



The Secretary's Report for the Fourth Annual General Meeting held on 20th September 2016

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 for four and a half years and have 148 active members, many of whom attend several activities each week. We still find that people have not heard about our group even though we do advertise widely. As in many other things we find that the very best form of advertising is through satisfied customers, namely, our own members. 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. It is very rewarding to know that again this year we have been instrumental in getting some of our members through some difficult times in their lives with the friendships that have been created through getting involved in the LA Group.

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. Additionally, some of our members are attending events 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.

We continue to have our website which keeps members up to date with all that we are doing, together with pictures of activities and outings. We also now have a Facebook page but not many of our members seem to be on Facebook. I do urge you, if you have an email address, to let us use it to send information out to you. It is the cheapest and easiest way to contact members and it saves us having to print lots of copies which then need to be distributed at every activity.

We have had a busy year – maintaining the number of activities already running and starting a second Pilates class, aimed for beginners which we started in April this year. 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 are very blessed 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.

Again this year 16 of our members chose to take up membership of Holmfield Bowling Club at the start of the Bowling Season in April. Many have improved in their bowling skills during the season and much fun and friendship has been found there. Again this year the injection of cash from our members paying their subs to Holmfield Bowling Club has made a huge difference as they face increased charges for ground maintenance. Members who don't own their own woods have greatly benefitted from the LA Group's £300 purchase last year of sets of woods which have been well used this year. Just recently the LA Group has purchased some scorers and a measure now that people are getting keener and more competitive and the call of "Measure Please" can be heard across the green! I must at this stage say a very big thank you to Gordon Heron who has taken the register faithfully every week and looked after everyone. The group will end the bowling season with Fish and Chips at lunchtime next Monday.

As in my report last year I must mention the fact that with all our activities taking place here at Illingworth Moor, with its excellent facilities, we would like to record our thanks to the Church Council for their generosity in allowing us a much reduced rent. I am sure 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 their meeting is the only one using the building when the Good as New Shop is actually open.

Many of you help the group in all sorts of ways such as carrying the Kurling equipment up and down the stairs, helping 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.

Last November the Crafty Club went to a Textile Tea Party at Halifax Town Hall and then in April this year all members had the opportunity to visit the Town Hall when we had a very interesting tour of the building.

In June, 27 members went to the Kinsley Greyhound Stadium near Pontefract. It was a night with a difference, but the general feeling was that we wouldn't be repeating it in a hurry!

On the 26th August 37 members enjoyed a lovely visit to Skipton where we had three hours in the town and then a three hour trip on the canal where we were served Pie and Mash. It really was a good trip made all the better by the glorious sunshine.

Last year I reported to you that we were intending '*pushing the boat out*' for our Christmas celebrations by hiring the Marquee at the Moorlands and also the band 'Silhouette'. I know that very many of you attended that event and also brought friends along and made it a huge success with over 120 people there. The Committee went straight ahead, in January this year, without any hesitation at all, and booked both the Marquee and the band to do it all again this year on Wednesday, 7th December starting at 5 pm to eat at 5.30 pm. Watch out for the booking forms to be circulating towards the end of October, once we have details of the Menu.

Drawing to a conclusion now, I cannot let the opportunity go by without thanking all those who have served on the Committee for the last year and indeed a very big thank you to Jean Butler, Rose Grant and Joan Taylor for their dedicated service to the group since we began on this adventure in March 2012. For those who have agreed to stay on the Committee I know that they will welcome the four new people who have come forward and allowed themselves to be nominated. We look forward to working together for the benefit of the group and its continued success.

Thank you.

Irene Mulhall

Secretary