



The meeting was a resounding success with over seventy people attending the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, 29th April at the Dolphin Centre.

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Veronica Copeland. Councillor Copeland explained her role as Portfolio Holder For Adult Services. She explained that as Portfolio Holder and Older Persons Champion she will use her position to help and support GOLD to achieve their objectives and improve the quality of life for older people in Darlington. Councillor Copeland also explained because she is an older person and a service user she can represent GOLD members views with understanding. Councillor Copeland concluded that she hopes 50% of Darlington's over 50s will be members of GOLD by 2012.

As well as the business of the day David Plews from Connecting Communities explained the reasons behind the changes to GOLD

working practices and how the Council and Darlington NHS envisage the changes will enable GOLD to work in a stronger and more dynamic way. He explained the new structure and the relationship between GOLD members, the Focus Group, the Older Persons Partnership Board and the Local Strategic Partnership. David finished off by thanking members for giving their time and views during the consultation period.



So what will happen now? Well the newly elected Focus Group will meet for the first time to look and discuss the work plan for the coming year. The work plan will include threads of work from the old task groups, work from the Positive Images and Health groups, work from the All Our Futures Strategy, new work

from members and legislative work from the Government. The Focus Group will prioritise the work and ask for volunteers to do specific pieces of work and these groups will be called task and finish groups. The task and finish group spokesperson will feed back to the Focus Group on their progress. An example of the work GOLD will be doing this year is working in partnership with the Heat Energy Affordability Team.

(continued on page 2)

Feedback

(continued from page 1)

HEAT aims to prevent unnecessary winter deaths in Darlington and is promoting the benefits and help available to people who are in fuel poverty. Andrea Hewitt from the HEAT Team gave an informative presentation at the meeting and GOLD will be working with HEAT to carry out the promotion.

The business of the day, that is the nominations for the Focus Group were announced by Councillor Copeland and the Focus Group representatives were elected. They are: Brian Jefferson, Audrey Lax, Colin

Hitchens, Jeanette Freeman, Terry Taylor, Jeanette Nunn, Jean Coltman, Betty Hoy, Jean Thurkettle, Harry Longmoor, Barbara Marley and Kath Wall.

Brian Jefferson was nominated and elected to be the Focus Group Chair. Brian thought the meeting was “well attended and a great success”. Brian showed great enthusiasm to get the new structure moving by standing up after the meeting and asking for a quick Focus Group meeting.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to nominate and congratulations to all the new Focus Group.

Message from the Focus Group Chairman

EVERYONE, aged 50 and over, can support GOLD by joining one of the working groups, attending major events, recruiting new members or simply talking about us.

GOLD is not a “talk shop” we actually get things done. We have held major events such as the “Senior Safety Road Show”, “Be Safe in Darlington”, the “Positive Health Day” and many more. There is an active group considering health matters, one looking towards the older generation having a positive image in our town, and various short term

projects covering many aspects of life as it affects the older Darlingtonian. Details of all activities are listed in each month’s newsletter, which is sent to all members.

Anyone can come along to any of the group meetings just to listen, to express their opinion or to raise a concern on any matter relating to that group. Concerns not covered by existing groups should be passed on to Lesley or Claire on 388845 in order that they can be considered for future action. By attending a group you are not making any long term commitment. You can come as often as you wish or only once if that meets your need.

Two highlights each year are the Tea Dance in the Market Square, this year being held on Thursday, 13th August, and the excellent Christmas Party, details of which are available in November.

So, if you are reading this and are not yet a member of GOLD, then please consider joining. There is no joining fee, it is your presence and your involvement that we seek. Contact Lesley or Claire for details as to how to become part of the organisation. If you are already a member, then thank you for your support and I hope we can rely on your participation during the year.

Brian Jefferson

Contact Details

GOLD
13 Horsemarket
Darlington
DL1 5PW

Telephone: (01325) 388845 or 07860 468064
Fax: (01325) 388699
Http:// gold.darlington.org.uk
Email: gold@darlington.gov.uk

What's on

- **Do you have memories of World War II?**
- **Have you or your family served in the armed forces?**
- **Have you or your family been displaced by conflict in Eastern Europe, Africa or beyond?**
- **Do you have a view on how those killed in conflict should be remembered?**

If any of these questions are relevant to you, and you would like to take part in an intergenerational project called 'Their Past, your Future' about war and conflict and how it has changed the lives of people of all ages across the world, then we would like to hear from you.

We are looking for anyone over the age of 50

with memories of war or conflict to share with some school children from the Pupil Referral Unit at the Phoenix Centre. We will also be joined by some members of Darlington's Polish community who have experiences of conflict.

The aim of the project is to recount memories and help the younger people to understand the consequences, at home and abroad, of such conflicts and wars.

At the end of the project we will be putting together a book which will incorporate stories of how lives have been affected and the worldwide impact. The book will include written articles by both older and younger people together with art work, which can then be used as a resource for schools and libraries.

If you would like to be involved please contact Lesley.

Do you look after someone - a relative or friend? Did you know that Darlington's first 3 year Carers' Strategy and Implementation Plan is now available?

This document sets out Darlington's vision of a future where carers, statutory agencies and the third sector work together to develop services that better support both carers and the people they care for to lead fulfilling lives as equal members of the Darlington community.

This will be achieved by delivering a series of actions outlined in the Implementation Plan under the following headings:

- **Better recognition from professionals and inclusion in society**
- **Information**
- **Integrated and personalised services**
- **A life of their own**
- **Income and employment**
- **Health and well-being**

Copies of the Strategy can be downloaded from the Darlington Borough Council website at www.darlington.gov.uk or hard copies can be obtained from Lisa Holdsworth (Chair – Carers' Strategy Steering Group) on (01325) 346490.

Why not have a look at the Strategy and see how it could improve life for you and for the person you care for?

Coming Soon

Group Meetings

Health - Monday 1 June 2009 at 10.15am
Havelock Street Community Centre: Pam
Hooley, Expert Patient Programme

Promoting Positive Images and Publicity

Wednesday 3 June 2009 at 10.30am
Havelock Street Community Centre

The GOLD Tea Dance

Once again the Tea Dance will be held in the Market Square with a variety of music and many information stands. Keep August 13 free! More information will be in our next newsletter.

St Teresa's Hospice is holding a number of fund-raising events in the near future.

Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 June there will be a collection and raffle at Croft Racing Circuit.

Student cyclists from the Hummersknott 900 Club will be cycling approximately 1,000 miles over 15 days to raise funds - if you would like to make a donation contact the fundraising office.

There will be a 'Knockout' competition on Saturday 13 June, where teams will compete for winners' medals and team trophy. If you

can raise a team of 6 or more people to take part (or if you know someone who could) please contact the fund-raising office on 01325 254321.

Darlington Community Carnival is taking place on Saturday 27 June. The theme this year is 'Past, Present and Future' There will be the usual procession through the town centre starting at noon, and entertainment and stalls all day in Stanhope Park.

The workshops for GOLD for the Carnival will start on Friday afternoon 22 May, at Darlington Arts Centre, and anyone is welcome to help to prepare costumes and props for the procession. If you would be interested in coming along to help contact the GOLD Team.

GOLD volunteers recently held a market stall and raised £62.85 selling cakes and bric-a-brac. This money will be put towards events such as the annual Christmas Party and Health Day. Thanks to everyone who supported and helped.

Age Concern Walks for May

Thursday 21 - Hurworth Village, meet Blind Lane Crossroads at 1.30pm

Thursday 28 Croft Ramble, meet outside the Croft Hotel at 1.30pm. For more information ring 01325 362832

An inclusive approach

If English is not your first language and you would like more information about this document, or if you require information in large print, Braille or on tape please contact GOLD on 01325 388845

This document will be made available on request in Braille, tape or large print.

Urdu اگر آپ کو یہ کتابچہ انگریزی کے علاوہ کسی دوسری زبان میں درکار ہو تو براہ مہربانی ٹیلیفون نمبر 388845 پر فون کر کے حوالہ نمبر بتائیں۔

Punjabi ਜੇ ਇਹ ਪਰਚਾ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਅੰਗਰੇਜ਼ੀ ਤੋਂ ਬਿਨਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੀਦਾ ਹੈ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਨੰਬਰ 388845 ਤੇ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ ਅਤੇ ਰੈਫਰੈਂਸ (ਹਵਾਲਾ) ਨੰਬਰ ਦੱਸੋ।

Hindi यदि आप यह प्रकाशन अंग्रेज़ी के अलावा अन्य भाषा में चाहते हैं तो कृपया संदर्भ नम्बर (रेफरन्स नम्बर) बताकर निम्नलिखित 388845 पर संपर्क करें।

Cantonese 如果你需要其它语言的版本, 請與以下電話聯係並報出參考號碼: 388845

Bengali যদি আপনার ইংরেজী ছাড়া অন্য কোন ভাষায় এই প্রকাশনাটির দরকার থাকে, তাহলে নম্বরে ফোন করুন এবং সূত্র নম্বর উল্লেখ করুন। 388845

Arabic إذا رغبت الحصول على هذه النشرة بلغة أخرى غير اللغة الإنجليزية نرجو الاتصال بنا على رقم الهاتف التالي: 388845 مع ذكر رقم الإشارة.

Polish Jeżeli chciał(a)by Pan(i) otrzymać polską wersję językową tego dokumentu, proszę zadzwonić pod numer 388845 i podać numer identyfikacyjny dokumentu.