



## **The Secretary's Report for the Third Annual General Meeting held on 23rd September 2014**

I am pleased to be able to report that the LA Group has had another very successful year.

We have now been running for two and a half years and have 94 active members, many of whom attend several activities each week. Despite this success we are still finding people have not heard about the LA Group and this is something we find hard to understand as we do advertise quite widely in the Illingworth Messenger and with posters in local shops, the Library and Morrisons and in the Courier too but one of the best ways is for members to bring along a friend or neighbour. I regard one of our main aims as members of the LA Group is to make people feel welcome and make them want to come back again. As we get older, for some of us it is easy to try something new but for some we must appreciate that it is a very hard to join something new when it appears that everyone knows everyone else.

We continue to have our website which keeps members up to date with all that we are doing and it is linked to other things going on in the area such as the timetable for 'Walk It Together' which are walks in this area lead by experienced people. Many of you have email addresses now and this is an excellent way for me as Secretary to get in touch quickly.

We have held Games Afternoons in November last year and in March and June this year to try to draw together members from each of our activities but unfortunately these have not proved at all successful with the last one consisting of the Committee members and just one person who was not even a member of the LA Group.

Additional social events which have drawn in many members from each of the activities have been our Christmas meal at The Halifax Golf Club at Ogden and then on a glorious summer evening on the 10<sup>th</sup> May we held a Ceilidh which was a most enjoyable evening for those dancing and for the spectators also.

Today you can pick up your invitation to attend this year's Christmas Celebrations which are at The Loft at The Moorlands on Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

Due to the success of the New Age Kurling we now have three sets of Kurling equipment. During the summer numbers have been as low as ten people but our highest number was just on one occasion when we had 24 people kurling. The noise in this room with so many people getting excited is unbelievable.

Two years ago we had a Taster Session in Crown Green Bowling at Bradshaw Park Bowling Club and although many of our members joined the Club at Bradshaw they found that it was difficult to find the green when it was not in use. This year one of our keenest Kurling men told us of the plight of the Holmfield Bowling Club with the decline in membership and the upward spiralling cost of green upkeep. The decision was taken by 15 LA Members to join Holmfield and so it has come about that a regular 10 am slot on a Monday throughout the Bowling Season, (which runs from Easter to the end of September), has seen a dedicated group of between 12 and 15 people bowling together. Many have discovered a talent they didn't know they had and are now keen to join teams as they become more competitive.

The Crafty Club continue to thrive and make some wonderful things as well as having trips off and their most recent trip, at the beginning of September, was a day in Llandudno.

The Art Class is also a thriving group and you will see items from both these groups on display here today. One member of the Art Class has kindly donated some of his pictures to help raise money for the group trying to save Illingworth Gaol and Stocks and one of his pictures has been made into a Christmas Card.

The Tai Chi group which meet at Whitehill Community Academy (term time only) are not tremendously high in numbers but they are very keen and enjoy the classes run by Marsha from Tai Chi Tigers.

The flourishing Keep Fit group who meet in this room every Tuesday morning have an excellent tutor who puts them through varied routines and they come back for more every week.

We have recently completed a Taster Session in Archery. We are lucky that one of our members has a daughter who is a Qualified Great Britain Archery Instructor. She volunteered to run three Taster Sessions, on a Wednesday evening for an hour, with the help of four Scout Young Leaders based at St. Matthew's Church at Northowram. We welcome Martin Longbottom (Halifax District Scouts). These Young Leaders are raising their own funds to take them next year to do voluntary work in an Orphanage in Vietnam. Each Taster Session cost LA Members £2 per person and the Committee took the decision to round the amount up to a decent sum and will make a presentation to them this afternoon to help these youngsters fulfil their work in Vietnam.

The Committee is always open to suggestions either for additional activities to try or for other social activities or outings. One such suggestion which has been put forward is to try Line Dancing and so we are having three Taster Sessions commencing on Tuesdays 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> October, here in this room. Our problem in arranging more activities is finding a reasonably priced room that is available to fit in around our other activities. This room is available on Thursday mornings but we already have Tai Chi and the Art Class on that morning so it would immediately make it so members of those groups couldn't try Line Dancing.

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. We are losing Jean Coles and Audrey Reid, both of whom have served from the beginning – Jean was our first Treasurer - and both of them have done tremendous work to steer the group to success. The sad thing is that we have not managed to attract anyone to replace them and I do appeal to anyone who, even at this stage in the proceedings, feels they can dedicate just a few hours on the first Thursday of the month to attend a Committee Meeting.

Thanks are also due to those Committee members who take the money at each activity and mark a register - they are totally committed and reliable and for this I wish to record my thanks.

I cannot end this report without saying a very big thank you to the following people:

To Dom Furby who is in Charge at Illingworth Fire Station for allowing the group to use the Community Room there, free of charge, each week. Recently we have used the Training Room at Morrisons Supermarket for some of the Crafty Club sessions and also a Committee Meeting and again this is free to the community to use. To Rev. Paul Welch and the Church Council here at Illingworth Moor for allowing us the weekly use of this lovely room and the kitchen facilities at a very much reduced rate and finally to Mr Hepplestone, Principal of Whitehill Community Academy, for use of their School Hall, completely free of charge. We consider ourselves extremely privileged to have such wonderful support on our doorstep and I am sure that without this support we could not possibly be as successful as we are.

*Irene Mulhall*

Secretary