

LenARA

LEN VALLEY ACTIVE RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER – December 2023

ISSUE 160

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Here's hoping you all enjoyed your Christmas with family and friends and are now looking forward to the New Year. I certainly for one can't wait to get 2023 behind me and look forward to health and happiness in 2024 for us all.

Past Events

Back to school again. This time for a change it was our LENara members being entertained by the children. We were invited along to Lenham Primary School to watch the children acting out their Nativity play and give most of the children an audience to entertain prior to their parents' shows. The children were very good. They certainly entertained us with their singing, dancing, acting and the expressions on some of the children's faces were brilliant. At the end of the show we were thanked for coming by the teachers as it was a good experience for the cast. We received the following letter from the school.

Dear Phil and the rest of LENARA,

I just wanted to write to you to say a huge thank you to all those who attended our performance on Wednesday morning. We hope that you enjoyed it as much as the children enjoyed performing it for you. The children were very excited to see you again and appreciated having the experience of performing to adults before they performed to their families in the afternoon. I would also like to pass on the school's gratitude for the kind donations towards the school fund. You also helped to distract us from the fact that we had Ofsted inspectors in!

I hope that you are enjoying this community link as much as we are and look forward to seeing you at future events. We are always on the lookout for people to come into the school to listen to the children read, as some do not get this opportunity at home. If any of your members would be interested in this, please feel free to share my contact details or get them to call the school on 01622 858260. The more the merrier. I would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and all the best for 2024.

Regards,

Carrie

I would just like to add a postscript as follows.

The small donation mentioned in the letter was given by two of our ladies who attended the Christmas Festive Rehearsal and not from the LenARA funds and was a gesture to help with the school PTA funds. The performance by the children was very good, quite emotional at times as they overcame their nervousness to produce an excellent show. The Ofsted Inspectors were at the school so I am sure they must have been impressed with the way the children set such a high standard, not just those taking part in the play but also the well behaved children watching.

Phil Gooda

The Mercure Christmas Lunch wasn't as good this year as it has been previously. This is only my personal view but at the end of the day it was nice to spend time with fellow members and enjoy the company and banter. I'm sure some of you have your own views on the day, but Hey Ho let's look forward to the next one wherever that may be.



LenARA Christmas Social

The committee and helpers would like to think you all enjoyed the afternoon. I certainly think you did with the thanks from many of you coming up at the end personally and telling me how much you had enjoyed it. So this tells me that a good time was had by all.



The entertainer Sarah Barker was as usual very good and interacts with the audience which goes down very well.



A big thank you to all our ladies who did the catering for us most enjoyable, this is never an easy job.

Another thank you to all the helpers who helped arranging and dressing tables etc but not forgetting our wine and drinks waiters who were excellent and still sober at the end thanks to you all.



Future Events

JANUARY

Ten Pin Bowling on Wednesday 10th January at Ashford. Please pay Pat on the day. (It's not just Bowling but also lunch at the Kennington Carvery).



The next pub lunch is on January 17th at the
“Who’d a thought it”

Headcorn Rd, Grafty Green, Maidstone ME17 2AR



FEBRUARY

Lenara Quiz Night

As requested by many members a **Quiz Night** has been booked for Saturday 24th February from 7pm to 10pm. Tables of four at a cost of £2.00 per person, what a cheap night out! Book a table as soon as you can with Keith Varney. This is a most enjoyable evening so come and bring your drinks and nibbles with you.

TINA TURNER - We are going to see TINA in London on Thursday 29th February 2024. Pick up details will follow.

Our Weekly Events start again soon –

Short Mat Bowls - Tuesday 2nd January 2024

Zumba - Wednesday 3rd January 2024

Line Dancing – Wednesday 3rd January 2024.

Come along and join us.

Our weekly events –

Short Mat Bowls	Tuesday	2.00pm to 4.00pm	£3 per session	Phil Gooda 01622 851217
Zumba	Wednesday	9.30am to 10.30am	£6 per session	Chris Godden 01622 858658
Line Dancing	Wednesday	7.30pm to 9.00pm	£4.50 per session	Ann Rolfe 01622 859725
**Petanque (weather permitting)	Thursday	10.00am to 12.00pm	£3.00 per session	John Edwards 01622 858439

**Hopefully we will be getting back to Petanque soon – watch this space!

Our monthly events –

JANUARY

Ten Pin Bowling in Ashford	Wednesday 10 th January 2024	11.00am	£7 for two games	Pat Highsted 01622 743658
Members meeting:-Fancy Tat with Janet and Clare	Wednesday 24 th January 2024	2.00pm	Lenham Community Centre	

FEBRUARY

Ten Pin Bowling in Ashford	Wednesday 14 th February 2024	11.00am	£7 for two games	Pat Highsted 01622 743658
Quiz Night	Saturday 24 th February 2024	7.15pm	£2 per person – teams of 4.	Keith Varney 01622 850228
Members meeting:-Billy Butlin – Kathryn Ferry	Wednesday 28 th February 2024	2.00pm	Lenham Community Centre	

MARCH

Ten Pin Bowling in Ashford	Wednesday 13 th March 2024	11.00am	£7 for two games	Pat Highsted 01622 743658
Members meeting:-Tax, Care and Toy Boys! – Lisa Lumsden	Wednesday 27 th March 2024	2.00pm	Lenham Community Centre	

The committee are looking at present for other trips, shows etc, we will let you know as soon as possible as to what we find.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members a healthy and happy 2024 see you all soon

Regards John.

