

October 2014

Have Your Say! The big news this month is that for the first time we're combining the **Annual Public Meeting** and the **Volunteers Thank You Supper** into one event on **Wednesday 22 October** starting at 6.30 pm. This is our opportunity to say a big thank you to all the people who've helped us during the past year, both regular volunteers and those who've helped with extra activities. And it's your opportunity to ask about and comment on what's happening at the Centre. It's a time for looking back at the highs and lows of the last year and for letting everyone know our aspirations for the future. Everyone is welcome and if you'd like to come please let Judith know for catering purposes.

Look out too for **Winter Walking Safety** on **Tuesday 14 October and Tuesday 11 November**. Both are at 11 am to 1 pm in the foyer. Thank you for Backcountry for this initiative. They'll be demonstrating different kinds of 'pavement crampons' and walking poles to help keep us all safe this winter.

We're very pleased that **Ilkley Literature Festival** is holding four main events here, plus one fringe event and a Children's workshop. Pick up a programme or look at www.ilkleyliteraturefestival.org.uk for more information.

Our next major fundraising event is a **concert** by the **Heritage Boys** on **Saturday 25 October** at 7.30 pm. The Heritage Boys play music from the 60s and 70s. Proceeds will be shared between the Centre and Help for Heroes and we're delighted that Specsavers is sponsoring the event. It'll be a good evening with songs we love, the opportunity to dance a little and there will be prizes for period costume. Was it flower power or lycra for you? Whatever it was; WEAR IT! Tickets (from the café) are £9 including a proper supper in-keeping with the period, and there'll be a limited bar.

Advance warning. Yes, it's coming as it does every year! Our **Christmas Raffle** makes a major contribution to our finances. As usual we'll be looking for a prize from each of our own classes and will be asking local businesses for their usual generous support.

The **Christmas Raffle** will be drawn on **Saturday 20 December** during the interval of a concert by the **Fairfax Singers**. Tickets for this are £6 (from the café) and there will be seasonal refreshments.

And on the subject of Christmas, Luncheon Club **Christmas Lunch** will be on **Tuesday 16 December**. A few additional places will be available; look for a sign-up list on the notice board nearer the time.



No, not the band and nothing to do with Michael Caine either. Our new automatic doors for the front of the Centre. Fundraising is going well with £11,000 in cash and a promise of £10,000 from Ilkley Round table when we get to £30,000. Funds from the two concerts will boost this total. Thank you to those classes who've 'done their bit' by knitting yellow jersey brooches, having a collecting can or otherwise contributing to the fund but we are looking to all the classes to help us with this. Here's an ABC of ideas to inspire you. It doesn't have to be a big event but, as Tesco loves to tell us 'every little helps!' (Other supermarkets are available)

Afternoon Tea Stall Barn dance Car boot sales **Darts Tournament Exhibitions (Art, Crafts)** Food Demonstrations **Good-as-New Sale Halloween Party** Indoor Games

Evening Jam Making Karaoke Evening **Letter Party: Pick a letter from the alphabet and base everything around that letter.....dress code, food, drinks and music** Mile of Pennies Non

uniform day: Pay £1 to wear the silliest clothes (pick a theme) and get sponsored for the embarrassment **Outgrown Exchange: Swop the clothes you no longer favour and pay for the privilege** Parachute Jump Quiz Evening Raffle Sponsor Anything (cycle, sing, hop to the shops) **Treasure Hunt** Universal Ants (doing anything useful for a fee) Vegetarian Evening **Whist Drive** X Marks the Spot Yummy cake stall: Bake some tasty treats to sell at your class **Zany tie / hat/ shoes day Charge £1 to participate and fine those who don't £2.** YOUR IDEA

We've made **applications to grant making bodies** including The Gannet Foundation, Ben Rhydding Fete, All Churches Trust, and Skipton Building Society. Investec has donated £250. We have been unsuccessful with the Sir George Martin trust, and the Peoples' Millions. Ilkley Parish Council has suggested we re-apply with a much more specific application than was first submitted.

Two generous anonymous individuals gave £3,000 between them and just this week a couple from Huddersfield sent a cheque for £50 because they enjoy coming for lunch when they're visiting Ilkley. Heartwarming appreciation indeed.

Edinburgh Woollen Mill is holding a **fashion Show** at the Ilkley shop with proceeds split between us and their charity. They'll be supplying refreshments that will be served here afterwards. When? **Thursday 16 October** at 2 pm (tickets from the shop). Refreshments back here at 3.30 pm.

This summer we held our first **training day for all staff and Directors**. Our Chairman, William Varley, led the event, ably assisted by Directors Chris Dale and Annie Galloway. We all agreed it had been both useful and interesting. The focus was the **future of the Centre and how we can all play our part in making it thrive**. There were lots of good ideas and during the next few months we'll be working hard at **raising the profile of the café** and making the most of **every opportunity to let rooms to all sections of the community**.

Did you know? Did you know how many people use the Centre each week? Well, during an average week over 1650 people walk through our doors – including YOU! The challenge is ... to **turn each of those people into a café customer**. Then we'll be really thriving!

Remember the **little yellow jerseys** that formed the bunting for the Tour de France? Well there is life after yellow jerseys if you'll knit a teddy to fit the jersey. We're selling patterns at £1 (for the doors of course) tested and proven by Mary in the art class. We'll sell a few dressed teddies on our stall at the Thursday Group (Formerly Ilkley Home Makers) **Christmas Fair on 29 November**, keep one or two for the Christmas raffle and give the remainder to a children's charity.

Hurrah! **Ilkley Business Forum** is moving back the Centre for its monthly meetings during the winter. We are a member of the Forum; everything we can do to increase our integration into the community is good for us.

Pens and books. We're selling pens again – choice of colours, £3, at the café and look out for our **anthology** of cycling stories and reminiscences, which we'll be launching at the Heritage Boys concert. (insert pic of anthology cover)

Wednesday October 1 is Older Peoples' Day and marks the beginning of Older Peoples' Month. We are hosting **Exercise and Nutrition for Older People** at 4 pm. It's being run by the Valley Clinic.