

HEADINGLEY FRIDAY SUPPORT GROUP

(est.1987)

www.headingleyfridaysupportgroup.org.uk

NEWSLETTER Autumn 2003 Edition

News items

It has been a busy three months for members of Headingley Friday Support Group since the last newsletter. There have been two holidays with 14 members enjoying glorious weather in Great Yarmouth and another 8 members enjoying the best sights that Belgium can offer. There has also been two day trips – one an eventful journey on a narrowboat near Skipton (when an ambulance crew boarded our vessel !!!) and another which could be best described as a Safari expedition (details below).

The Great Yarmouth Holiday *(some of the members in Cromer)*



There should have been 14 members at Leeds Bus Station at 7.50am on the Sunday morning but we were 13 – was this an omen? When we finally arrived in Great Yarmouth several hours later having diverted to a pick-up point on the west side of the country, it was disappointing to discover that we would be seated separately on four tables in different areas of the hotel dining room. The waitress was decidedly uncompromising at our request to sit together. We were only just in time for dinner and the hotel entertainment that evening was specifically marketed for the majority of other guests in the hotel who were experiencing the autumn years of their life (yes, I'll be there soon – editor). Therefore, that first evening set the scene for the rest of the holiday as after dinner the Group headed for the Poets Bar which provided karaoke nightly as well as advertising its other venture next door – a Lap Dancing Club !!! I'm not aware of any of our members who went in or perhaps danced there but the photo below can be used in evidence!



(Val on the microphone in Poets Bar)

Day 2 of the holiday saw a change in our fortunes. The weather was glorious – not a cloud in the sky and temperatures reaching 26°C. A day excursion to Cromer and the Norfolk Broads was included. Barry (Margaret's friend) was warming up too trying to find his sea legs but he hadn't been told that a sailor's tipple is rum and not brandy! On return to the hotel, not only were we able to sit together at dinner (which was very welcome given it was Barry's birthday), but Charlie had arrived having made the long journey by public transport having missed the coach on Sunday.

Days 3 & 4 were again glorious and unbelievable for September. Members took full advantage of the weather by spending time on the beach, playing crazy golf, visiting the amusement park, or just strolling on the promenade. On one evening, the group went ten-pin bowling where Jean played this sport for the first time in her life and was the first player to score a strike.



(Jean 71 yrs-ten-pin bowling)

The Belgium Holiday

8 members of the Group left Leeds at 6.35am on Monday, the 1st of September for their coach journey to Belgium. Twelve hours later, they were sitting down for evening dinner at their hotel in Ostende having crossed the English Channel at Dover. The holiday was action-packed with day excursions to the beautiful cities of Bruges and Brussels. There were also trips to Ostende market and a chocolate factory. Entertainment was provided in the hotel most nights with a singer who specialized in 1930's and 1940's songs – this of course went down well with Valerie who is unable to resist the offer of a microphone! It was great also to see those new members enjoying their first HFSG holiday.

Narrowboat Trip



It was billed as a scenic leisurely trip on the canal from Skipton to Kildwick on a warm summers day in August. *No chance !!!* Bacon and sausage butties were ready for the crew's arrival. The water was calm as we cast off.....straight into the side of a pleasure narrowboat (the ones in which about 60 holidaymakers can have tea and sandwiches on board). Fortunately, neither vessel sank and after giving our apologies we carried on without further incident to a public house where we were to meet other members of the group for lunch. To cut a very long story short, some members had perhaps too much to drink, had difficulty boarding the boat, and once we did depart for the return journey there was some drama with a member collapsing in the cabin. Instructions reached the "skipper" who was at that moment in time Andy, to head straight for Skipton at haste where an ambulance had been summoned by another group member to meet us. One can imagine the interest this caused in the busy market town of Skipton as we thankfully moored successfully. The story had a good end with the member concerned fully recovering after a night in Airedale Hospital.



(Rose & Carol "confident" at the helm)

Knowlesley Safari Park , Liverpool

Having set off for Chester Zoo, the Group found themselves stuck on the M62 in a huge traffic jam. An alternative and nearer venue was agreed upon and what a treasure of fun, excitement, and adventure Knowlesley Safari Park turned out to be.



Baboons clambered over the mini-bus by the score. Their pink bottoms and should we say other parts of their anatomy caused shrieks of delight and amusement inside the bus. Margaret suffered another of her tropical flushes.



Forthcoming events

It's **JUMBLE SALE** time again. The date is **SATURDAY, the 22nd of NOVEMBER** from 2pm to 4pm at **Hcadingley Community Centre**. Members are asked not to save any jumble unless they can bring it themselves on the day. Instead, Andy has arranged to collect all unsold items from two large jumble sales which are being held earlier in the month. We should have plenty of items to sell and of course, we'll have a tombola stall. We do hope you can support this event, preferably by helping out on the day but if not please come and buy something.

Christmas Dinner

Will be on **Friday, the 19th of December** at the **Woodside Pub in Horsforth** at 12.30pm. The cost to members will be £5.50 for a three course menu. Please give £5.50 to Margaret as soon as possible. Unfortunately, members' guests are unable to be accommodated at this function.