

National Health Service Retirement Fellowship

NORWICH & DISTRICT BRANCH NEWSLETTER

In our first newsletter for 2024 we would like to welcome all new members and say a big thank you for choosing to become members of our branch. We hope you will enjoy the planned programme of activities for 2024 and be able to join in wherever you can. This is your branch so please give us your ideas for any future events and feedback would be most welcome.

December 2023 meeting.



Thank you to all who provided food for the buffet table, it was an amazing spread. We hope you enjoyed the Secret Santa and congratulations to Jane Jackson who won the fancy dress competition as the magnificent Christmas tree even with one arm in a sling!



Introducing a New Electronic Booking System.

At the January 2024 meeting a new system for members to book into social events was demonstrated by myself Chris Parfitt and my husband John.

The system enables each member to respond to an email sent out by our Membership Secretary, Margaret Thompson.

The email will contain a link which once followed opens a simple booking form, with clear instructions for members to complete and submit.

Members will also be able to book in guests or assist other members who do not have computer access by completing an **additional form** on their behalf.

Details entered into the booking form automatically populate a list of names and information. This will only be accessed by Social Secretary Jane Hayes and Chris Parfitt.

Those wishing to continue booking by conventional means will be able to do so at branch meetings, or by contacting the Social Secretary.

A great advantage of using this system is that each member, on completing the online form receives an email acknowledgement of their booking which will include full payment options. As with all previous social events full payment must be received by the due date.

It is planned to begin using the new system for the 9th May Afternoon Tea at the Great Hospital, Norwich. A link will be emailed following the March branch meeting.

We hope you will find this a very useful tool that should prevent long queues at monthly meetings, giving us all more time to spend socialising and chatting with friends. **Chris Parfitt.**

Please contact me with any news to share or stories to tell for future newsletters. I am at marydolding5@gmail.com or telephone 01953 600896.

At the January 2024 meeting we also held our annual Bring & Buy Sale and raised an amazing £143 for Branch funds. Thank you to all who donated and bought items. All remaining items were donated to the Star Throwers charity shop.



Message from Jane Hayes our hardworking Social Secretary.

We have had a fantastic 2023 with outings, thank you to everyone who has supported our functions, giving us very valuable feedback. Any suggestions for future activities are very welcome.

We are looking forward to our Ely Experience on March 8th, tickets are £46. Coach departs outside Castle Mall at 8am and leaves Ely at 4pm. There are only 49 seats so please book early. We have until the February meeting to pay. This trip is booked by me Jane via email, text or at the February meeting.

April 24th Quiz and Chips evening at our normal meeting venue 6.30-10.30pm. Parking is available at Bignold School. Tickets from me at the booking desk at meetings. £10 per ticket, **cash only**. Please fill your food order in on the ticket and return to me. Unfortunately there is no gluten free option. There will be a cake sale but please feel free to bring your own nibbles and non-alcoholic drinks.

Please contact me with any news to share or stories to tell for future newsletters. I am at marydolding5@gmail.com or telephone 01953 600896.

May 9th 2024 Great Hospital afternoon Tea. Information to follow with the new online booking system. Paper booking available if required.

July 12th Pensthorpe Nature Reserve.

Information to follow.

12th September Wroxham Shopping and Bure Valley Railway with afternoon Tea. Information to follow.

Please do not worry about the online booking system, this will be introduced slowly and the paper system will remain available for those who need it. Further information about the individual trips will be released nearer the time.

Kind Regards Jane Hayes Social

Secretary. Janehayes163@yahoo.com

Mobile 07595699294

The January 2024 issue of Norfolk Magazine features several photos of our 40th anniversary celebrations at the Assembly rooms.

Future meetings

February 15th speaker change to the programme, however members representing The Norfolk and Norwich Hospital Nurses League will tell us about the history of the hospital, nursing and the work of the League also featuring objects and treasures from its heritage collection.

March 21st My Life in the 17th Century. Rosalind Teague.



Favourite picture of 2023.