

WILLIAM BENDLOWE TRUST

PEOPLE WORKING FOR PEOPLE

(encouraging people to mix and socialise – it's good to talk!)

First of all, I would like to wish everyone a Happy, Prosperous and Healthy, 2018 and, secondly, to give a heart-felt thank you to **everyone** who has supported/helped Bendlowe's throughout 2017. I think it is fair to say that over the past year we have formed our own little club. Your continued help and support into 2018 will be very welcome and appreciated and we are looking forward to our monthly Meet & Greet and other events booked.

Our two events in December 17 proved yet again to be very rewarding and successful. Friday, 1st December saw our 12th Meet & Greet – who can believe a year has passed! We chose to celebrate this by adding more food, the odd tittle and a Christmassy atmosphere.

As people entered the hall there was plenty to heighten their senses. Warmth to fend off the recent arctic conditions, soft popular music to serenade the ears, plenty of Christmas decorations across the hall ceiling and walls coupled to a superbly decorated Christmas tree – all helping to set the Christmassy atmosphere. The tables glistened with white table cloths, Christmas crackers, flowers and nibbles. The drinks table adorned with red and white wine, champagne, non-alcoholic drinks and sparkling glasses beckoned. The food table was mouth-watering - overflowing with food including sandwiches, savouries, cakes, quiches - all complemented by hot sausage rolls and mince pies. Out of approximately 40 people attending, nobody went home hungry but 5 people went home with a small early Christmas present after winning a prize in the free raffle.

One week later on the 8th December we were back at the hall for our Music Evening so generously performed by Vic and Marion. Our Christmassy Village Hall was once again filled with a warm atmosphere following 50 tickets being sold, promising a great evening – we were not disappointed!

The tables dressed again with their white table clothes, lanterns, nibbles, crackers, were overflowing with the food people brought along to enjoy. In fact, we are thinking of having a competition next year for the most “mouth watering” table – it will be a close-run competition and I'm booking my place at the winning table!

One of the many highlights was Vic and Marion's rendition of The 12 days of Christmas. People were split into groups and given their part of the song to sing – it was hilarious – people jumping up – “FIVE GOLD RINGS”; “FOUR CALLING BIRDS” etc etc. all trying to be louder than the last group. We were all enjoying ourselves so much that poor “ole” Vic and Marion were not allowed to finish until 10.30 p.m. (should have been 10.00 p.m). I think they have forgiven us – at least, they have agreed to perform again next Christmas and if we are really lucky maybe during the year.

Now we are all looking forward to our meal at Weavers Restaurant, Bocking, **19th January, 23** have booked so far. Hopefully, it will be a success with everyone enjoying themselves – that's the most important thing.

Date for your diary – 23rd February, 2018

We are now taking names of anyone interested in joining us for a tour round Warner's Textile Archive in Braintree. Please see separate flyer for details and/or contact myself Alice 07850 264518 or Sally 07785 235000. Cost £11.00 per person including tea, coffee and biscuits.

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