

# HEADINGLEY FRIDAY SUPPORT GROUP

(est.1987)

[www.headingleyfridaysupportgroup.org.uk](http://www.headingleyfridaysupportgroup.org.uk)

## NEWSLETTER Summer 2005 Edition

### News

#### CAMPAIGNING / LOBBYING

Memories of 1998 have been evoked for some HIFSG members when mental health services have again come under threat from proposed cuts by Leeds Mental Health Trust. In 1998 it was cuts to inpatient beds and day care services such as Ashwood - who could forget Carol on the megaphone outside St.Mary's Hospital in Armley or the threat of arrest if we encroached onto hospital property where a gala was being held to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NHS. In 2005 it is yet more losses of inpatient beds (41 to be precise) and the amalgamation of Community Mental Health Teams in Leeds from 17 to 10 - one consequence of this change were concerns that Debbie would either lose her job or not be able to spend any time with HFSG. Various members of the Group responded by writing letters to the Trust, the PCT, and politicians. We invited the General Manager of the Trust (John Clare) to come and talk to the Group but he had to cancel at the last moment. As an alternative arrangement, HFSG sent a representative Margaret ( "one of our big guns" ) to meet John Clare. A summary of their discussions is attached to this newsletter but the ultimate outcome for members of HIFSG is that Debbie was successful in keeping her job and despite having to manage two CMHT's in future, assurances were obtained from John that Debbie can continue her involvement with the Group.

#### Day Trips

We've had two successful day trips already this year. The first to Knowsley Safari Park in April and

Scarborough in May. I wish I had a photograph of Lenke and Jean riding the Scarborough waves in a high powered speedboat !



Our next trip is to Blackpool on Friday, the 17<sup>th</sup> of June (usual pick-up points and times). July 22<sup>nd</sup> is to Whitby and August 19<sup>th</sup> to Bridlington.

#### Jersey Holiday 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> September



20 members have booked to go on the holiday to Jersey. The Merton hotel has been selected by the Group which boasts an Aquadome (undercover water slides, cascade fountains, and spa pools), three restaurants, and two bars. You can see the hotel's facilities on their website [www.mertonhotel.com](http://www.mertonhotel.com).

#### Jumble Sale

The Group held a jumble sale at Headingley Community Centre on the 7<sup>th</sup> of May. Everyone worked really hard again but the Evening Post failed to print our advert and consequently the attendance of the general public was down on previous years and we only raised £150. We're considering suing the newspaper for breach of contract and will keep you posted. The good news is that the funds in our

Special 2007 Anniversary Bank Account now stand at **£841.72**. Your ideas and suggestions as to what kind of event we should stage are needed by the end of this year so we can start planning for 2007.

#### Bingo

An extra dimension has been introduced to our regular HIFSG meetings at the Community Centre. On alternate Fridays, a few games of prize bingo are held in the larger room next to our meeting. At 20p a ticket, all profits are donated to our Anniversary Fund. The bingo doesn't disrupt our usual meeting and it's fun for those wanting to play and win a small prize.

#### Birthdays



Three members of HFSG have been celebrating "special" birthdays. Congratulations to Mark and Sharon who are now 40 years old and to Migs who will be 50 on Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> of June.

#### New and "old" faces at HFSG

Welcome to new members Christina, Gary, and Les. Both Gary and Les are going on the Jersey holiday. It was great to see Janet, Rosa, and Steve who came to give the group their news. Farewell to Kath who has completed her placement with Andy at Malham House.