



# FLAG News

Registered Charity No. : 1165681

Winter 2017-18, Issue No 38

## Dates for your Diary 2018

**18th January**  
Tea/Coffee/Cake  
Afternoon

**25th January**  
Drop in

**1st February**  
Drop in

**8th February**  
Drop in

**15th February**  
Tea/Coffee/Cake  
Afternoon

**22nd February**  
Drop in

**1st March**  
Committee  
Meeting

**8th March**  
Drop in

**15th March**  
Tea/Coffee/Cake  
Afternoon

**22nd March**  
Drop in

**29th March**  
Drop in

## Christmas Tea/Coffee Afternoon.

The Christmas Tea/Coffee Afternoon took place on the 21st December. As well as plenty of cake, Linda P had made some of her delicious mince pies, which were enjoyed by all. We had a raffle and sold a few 2018 diaries raising £35.00 for FLAG. We parted wishing each other Christmas cheer and best wishes for the New Year.

## 2017 comes to an end...

November and December of 2017 was a busy time for FLAG. We had fundraisers at Priory Methodist and St Pauls, the Quiz Night at the White Horse and the Christmas Meal at Bedford Athletic Rugby Club. See the reports later on in the Newsletter.

## ...2018 begins.

Happy New Year to all FLAG members, their family and friends. We have some exciting events planned for the year ahead. If you have any ideas for events or stuff to do on our Thursday Afternoons let us know. FLAG members are welcome to write an article to put in the Newsletter. If you have one or need any help contact one of the Committee.

## In this Issue

Page 1 Introduction, Dates for your Diary.

Page 2 Talitha the bear, 5p Challenge.

Page 3 FLAG in the Community.

Page 4 Quiz Night / Buffet.

Page 5 Christmas Meal.

Page 6 Christmas Meal.

Page 7 2018/2019 FLAG Events.

Page 8 Coffee Afternoons / Drop-ins, Charity Commission.



## FLAG in the Community.

An important role of a charity is to be seen out in the community, championing its cause and reaching out to potential new contacts. Throughout November and December FLAG was very active and here's what we got up to!

### Saturday 4th November - Priory Methodist Church Autumn Fair.

Linda Payne, Gordon Cooke, Brendan Gaunt and Laura Peggs had a stall at Priory Methodist Church. It was great to be part of the wider community in FLAG's base, we raised £37.50 as well as acquiring a bear which later sold for £60 on eBay,

### Saturday 18th November - St Paul's Christmas Fair.

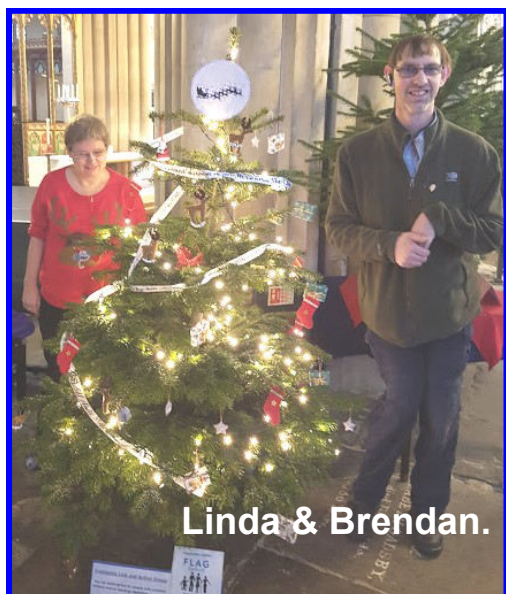
St Paul's fairs have become a regular feature in FLAG's diary. The usual fundraising team, Brendan, Gordon and Laura, manned the stall and raised £57.50p and were given two bags of 5ps, a great start to the new 5p Challenge!

### Saturday 25th November - Co-op Celebration Day.

From last May through to November FLAG had been one of the chosen charities to take part in the Co-ops Community Fund Scheme which raised an outstanding £2054.04p for FLAG. FLAG's treasurer (Tracey Brightman) and Chairperson (Laura Peggs) attended the new store on Queens Drive, to thank them for their hard work and receive an early Christmas present from Santa, in the form of a huge cheque for FLAG.



### 6th > 10th December - St Pauls Christmas Tree Festival



Linda & Brendan.

On Tuesday 5th December Linda Clements, Brendan Gaunt and Laura Peggs assembled at St Paul's church to decorate the FLAG Christmas tree, one of 67 trees that took part in this huge festival. The theme was Children's stories and FLAG had chosen the famous poem **"Twas the Night Before Christmas"** Ros Graham wrote out the poem on ribbon and Laura had added her wonderful hand made reindeer, mice, stars and stockings to adorn the tree.

A huge thank you to everyone who helps out and supports the work FLAG does in the community

## Talitha the Bargain Bear.

On Saturday 4th November FLAG was working hard, raising funds and awareness at Priory Methodist Church Autumn Fair. Our dedicated volunteer Julie Tite braved the inclement weather to come and support FLAG.

The event was drawing to a close when Julie saw a bear on sale for the princely sum of £1. Sensing something special about this bear Julie bought the bear and kindly donated it to FLAG.



Initially we were going to raffle the bear but a tip-off from a kind stranger told us this was no ordinary bear and in fact a **Charlie Bear!**

Charlie Bears are hand finished and are made in limited numbers, each with their own name. Our Bear was called Talitha and no longer in production. Armed with this information and after a bit of research it was decided to sell the bear on eBay. Fiona Gaunt (Brendan's sister) agreed to sell Talitha on our behalf. Talitha was eventually sold for **£60** plus £5 for postage. Thank you to Julie Tite for her keen eye and generosity and to Fiona Gaunt for handling the sale.

## 5p Challenge 2016-2017.

The FLAG August Fundraiser marked the end of the years 5p Challenge. Once again FLAG members did FLAG proud and turned up with their thousands of 5p's! Roger Gaunt was kindly volunteered for the mighty task of counting, bagging up and banking the coins and the date for the announcement of the Grand Total was set for our Christmas meal on the 13th December!

The Grand Total for the 5p Challenge 2016-17 was **£381.35p** or 7627 5p coins!

The members who collected the most coins are as follows:

3rd place - Carole and Lance Mason with an impressive £32.05p.

2nd place - Laura Peggs with £45.65.

1st place - Brenan Gaunt with a very impressive £74.05p.

The most interesting donation came from Ros Graham, it included £32.05p in 5ps, a 10 Canadian cent coin, a US 20 cent coin and a button. A huge thank you to Roger Gaunt for counting and banking the coins and well done to everyone for reaching this fantastic total!

Members decided with great enthusiasm to continue the 5p Challenge. So the 5p Challenge 2017-2018 will end at the FLAG Christmas meal 2018.

KEEP COLLECTING!



**Quiz Night / Buffet.  
15th November 2017.  
White Horse Pub.**



28 FLAG members turned up at the newly refurbished White Horse pub for a Quiz and a Buffet. Quizmaster for the evening was our Chairperson, Laura Peggs, who also set the questions.

We had a couple of rounds of questions before enjoying a really nice buffet provided by the pub. The questions continued and for one round, on body parts, Laura was joined by her friend "Napoleon".

At the end of the evening the scores were counted and verified. The top three teams were really close but the winning team members were: Brendan, Gerard, Linda C, Roger and Lee. Each of them received a box of chocolates and a small winners medal. Congratulations to the winners.

A big thank you to Laura for doing a great job on the night and also to our wonderful volunteers.

by Tracey Brightman.



Laura & Friend



Sharon, Beverley, Jill, Matthew, Christine



Brendan, Roger Linda C, Lee, Gerard.



**FLAG Christmas Meal.  
13th December 2017.  
Bedford Athletic Rugby Club.**

36 FLAG members put on the sparkle and gathered at Bedford Athletic Rugby Club on Wednesday 13th December for our Christmas Meal. We had decided to go for a catered private party rather than a restaurant this year, as the large attendance can stretch restaurant resources and space is sometimes restricted, which means that access to and from the tables can be tricky. This was definitely an advantage this year and the large venue allowed for freedom of movement, for trips to the bar, and later, for cutting some shapes on the dance floor!





## FLAG Christmas Meal (continued).

We had good, swift service from the caterers, and everyone enjoyed a traditional Christmas Dinner, with crackers and hats and bad jokes aplenty. There was some raucous singing led by the table occupied by yours truly and Kevin O'Dell amongst others. Kevin's timing on it's CHRIIIIIISTMAASSSS" in true Noddy Holder style won a round of applause.



Everyone was in a festive mood, but we did have a few issues: firstly, the room was undecorated with a bare tree that had some very odd objects thrown over it. Secondly, the tables had not been set in time for our arrival. Thirdly, a coffee and mince pie would have rounded off our dinner

nicely - especially as fourthly, and most critically, the venue was bitterly cold!!! Several members had to keep coats on throughout.

It is difficult to find the best solution to delivering the perfect Christmas meal for our members. We deserve a good event with easy access, swift service, a festive atmosphere, and good food. Our party provided some of this as do the restaurants we've chosen in the past, but there are always a few shortfalls. The Committee works so hard to organise this popular annual treat, and our Treasurer did a brilliant job of coordinating our caterers this year (who did very well with large numbers, better than the restaurants), but we would welcome any further input or ideas from members and volunteers for next year.

Thank you to everyone who organised and supported this years meal, there was plenty of good cheer and good will around the tables, and several trips to the bar followed by some dance floor action proved, as ever, that FLAG knows how to enjoy itself!

By Ros Graham.



## 2018/2019 FLAG Events.

We have one more event left on the year 2017/2018 calendar and that is the trip to the **"HOUSES of PARLIAMENT"** on the 12th February. The flyers should be out now, so send them back with your payment as soon as possible if you want to come along.

During the last year members have given us ideas for the coming years events. We then came up with a list of 6 coach trips and 4 local based events to choose from. We asked as many members as we could to pick 3 coach trips and 1 local event. The AGM and the Christmas Meal are regular events each year. The results are shown below.

### COACH TRIPS

Seaside Trip	32
Hampton Court Palace	22
Harry Potter World	21
Ten Pin Bowling	16
Wembley Stadium Tour	8
Canal Trip	8

### LOCAL EVENTS

Murder Mystery	10
Beetle Drive	10
Halloween Party	7
Disco	6

Therefore the 6 FLAG EVENTS for 2018/2019 are:



Seaside Trip

Hampton Court Palace

Harry Potter World



Murder Mystery or Beetle Drive

AGM

Christmas Meal



**ANNUAL  
GENERAL  
MEETING**



We haven't decided any dates or the order of events yet but when we do we'll let you know, and of course dates and times can change.

**Dates for your  
Diary 2018**
**5th April**

Drop in

**12th April**

 Committee  
Meeting

**19th April**

 Tea/Coffee/Cake  
Afternoon

**26th April**

Drop in

**3rd May**

Drop in

**10th May**

Drop in

**17th May**

 Tea/Coffee/Cake  
Afternoon

**24th May**

Drop in

**31st May**

 Committee  
Meeting

 (Please note dates are  
subject to change)

**Coffee Afternoons and Drop ins.**

The success of our Thursday afternoon sessions has increased greatly and it is wonderful to see you all and catch up on what you are doing. Please remember while FLAG provides support at events we unfortunately are not able to guarantee support on a Thursday afternoon. If you want to come to a Thursday afternoon event and feel you need a bit of support please ring Linda on the FLAG mobile (07815 196357). If we know in advance then there is more chance that we will be able to help!

**Charity Commission Annual Return 2017.**

You may remember that FLAG became a registered Charity in February 2016. Our first ever Annual Return for the year 2016/17 was completed and submitted by Laura Peggs. A big thank you to Laura. You can see FLAG's details on the Charity Commissions website, [www.charitycommission.gov.uk](http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk).


**GOV.UK**
**Charity Commission**
**Charity Commission Annual Return 2017**
**FRIENDSHIP LINK & ACTION GROUP**

Charity registration number: 1165681

Submitted on 04/01/2018

Data for financial year ending 31 March 2017

**Friendship Link & Action Group**

Overview

Income

**£8.8K**

Spending

**£9.6K**
**FLAG Bedford**

c/o Priory Methodist Church

63 Newnham Avenue

Bedford

MK42 9QJ

Administrator (Linda) - 07815 196357

**Its 2018**

**Happy New Year  
to all FLAG  
Members, their  
family and friends.**

**FLAG**  
Bedford

 Friendship Link  
& Action Group