Paradise Park
Coralie

On a blue sky and sunshine day, Edwina and I arrived at Paradise Park Garden Centre at the same time as the buses. As we made our way to join the members, the two drivers had a giggle and told me I should go faster as they were waiting for us!! As we had all arrived a little earlier than planned, there was time for a look round. However, most members' tummies were rumbling so before long, when the tables were ready for us, we all made our way into the café.

Two tables were laid out for us with yellow napkins; it looked very welcoming. The staff were so helpful and looked after us for the whole meal. The fish and chips arrived piping hot and there were very generous helpings; yummy! When the meal was finished, it was followed by a cup of coffee or tea. Tummies now full and lots of chatter and giggles later, a happy band went off to do some retail therapy. We were due to leave at 2.30pm so we had an hour to shop. It was a really good day thanks to Jacqueline's donation; we sent her a card signed by us all to say thank you



Cliff, Jim, Robert (Chair), Coralie and Edwina - RDSC Committee 2019

9th October AGM and Slideshow

Robert

This was a very busy afternoon with lots to organise. It was only after everything had been put into place, we were able to settle down for lunch which included nice cakes brought in by Susan and the raffle. After lunch we held our fourth Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Robert welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a brief outline of the past year thanking as many people as possible. After apologies and the minutes of the last meeting (2018) were accepted, Coralie gave an Administrator's Report on the financial situation of the club. The committee to serve for 2019-20 were then re-elected and Robert closed the meeting by thanking everyone for being a member of the club.

We then had a re-shuffle so that we could watch the latest dvd of club

events compiled by Edwina. The disc featured photos taken over the past year and was set to music.

The footage began with our shopping bus outing to Eastbourne in October 2018. It then showed our trip to Paradise Park and our Christmas Party at Deans Place Hotel.

We moved into 2019 with our Valentine's Day Party in February and our Play Reading in May. The show then continued with photos of our successful Coffee Morning in June and the outing to the Bluebell Railway in July. Finally, our Summer Party in August was shown followed by a selection of Kurling photos taken through-out October 18 until August 19 with the emphasis on members who had scored a bulls-eye!

Thank you, Edwina, for your time and patience in creating the dvd.

13th November – Bingo

Robert



As usual we had a good turnout for our November Social meeting at Ringmer Village Hall. We were also pleased to welcome two new protentional members, Doreen and Dennis.

November is a busy month with Sue, Coralie, Chris and John all celebrating their birthdays. Coralie very kindly brought in some cakes.

After lunch and the raffle, we remained in our seats to play three games of Bingo with Edwina as the caller.

In the first game, Ray was the first person to complete a line and Tracey the first person to complete a full-house. In the second game, Laura was the first person to complete a line and this time, Ray was first to complete a full-house. In the third and final game, Susan called a line and Coralie a full-house.

All of our winners received a small prize donated by Coralie and thank you Edwina for calling the numbers.

11th Dec Christmas Singalong

Coralie

December 11th started sunny and bright for our club social which was organised by Edwina to be a Christmas Singalong. We set the hall up ready to greet the members but the bus was 45 minutes late; a very, very unfortunate experience for our members.

But in good Ringmer Disability Social Club style, we all worked together to get the meeting up and running accompanied by Christmas carols; meanwhile, everyone was buying raffle tickets from Susan. We then had lunch and when it was finished, the tables were put away and the chairs placed in a semi-circle at the front of the hall.

Edwina then began the singalong with some fun songs with the words up on a screen. The singing was great; one of the songs 'Hands, Knees and Bumps-a-Daisy' caused a lot of laughter. After our vocal cords had been warmed up, we were ready for the carols; the singing was superb with some lovely voices being heard. We ended by singing 'We wish you a Merry Christmas' and a big thank-you and applause was given for Edwina.

The driver Alan gave up his day off to collect everyone and a bigger bus arrived to take folk home, the day was saved. As we were leaving a team had arrived to set up the hall for the general election the following day and it was pouring with rain, what a day!!



Members and Friends enjoy a chat before lunch

18th December Christmas Party

Edwina

After a busy programme of meetings, outings, shopping trips and Kurling, it's always great to celebrate its accomplishment. What better way to do this is to have a really good Christmas Party and that is what we did! It has become a tradition to hold the party at Deans Place Hotel, Alfriston because they make us so welcome. It is also a tradition to invite some of our valued friends of the club. After cross checking available dates with the hotel and bus company, the 18th December was chosen as being best for everyone.

December has been a very wet month but, on the day chosen, it dawned sunny and calm. However, it soon became apparent that we have had a lot of rain as most of the fields in the Cuckmere Valley were flooded. Luckily, the water had drained off the roads and we were able to get through. A number of us arrived early at the hotel to make sure everything was in order and to place cards, presents etc in the correct places around the room. Susan and Penny H set up the raffle table as they were responsible for running it whilst Coralie and myself set up the room.



Robert hands out a raffle prize to Margaret watched by Trudie

Unfortunately, Sue, Sandra and Tracey could not attend the event because of Sue's health problems, and nor could John for the same reason. Our thoughts were with them and hope they can return to the club soon.

The buses arrived on time at around 12 noon. There was lots of excited chatter as everyone made their way into the room to be welcomed by the setting up team. Christmas music was playing in the background and the room looked lovely with a Christmas tree and other decorations around. Out of the window the results of the flooding with the gardens covered in water was observed – what a sight!

Very soon, it was time for Robert our Chairman to give his welcoming speech and then announce that the meal was about to be served. The hotel team led by Jo our head waiter for the day swept into the room with the meals we had ordered. Yummy turkey and sea bass to name but a few! This was followed by a desert of our choice and again most people chose chocolate mousse although Christmas pudding, cheesecake and cheese and biscuits were all available. It was a fantastic meal except, maybe, for the sprouts which were a little on the hard side!



Sheila, George, Jane and Evelyn

After the meal was done and the coffee and mince pies enjoyed, the raffle was drawn. There were lots of prizes provide by Susan, Sandra and other members of our club; Susan, Penny and Robert worked hard to draw the tickets and distribute the prizes to the winners. Thank you to all who took part or managed the raffle. After the main raffle had been completed, the table decorations of candle displays, snowmen and elves were also drawn and the lucky winners took away these lovely items as reminders of the day. Finally, gifts of scarves for the ladies and socks for the men were given out.

After more chatter, the day came to an end at around 4pm and members were taken home. It had been a good day. Thank you, Coralie, for arranging it and the hotel staff for looking after us so well.

Admin Report – Coralie



Happy New Year to everyone. No doubt this year will bring its challenges but life would be very dull if we didn't use those moments to become more determined to succeed in whatever life throws at us. Several of us had health problems

Further Photos of the Christmas Party

to overcome, some are still ongoing. So, as a club, we are ready to keep our organisation going for another year with us all pulling together.

My thanks go to all of you who gave donations and for the great raffle run by Susan, Sue and Sandra. Additionally, many thanks to all our helpers in the kitchen at social meetings.

I have applied for funding to help to cover the cost of the buses to bring members to the two monthly meetings. For outings etc, we have to fundraise ourselves. I plan to have several outings this year especially when the weather is right. Additionally, we will save for our two parties and have our annual Coffee Morning at the end of June. I hope to get a couple of speakers for meetings and there will be also bingo and some quizzes.

Another event that happened during the autumn of 2019 was a visit by some members to the local pantomime in the Village Hall. Seats for this event were kindly arranged for by Graham who was the producer of the show.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Edwina for all the help she gives the club including setting up the hall for meetings, taking me into town to do banking, the Newsletter, our Facebook page and the website as well. Without her help we would struggle.

Finally, thank you to all members, families and friends for your continued support.

