



## **The Secretary's Report for the Seventh Annual General Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

Once again I am pleased to be able to report that the LA Group has had another very successful year. We have now been running on our own since 30<sup>th</sup> March 2012 and this year we have 150 active members, many of whom attend several activities each week. Although we do advertise our activities, generally we find that new members come to us through friends. Our main aim, as it has been from the very start, is to make people feel welcome and make them want to come back again. Whilst some of our members benefit from the exercise classes that they have joined, others, I know, have benefitted through friendships made here.

One of the additional advantages of membership is that members can attend activities run by our sister groups – with, for example the SOFA group at Southowram and the High Five group across at Pellon, and at The Shay, run by the Young at Heart Group which meets on Thursday afternoons. Likewise members of these groups can come and join in our activities and we have three ladies who come to our Line Dancing from the Pellon group.

We continue to have our website and Facebook page which keeps members up to date with all that we are doing. If you have an email address please do let me have it as it is by far the quickest method of contacting one another and it saves on having to print information out to distribute at activities.

Last year we had the Safeguarding issue to get our heads round and this year we have had Data Protection to try to comply with. The Committee decided that if someone's membership lapses we will only keep their information for six months before shredding everything and so when someone wants to re-join they will have to complete a membership form (as opposed to a Renewal Form) and another Health Questionnaire.

As people are joining us at all times of the year the Committee have decided that any person joining the group after the AGM will only pay £3 membership which runs until 31<sup>st</sup> March next year and anyone who joins us in the new year can pay £5 which will give them membership for 15 months.

As always it has been a busy year with eight activities running each week through the summer months and seven when the bowling season is closed. All who take part in any of our activities benefit in all sorts of ways but the Pilates classes are making big differences in the lives of those attending as it helps so much with balance and mobility.

We had one talk during the year from the Trading Standards people on 'Doorstep Crimes' and although the talks make you suspicious of everything and everyone it was well attended and a lot of useful information was given out.

We have had two trips since our last AGM, the first one being a *free* trip to Oswaldtwistle Mills for shopping followed by a lovely run round the villages in the area with a tour guide who gave us lots of information about the area. Unfortunately, although this trip initially was over subscribed the numbers actually dropped greatly as we got nearer the outing. *Perhaps offering a free trip is not to be recommended!*

Our second trip was on the 18<sup>th</sup> May this year when we went to Boundary Mills and then onto the Leeds Liverpool Canal where we had a relaxing trip for an hour and a half and partook of some lovely scones, jam, cream and endless cups of tea. Although this was on a lovely day and much appreciated by those who went it was not well supported by our members. With

the cost of coaches these days it puts up the price of outings considerably and the Committee do wonder if this is what our members want us to do? We would be pleased to hear what you think.

During the summer we have unfortunately had some cancellations, not of our own making, but through the building not being available to us. These things were beyond our control and yet we do not appear to have lost any members because of it. The long hot summer did however make class numbers drop, particularly in the Keep Fit and Pilates classes and there were quite a number of classes which were running at a substantial loss but thankfully we have money in the bank to cover such eventualities and our numbers do appear to be on the increase once more.

We are lucky with our Tutors - with Anne Louise Doherty who does one Keep Fit class and two Pilates classes each week; with Lucinda Atkinson who teaches a very dedicated group of Line Dancers and Annette Duncan our Art Class Tutor who brings out the very best in our artistic members.

We have had a record number of 29 LA Group Members registered to bowl at Holmfield Bowling Club this year. The very first session of the season, 2<sup>nd</sup> April, had to be cancelled due to SNOW !!!! Thankfully the weather picked up and numbers have averaged 16 per week which is an ideal number for the size of the bowling green.

The Committee purchased three sets of bowls and a "lifter" for our members' use for which the bowlers are very grateful. *The "lifter" is for those who can't bend down to lift the bowl from the gutter around the green and the three sets of bowls are available for anyone interested in trying bowls.*

Just to remind bowlers that the season ends next Monday, the 24th September when members have what has now become an annual Fish & Chips lunch in the hut at the bowling green.

As in previous years I would like to record my appreciation to Gordon Heron, who although not a Committee person these days, has opened the green every Monday morning and got everything ready for play at 10 am and organised the teams and marked the register. Many thanks Gordon, everyone benefits from your commitment and dedication.

The Line Dancing class is another group where we do not have a Committee person attending and so the Committee is indebted to Julie Heron and Hazel Roberts for their commitment to this class by taking the registers and paying the tutor.

We are looking forward to our Crafty Club and Art Class being able to move to the upstairs room now that the lift is installed and we hope that the increased room will give them more space in which to be creative and even expand in numbers!

With the majority of our activities taking place here at Illingworth Moor, with its excellent facilities, we would like to record our thanks, once again, to the Church Council for their generosity in allowing us a much reduced rent. I know that our members support the Church in many ways by bringing items for the shop, buying eggs and I know that the Crafty Club members are 'big spenders' in the shop as they meet when the Good as New Shop is actually open. Since the café opened many of the Kurling players stay for lunch and some of the line dancers come early to eat here.

Whilst the Kurling group have been looking forward to being able to bring the Kurling equipment down in the lift, just yesterday I was informed that the Kurling equipment now is downstairs in a cupboard! Over the six years that we have been Kurling it has been an exhausting job bringing those bags down the stairs. My thanks go to Brian, Gordon and Julian mainly who have had the job every week. Many of you help the group in all sorts of ways - by wash up after classes where drinks are needed, turning lights out, offering to give lifts to people and being friendly and supportive to new members who perhaps come along on their own. It is all part of what makes this group so successful and you are all playing your part.

I am pleased to report that the Committee has again booked the Marquee at the Moorlands for our Christmas Party and this year it is earlier than we wanted it to be but because we only have the Early Bird Christmas menu we can't get a booking any nearer than Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> December. This year the food will not be subsidised but the entertainment will be paid for totally out of club funds. I have full details here of the menu and booking forms and I will be emailing these out to all members later today. Last year we had 137 members and friends joining us for a lovely evening and the Committee are aiming for this year's to be even bigger and better!

Coming to the end of my report, I cannot let the opportunity go by without thanking all those who have served on the Committee for the last year and in particular to thank Sue Merriman who is leaving the Committee after four years' service. For those who have agreed to stay on the Committee I know they will welcome Martin Cruft, a member in the Art Class, who has agreed to join us. We look forward to working together for another year for the benefit of the group and its continued success.

Thank you.

**Irene Mulhall**  
Secretary