



Northgate Centre Autumn Newsletter 2019

Since our last newsletter in April, the Centre has been bustling along with many new services and activities and in particular we welcome Little Kickers, who range from 18 months to 7 years. Having these younger people running around the hall enjoying themselves is wonderful to see and it is good to see the parents too.

Of course Walking Football caters for slightly older players but they too are keen to show off their footballing skills! There is always room for new participants interested.

Keeping with the fitness theme, we also welcome a new keep fit instructor – Georgie Bradley who is running a class for us every Monday morning and this is proving very popular, but there is always room for anyone else interested in joining this happy group exercising to upbeat music. Georgie caters for all abilities.

The Centre has recently become a Place of Welcome – every Friday from 10.00am to 12 noon anyone, any age- who has recently moved to the city or is lonely or isolated for whatever reason can come along within the times stated and they will be greeted by volunteers and staff and they can sit and have a free drink of tea or coffee with a piece of cake. Chat and a listening ear can be all that is needed to make people feel welcome and valued. They can also find out information about what is on and services available in the area. The launch was on Friday 20th September 2019 and was opened by the Lord Mayor Councillor Terry Westgate. The following Friday was our first Place of Welcome session and we welcomed two people and we hope this number will grow when it becomes known through word of mouth. The wonderful cake was made and donated by Diane Baldock



With the Lord Mayor
Councillor Terry Westgate is
Brian Reynard & Audrey Hodges
Place of Welcome Volunteers

Northgate Ward Development Group is also hosting monthly networking meetings for managers and organisers of local Northgate Ward Voluntary Organisations in order to collaborate in future projects and to share resources and information.

Other events held since our last newsletter - include two tea dances, two quizzes and an Eggstravaganza Raffle. The Easter raffle had over 30 Easter eggs donated – Many thanks to donors.

However the big annual event was a musical evening of food and dancing to Coco one of Kent's top bands. On Friday 15th June the Centre hosted their annual musical event and it was very well supported with residents and staff attending.



COCO



Staff - Claire and Janet making sure the event ran smoothly

The Centre also welcomes four new volunteers - Brian Reynard and Audrey Hodges who are helping to host the Place of Welcome sessions and Martin Newman and Angela Richardson who have joined the reception desk team. We are very pleased they have joined us.

We have recently been asked what are trustees and what do they do for the Centre.

To be a Trustee is as the name suggests - they are a person of trust who volunteer their time and expertise in various fields to oversee the charity and make sure it is run properly according to the Constitution of the organisation and that the charity complies with the Charity Commission rules. It is a very responsible role and brings many complex issues to resolve, grants to find, staff to employ and planning projects for the future. NWDG are very lucky to currently have five very professional Trustees with years of experience of the voluntary sector. Four of the five work and have families to look after and despite the long hours they put into their own jobs – still find time to run the charity by meeting together and to support the Centre Manager, staff and volunteers. Members will often see the Trustees supporting events. The fifth trustee although retired has many years of experience having been involved in running many local organisations – too many to list, but suffice to say she was awarded the MBE for all her efforts in this field. Without the Trustees there would not be a charity or a Centre.

The final fund raising figure for 2018/2019 was £6402.75 which is an absolutely brilliant effort with so many of you contributing - we cannot name you all, but you have our grateful appreciation. Some of the items we have paid for from the fundraising pot is a metal storage cupboard, a display unit for the Place of Welcome and the new help desk which is coming in 2020, the replacement of a burner in the hall overhead heating system and some notice boards in and outside are on order. All of which we would have not been able to purchase without all your wonderful fundraising efforts.

The private bookings in the Centre are going very well and we have had several employment training courses running as well as NHS health and advice groups, and many private parties and celebrations in the Hall.

We are now planning the Christmas Fayre on Saturday 30th November and if you would like to rent a table for £10.00 to display and sell items which people might like to buy for Christmas, ring Janet on 01227 785293. Due to limited space, this is subject to first come first served.

We are coming up to Halloween time and if anyone would like a free 'polite notice' to stop Trick or Treaters coming to the door -The Over 60s Community Service is providing free notices to put in your window and they are available from the reception.

The Over 60's Community Service is an established organisation working out of the Centre and Northgate Ward Development Group who started the Over 60's Service off as a project in the Ward would like to say CONGRATULATIONS to 20 years working with older people in Northgate Ward, Canterbury City and rural villages. A tremendous achievement and we wish them many more years carrying out the good work they do!



1999 to 2019

Congratulations 20 years

A couple of reminders:-



Clocks go back on October 27th



Halloween is on Thursday 31st October



Before, on & shortly after Tuesday 5th November -Firework Night - keep your pets in at night.



The Centre closes to the Public from Wednesday 18th December 2019 and re-opens again on Monday 6th January 2020, allowing the Centre to undergo a deep clean.

Dates for your calendar

Friday 1st November at 1.30pm – Over 60's Annual General Meeting

Monday 4th November – Fantastic Christmas Fayre Raffle Tickets go on Sale

Friday 15th November at 1.30pm - NWDG (The Centre's) Annual General Meeting

Monday 25th November The Café is starting Christmas lunches and bookings are already being taken.

MK CAFÉ CHRISTMAS MENU 2019

Two Courses - £11.50 or Three Courses - £14.50

STARTER

Prawn Cocktail

Cream of Leek and Potato Soup (v)

Pate and Cranberry Sauce with Bruschetta

Main Course

Roast Turkey

Roast beef

Cauliflower Cheese Rolls (v)

All served with Seasonal trimmings and Vegetables

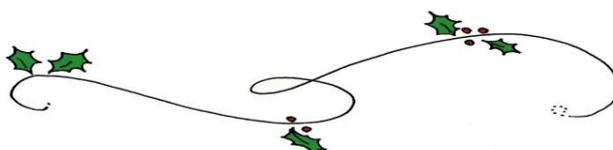
Dessert

Christmas Pudding

Chocolate Fudge Cake

Deep filled Apple Pie

Served with Fresh Cream or Custard



Saturday 30th November from 10.00 am to 1.00pm is the **Christmas Fayre** with many colourful stalls offering great affordable gifts, homemade cakes, arts and crafts, vegetables, pickles and jams for Christmas as well as tombola's and other games. The Christmas Fayre and Christmas Cake raffles will be drawn. Father Christmas will be there and musical entertainment. The café will be open offering seasonal food.

2020 – The new year will be packed with more events, so look out for posters advertising or have a look at the Centre's website- www.northgatewardcommunitycentre.co.uk. Snowdown Male Voice Choir is coming to the Centre in June 2020.

So from all of the Staff and Volunteers of Northgate Centre



and thank you for your continued support.

Our thanks also go to

**Canterbury City Council for the award of a RISE Improvement Grant
Kent County Council Councillor Graham Gibbens for Members Grant to buy new Centre
Equipment**

Councillors Alan Baldock and Jean Butcher for their support in many ways.

**For more photos and full details of activities and services in the Centre
look on our web site:-www.northgatewardcommunitycentre.co.uk**

or alternatively

Telephone 01227 785293 and ask for our brochure.