

## **Chairs Report Fishtoft400 Community Group 2025**

The first thing I would like to say is how sorry I am that we have had to vacate RTH due to various issues; one being the safety of our members and the other to do with their Trustees. The Committee realises that, although the Pavilion is nice and cosy, it is smaller and therefore it is somewhat noisier; and the fact that it is noisier has meant that some of our members have chosen to stop coming.

The Committee is attempting to deal with the issue of Trustees, but these days it is very hard to get people to volunteer for these things. So if any of you know of anyone who would like to become a Trustee or even if any of you would like to volunteer that would be a start to us moving back to RTH.

Unfortunately, the size of the Pavilion does also restrict our activities somewhat. Which is a great pity as I have come up with some really entertaining activities for you; so now you are all thinking 'thank Goodness for that'!

However, as a result of a survey which you were all invited to complete, we hope during this coming year we will be able to introduce some of your requested activities.

We continue to be supported by various organisations. In particular, we have the support of the Co-op, the Eleemosynary Charity, Warm Spaces and BBC and the UKSPF Grassroots Funding (UK Shared Prosperity Fund) which enables us to meet each week for no charge to our members.

And speaking of the Eleemosynary Charity, with their donation we have been able to enjoy a day trip to Holt and Sheringham again this year. The trip proved rather eventful as we left behind two people at RTH who, with true British grit, decided that they were not going to be left behind, so went in their own car. Apologies again for that Ron!

Earlier in the year we received funding from BBC to start up a Strength & Balance Class which some of our members found very worthwhile. Unfortunately, not enough members attended the sessions which meant that it wasn't viable to continue once the funding ran out.

We had an interesting presentation from the Lincolnshire Police Fraud Section about keeping ourselves safe from spams and scams.

We celebrated St Georges Day and VE Day.

More recently we had a visit from a support group from AGE UK speaking to us about fuel poverty

We continue to increase our membership. This is partly due to feed back from current members and partly due to word spreading that we really are a friendly and welcoming Group.

My thanks go to Helen Crawford, our Treasurer, who manages our finances. Her record keeping is thorough and our annual audit passes without any issues.

Thank you also to Helen Staples, our Secretary, who keeps a record of our activities and meetings , which is always helpful in providing information for our sponsors.

Jen and Sue Ogglesbee deserve a mention as it is they who come early every week to set out the tables and chairs, put the heating on and set up the kitchen.

And last, but certainly not least, is our favourite tea and coffee man, Tony Coda who keeps those cups filled for you.

Special thanks go to those of you who so generously go to the trouble of making refreshments for all of us to enjoy.

Loneliness is a very real problem in today's Society, so I consider we are all very lucky to be able to come along to a group like this every week, for free, to find friendship and a warm welcome. My wish is that we may continue to do so as long as we are needed.