

THE INVICTA

THE NEWSLETTER OF AVIVA FELLOWSHIP (INVICTA) NOVEMBER 2013

Hello everybody. As this will be the last newsletter before Christmas may I wish you a very pleasant time over the festive period. In this newsletter we have a message from our chairman, reports on recent events and we set our programme for the coming months. In addition, we are asking you to let us know whether and in what form you wish to continue to receive this newsletter.

CHAIRMAN'S PIECE

The 'workshop' referred to in the last newsletter took place on 24th June and was well attended by representative from the committees of the four areas in our region. Our 'brain-storming' sessions focussed on the challenges of increasing participation in our social events, identifying the 'competition' from other organisations, recognising that the profile of new members is changing (few will have accrued the length of service achieved by current pensioners) and what we need to do to engage their interest. Many ideas were generated and taken back to our individual committees for consideration and implementation going forward.

Unfortunately our deliberations were overshadowed by the announcement a few days before of a high level decision within Aviva that the Fellowship budget would be reduced by £40,000 nationally for the remainder of 2013. As the area subsidies had already been allocated it was decided that the only way such a saving could be achieved was to cease issuing birthday cards and diaries for 2014. (These items would have been paid for out of this year's budget).

In 2014 there is to be a further significant reduction in funding. In Touch magazine consumes a large amount of the overall budget and cannot continue in its present form. This is why the views of members have been sought via the recently issued questionnaire. I do hope you all contributed as the outcome will have a big impact on the amount of funding available to run areas.

These budget reductions were presented to the National Committee as a fait accompli and were not negotiated. Subsequently we made our views known and a further meeting takes place on 13th November. It remains to be seen whether there will be a sympathetic ear at the table with the authority to release more money, especially as the company's half year results are much improved compared with the same time last year.

On a more cheerful note, details of our subsidised Christmas lunches appear in this newsletter. Make the most of it! Please book early to help the organisers with their workload organising the events. Your cheques will not be banked until nearer the date of the lunch.

Finally, it is sad to record that some of our members are not in the best of health at the present time. Brian Dawson, our web site editor, has been poorly for several months and is recovering more slowly than he would wish. Whilst Drew Borrett is keeping things ticking over, we urgently need a volunteer to lend a hand. If you are that person, please contact a member of the committee without delay.

Meanwhile, we wish Brian and all others on the sick list, a speedy return to good health.

With very best wishes to you all for Christmas and the New Year.

Barry Summerfield

RECENT EVENTS

Since our last newsletter, we have regular monthly sessions of ten pin bowling, an excellent pub lunch at The Old Vine near Lamberhurst, and a visit to Godinton House, a splendid Jacobean mansion with a highly interesting tour followed by a ploughman's lunch and a wander in the extensive gardens. We also had a visit to the West End Theatre to see The Ladykillers.

FUTURE EVENTS

As announced in the last newsletter, later this month we have the visit to the theatre in Tunbridge Wells to see Oklahoma.

In the coming months, we have regular ten-pin bowling, a two Christmas lunches, and a visit to the West End theatre.

TEN PIN BOWLING

Our monthly bowling meetings near Tunbridge Wells are continuing. If you wish to give it a try, please contact Shirley Leatt for details via info@invictamaid.org.

CHRISTMAS LUNCHES

For those who have not received prior notification about Christmas lunches via email the details are set out below.

EAST KENT CHRISTMAS LUNCH AT CHARTHAM HATCH

We are again having a Christmas dinner at the splendid Chapter Arms in Chartham Hatch. This will take place on Friday 20th December at 12.30 for 1pm. The subsidized cost is £16 per person. Chartham Hatch is signposted from the A28 between Chilham and Canterbury. Contributions for the traditional raffle will be appreciated.

If you wish to go, please return the attached form, requesting details of the menu choices, to Audrey Churchill by 20th November via info@invictamaid.org.

WEST KENT CHRISTMAS LUNCH AT SEVEOAKS

This year the West Kent Christmas lunch will take place at the Sevenoaks Indoor Bowls Club on Wednesday 11th December. It has an excellent reputation for food and plenty of parking. The subsidized cost is £14 per head. Contributions for the traditional raffle will be appreciated.

If you wish to attend, please send the attached form requesting travel directions and menu choices to Laurie Thompson by post or by email at lunchsecretary@invictamaid.org. Request forms must reach Laurie by 20th November.

WEST END THEATRE

In January we are visiting the West End to see One Man Two Governors. If you did not receive notice of this and wish to be included on mailings for West End Theatre offers please let Ken Morcombe know. His contact details are at the foot of the newsletter

THE FUTURE OF THE INVICTA NEWSLETTER

Because of the drastic reduction in our funding it is vital that, in future, we only expend funds on printing, stationery and postage in sending the newsletter to those who wish to receive it. We would stress that we are very happy to continue to send the newsletter to you if it is of interest to you and to do so in the form that best suits your needs.

As a consequence we need to check your wishes in this regard.

If you currently receive the newsletter by email you need take no action.

If you currently receive your newsletter via the post and wish to continue to receive it you need to either: -

- A) Post the attached form to Ken Morcombe asking us to continue sending the newsletter to you by post or**
- B) Send an email to Ken Morcombe asking for future mailings to be by email. My email address is socialsecretary@invictamaid.org.**

If you currently receive your newsletter through the post and are not bothered about receiving it in future you need take no action.

The editor of The Invicta is Ken Morcombe who can be contacted at socialsecretary@invictamaid.org

To Laurie Thompson lunchsecretary@invictamaid.org
Please send me the menu and travel directions for Christmas lunch at Sevenoaks

Name _____
Address _____
Post Code _____
Telephone _____
Number attending _____
PLEASE REPLY BY 20th NOVEMBER

To Audrey Churchill via info@invictamaid.org
Please send me the menu for Christmas Lunch at Chartham Hatch

Name _____
Address _____
Post Code _____
Telephone _____
Number attending _____
PLEASE REPLY BY 20th NOVEMBER

To Ken Morcombe on socialsecretary@invictamaid.org
Please continue to send me the Invicta by post

Name _____
Address _____
Post Code _____
Telephone _____

PLEASE REPLY BY THE END OF NOVEMBER