

## **Midland Area Plus**

# **Report to National Annual General Meeting 2024**

---

## **Management & Finance**

There are 7 groups in the Area

Bromsgrove & Redditch	3
Coventry	2
Leeds Bradford	5
Lichfield	6
Lincs Quest	55
Rothwell	13
Solihul Quest	13

Total number of members: 97

## **Finance**

Total Area Worth - £3,512.44

**Number of AEC Positions Filled – 5**

## Obituaries

Five sad losses to Midland Area Plus recently:

**Janet Sykes** originally joined Bradford Plus and founded the NEat weekend as the Bradford Bargain Break

**David Sugden** also a former member of Bradford Plus and later Leeds Plus who attended many events and was known for his luck on the bandits

**John Fairless-Clarkson** of Lincs Quest who I remember as D.J. of many an Area disco in my early days as a Plus member

**John Collins** also of Lincs Quest, ever friendly and a great supporter of the groups charity events

**Philip Aston** who was a founding member of Rothwell 18 Plus which was a founder Group of the Yorkshire Area

They will be greatly missed.

Thanks to all who attended their funerals on-line and in person.

## **Activities**

### **York Ice Sculpture Trail**

Sunday 3/4 February 2023 Lincs Quest and Leeds Plus visited York to see the city's ice sculpture trail.

### **Area Wine & Wisdom Quiz**

Saturday 22 July 2023 held at Holiday Inn Express in Grimsby, organised by Lincs Quest who welcomed members from Solihull, Leeds and Kings Lynn groups. It was a fun night and raised £160 for Radcliffe Donkey Sanctuary.

### **Walking Weekend 2023**

Friday 11 August to Monday 14 August 2023. Hafren Forest Hideaway. This event recruited two new members from the Outdoor Group.

### **Midland Area visit to Clumber Park**

Sunday 17 September 2023 - all invited, organised by Lincs Quest.

### **Area Quiz and Chips**

Saturday 7 October 2023 Lincs Quest hosted the Midland Area Charity Quiz and Chips Night and were pleased to welcome members from Solihull and Kings Lynn groups. It was a fun night, as well as providing a mental challenge, and raised £206 for the Lincs & Notts Air Ambulance.

## **Publicity & Communication**

Groups are continuing to publicise themselves. There is help available through the Area publicity grant.

Most Groups have a Facebook page or group. Most groups also have a programme.

The Area has set up 'Landing Pages' for the Area and each group and is funding Facebook adverts for each group which started on September 1st. Four groups have set up their adverts at that time and the other three placed theirs in January.

In the past ninety days the pages have received a total of 685 visitors with a dramatic increase coinciding with the adverts, Facebook activity has also noticeably increased.

<http://aboutmeetingfriendsplus.org.uk/midland>

## **Recruitment & Development**

Three groups have double figure memberships, Lincs Quest have 56 members.

New group Bromsgrove & Redditch group hold meetings via Zoom and now at a venue once a month.

Bradford group recently had no members so it was decided that Leeds group cover the Bradford area and be known as Leeds Bradford Plus. The group has recently started monthly in person meetings as a pub of the Month and three Bradford members renewed to attend the WASH weekend.

## **General**

We have Area Conferences, every three months on Zoom and it was decided to continue with Zoom meetings.

**John A Smith**

**Chairman, Midland Area Plus**