



PLUS NEWS

Online Magazine of the National Federation of Eighteen Plus Groups
Spring 2006

Stevenage Hit 70s Fever



Another successful dance at the Golden Lion draws in the crowds from three different areas

Back to back in time



World Cup practice?



Editors old ...



... and new ...



Editor's Column

Dear all,

By now you should have received, or be about to receive, a wealth of information relating to the ANC. We have come a long way since this time last year, with the "Area Lead" option starting to properly take effect and a lot of hard, hard work done by several people behind the scenes to produce a New Constitution. The ANC will be about ratifying the constitution and any amendments. If you haven't been to an ANC they are actually rather good fun, so do drop in as this may well be the last. Please take a little time to understand the issues involved, and then enjoy the hearty debate, both in the conference room and at the bar (where I shall likely be commiserating the latest Palace defeat; we always seem to lose on the ANC weekend).

As many of you will already know, this is my final Plus News as I am handing over the reigns to my young and talented successor, Richard Mahaffey. Please be gentle with Richard, but bombard him as you have me with your articles and pics. He will become available through plusnews@18plus.org.uk, but anything that does come my way I will forward on.

I can honestly say I have truly enjoyed putting together the issues over the past couple of years and it has been an education, from



nagging everyone when there has been a dearth of articles, to working out how best to fit it all in when there has been a surplus, to continuing to find out what the computer software can (and can't) do. There has also been the extremely enjoyable networking element, from signing copies of Plus News for some enthusiastic Thurrock girls at Brean, through working with Christine and Sue at the ANC, as well as many phone calls / emails with Wayne Fenton, Francis Wallington, John Smith, Mark Hewson, and too many more to mention. I now can look forward to throwing myself whole-heartedly into my wedding plans for later in the year, as well as relaxing in Eighteen Plus as I intend to slip into the background and become "just another ordinary member".

Plussers, live life to the full, have fun, reach out and go for it. Eighteen Plus is what we have got, and it is no more or less than we can make it.

Ian Crawshaw, Editor
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Contributions to this issue have come from Francis Wallington, Jo Taylor, Joe Gurney, Lara Mellor, Lucy Smith, Mark Hawkins, Mark Hewson, Mike Norbury, Richard Mahaffey, Richard Morton, Russell Webb, Tina Bunyan and Wayne Fenton

Update from a "New" Solihull Member

Since my group (Black Country) closed at Christmas, I have joined Solihull, home of Mark Hewson, Pete Strawbridge, and of course my fiancé Dave Parfitt. On 12th Feb I attended one of my first group activities, visiting the Back to Back houses (pictured) in Brum with Mark H, Kathy, James, Mark, Anne, Mike and Marion. The Back to Back houses are Birmingham's last surviving court of back to back housing and the 4 houses have been restored to reflect 4 time periods. In Birmingham alone there were 40,000 of these houses. Our group was guided round the houses by our guide



(forget his name). It was really interesting and was sad to find out how people had lived in these houses. I would definitely recommend going.

Of course we had our photos taken by Mark H and had to put up with Mike's cheesy jokes (must try harder).

After this visit, I am looking forward to joining my new group on more trips.

Jo Taylor
Solihull member and Aston Villa Fan

National Badminton / Southern Area Hedge Hop

National Badminton was run by South Bucks on 18th February. It was well attended by groups from Southern, North Thames and Chiltern, East Anglia, and Midland areas. Many thanks to those of you who travelled the length and breadth of the country to take part.

The competition was dominated by Midland and Southern areas this year but NT&C also managed a top 4 finish.

The event was rounded off with everyone meeting up for some good food and some medicinal alcohol. If it didn't help ease the aching muscles at least it helped us forget the pain!!

Well it's all over for another year but we're already looking forward to the next. Don't put your racquets away, keep practicing and you

never know what will happen next year. Hope to see some old faces and lots of new ones then.

Badminton Results		Hedge Hop Results	
Mens		1 st South Bucks	
1 st Gary Scrivens		2 nd Reading/Abingdon	1.52
2 nd Dave Filer		3 rd = Thatcham	2.07
3 rd = Pete Mann		3 rd = Dunstable 1	2.11
Michael Webb		5 th Coventry / Leam'n Spa	2.11
		6 th Dunstable 2	2.46
		7 th Fareham	3.19
			3.59
Womens			
1 st Corinna Teale			
2 nd Lisa Ward			
3 rd = Andrea Scrivens			
Nichole Hedger			
Doubles			
1 st Mike Webb & Richard Teale			
2 nd Pete Mann & Dave Filer			
3 rd = Mike Shapcott & Andrew Mellor			
Gary & Andrea Scrivens			

Lara Mellor
South Bucks

Thank you everyone who came to Didcot for the Southern Area Hedge Hop. There were 32 members arranged into 7 teams, who participated in very cold but not too wet conditions, as well as some people from Dunstable, Leamington Spa and Coventry.

Well done South Bucks team, and thank you to all who helped out with time keeping, question marking, and 'spotting'!

See you all at the next one.

Tina Bunyan
Southern Area Chairwoman



Congratulations



We would like to congratulate Donna & Dave as they tied the knot (at last) on Saturday 28th January 2006 in the Lovely Hotel in Kent.

Donna had been seeing Dave (squaddy) for a few years now and with a small number of guests we welcomed the new Mr & Mrs Cook, yes I know Donna & the word Cook may have you thinking up some nice remarks, but remember Dave is a trained killer, normally of Donna's (LOL – oops!!!)

They however have to leave England as Dave has been posted to Northern Ireland, however

Donna can still be reached via email and she is trying to make it for the ANC.



Lucy Smith (left) with the happy couple

So no more confusion over Donna's surname (many aliases) and now welcome Mrs Donna Cook.

Well done and have a great life together the both of you.

Wayne Fenton
Ex National Chairman

[Congrats and I trust tea towels were on your wedding gift list – Ed]

Knutsford, Kennedy, and the Man on the Motorbike

It was 1963. A balmy summer evening in the Cheshire market town of Knutsford but the peace of the neighbourhood surrounding Brae Cottage, formerly the home of inventor Sir Henry Royce (yes, that one!), was broken by the strains of a new pop group, The Beatles, singing "Love Me Do".

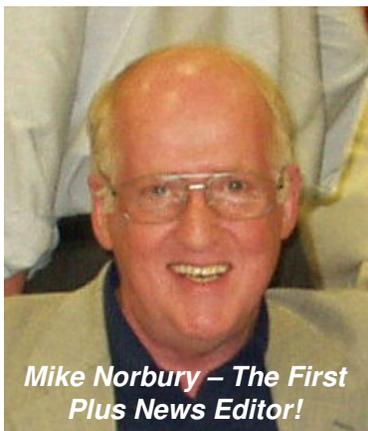
For me that was my first adventure into any form of organising within 18 Plus. It was the first of what became the annual Knutsford Barbecue when all members took at least a small part in organising the event. As a new member then I couldn't tell you how many arrived or where they came from, but they came!

To many reading this now it must seem like pre-history. To me and many others born around the war years (second, that is!) it was part of our growing up. It strikes me that today's readers may not even know where Knutsford is although the Service Area on the newly constructed M6 was opened during the mid 60s – Helen Ash, where are you now? She was a member and her dad was manager of the Service Area which meant that we got to do an official visit to the area pre-opening and got to drive up to the Holmes Chapel turn before the public were allowed on it. Oh, the variety of the 18 Plus events!

I joined the Knutsford Group in 1963 (at the age of 17). Unusual in two ways. The strict membership criteria age was then 18-30 – and we met in the Legh Arms! Having scanned through the histories on the 18 Plus website I see that present-day 18 Plus bears very little resemblance to that of the 60s just as the Federation of the 60s was totally changed from the early days (the man on the motorbike spent time in a town opening a group then went on to another town to open another only for the previous one to close behind him).

We met in Knutsford every Thursday evening with quizzes, guest speakers, debates, etc. then on many weekends travelled to other parts of the area – dances, barbecues, etc. Whilst in Knutsford we were at least partly responsible for the opening of Wilmslow, Altrincham and Macclesfield groups. Looking at the website list whatever happened to: Northwich, Sale, Stretford, Didsbury, Fallowfield, Levenshulme, Stockport, Hazel Grove, Poynton, Prestwich, Eccles, Irlam, Davyhulme, Salford, and Moston? Yes, every one of these locations had a weekly meeting 18 Plus Group and I've most certainly missed quite a number out. We not only had the North-West Area but also separate Cheshire and Lancashire Regions. Sorry, I missed out Cheadle, Wythenshawe, Bolton, ... want me to go on?

At the ripe old age of 18 I was on the Cheshire Region Council and by 19 was Publicity Officer for the North-West Area under the chairmanship of Ron Ferguson. I think that at one time at least eight Knutsford members were on the Cheshire, North-West or National councils.



Where were you on November 22nd 1963? If you were a North-West 18 Plus member you were probably at the Sale Locarno for an Area Dance. It was the day of the assassination of John F Kennedy.

Out of hundreds of other events I also remember that one of the groups organised an evening dance under a marquee at Urmston Show and the group playing was the Four Pennies

on the week they had a number one with "Juliet". That was 1964.

I vividly remember a convoy of cars driving down to Hastings for the Conference there when one had to drive right through the centre of London to get there. We had Day-Glo posters on the car side panels with things like "Hastings or BUST" on the side.

In 1967 the Federation organised its first large-scale 'outward-looking' event. This was a conference at the Central Hall, Westminster, called *Advance '67*, to discuss what help the young could give for the benefit of the community. Many national and local organisations were represented along with 1500 18 Plus members. The meeting was chaired by Christopher Chataway M.P., and speakers included Lord Soper, Anthony Steen, Des Wilson and comedian Roy Hudd. In the evening we had a great dance up at Alexandra Palace. What a privilege to be there.

At the age of 21 I moved from Knutsford to work for Sainsbury's in South London and in those days one could almost travel from group to group if one moved location. I joined Crystal Palace group and within the year was chairman.

So, what was my great achievement in 18 Plus? Well, I'm the Norbury of Norbury Trophy fame! You won't believe the sheer cross-emotions of pride and humility in going on to the website and finding that it is still being presented all these years later. As "National Publications Officer" I edited the first "18 Plus News" which, using the new invention of litho printing, actually had photos in it. At that time there were quite a number of locally produced newsletters but I had noted that several were not really worthy of the aims and ideals of the Federation, especially those that carried criticisms of those who had spent months

organising events in their free time and others that were more like Uni rag mags. On leaving the post I presented the trophy for the publication other than the National one that best represented the Federation and the needs of its members. I was staggered ten years later in 1977 to be found and invited to National Conference in Weston-Super-Mare to present it on its tenth anniversary. And privileged to once again meet up with founder Sir John Nicholson.

How on earth did I come back into contact with 18 Plus in 2006? Well, in common with others of my era I have friends who are no longer with us. A few weeks ago I attended the funeral of Geoff Sanderson who was a good friend in the Knutsford Group all those years ago. There I met with three others who happened to ask about another. "Whatever happened to...?" Well, I traced John Ikin to New Zealand and he's now asking about other old 18 Plussers. This brought me onto the website and Bob's your uncle – or not, as the case may be!

So, rather than publish a great big list of names we're trying to trace, if anyone remembers me or others from Knutsford in the 1960s or in the groups we were

especially close to please contact me at miken_kml@hotmail.com.

I must however pass my best regards to a man who worked tirelessly for 18 Plus during my time in the Federation. Ron Ferguson – I know from Mike Souter you're in contact. It was a privilege to work with you.

It has been mooted that sometime next year we hold a reunion in Knutsford and there are some specific names we'd like to contact – Anne Wilson (last heard of in Market Drayton?), Bill and Janet Hammond, Richard Green (was Altrincham), Wendy White (her dad was on the Granada News Team on that night Kennedy died), Hazel Sutton (Cheadle), Marion Gosling (Orpington), Roger ? (Crystal Palace).

Although in a very new and changed format, I wish great success to all those currently in 18 Plus. It would be amazing to see its century – far more amazing for me than for most of you!

Mike Norbury
Wrexham
North Wales

From First to Latest ... Meet your New Plus News Editor!

I have been a member of the Federation for twelve years. From 1994 – 2000, I was a member of Watford (Central). I also regularly visited Harrow, Hemel Hempstead, Welwyn Garden City, and St. Albans. By pure coincidence (I hope) all of these groups have since folded. When Watford folded (I won't go into detail), I jumped ship and joined Barnet, and 4 years of further education and unemployment later, am still an active member.

My favourite parts of Plus include the National weekends away such as Brean Sands and WASH; Barnet group night events such as quizzes on all matter of topics; games such as my own version of *Family Fortunes* using chocolates rather than cash, cars and expensive holidays, *Countdown* run by Paul Brennan, and *Werewolves*, where our "adopted" Stevenage member Paul Hudson allows us to have fun in the dark. We also regularly have a game called "Whose..." where members of the group bring an item and Mark Hawkins gives us clues as to which of three people it belongs to. The "item" has so far ranged from CDs, cars, houses (a la *Through the Keyhole*), dinners, puddings, snacks, and photos of ourselves as babies. This is enjoyed by most but my main problem is simply that I am no b****y good at it.

My other interests include music. I have a huge (some might say over-the-top) collection of CDs and DVDs. My taste in music changes almost on a weekly basis from Indie/rock such as *The Kaiser Chiefs*,

Franz Ferdinand and *Coldplay* to my chill-out compilations (*Björk*, *Lemon Jelly*, *Groove Armada*) to old eighties/nineties cheesy dance tracks - depending on what mood I am in at the time. I also love TV and radio (British) comedies, be they classics such as *Fawlty Towers*, *Blackadder*, *Not the Nine O'clock News*, *Just a Minute* or *I'm Sorry I haven't A Clue* to more recent ones such as *Peep Show*, *Green Wing*, *The Office* and *That Mitchell & Webb Sound*, *News Quiz*. My comedy heroes are *The Marx Brothers* and *Chris Morris* (whom I consider a God).

I also regularly go to the theatre (easy as one of my Aunties and Uncles runs the 50 year old Ticket Agency family business); which means I am able to go to many musicals and plays.

I'd also like to finish off with some big thank-yous. Firstly Ian Crawshaw for his editorship of this fine publication over the past 2 years (I hope I am able to be a worthy successor); all members of Barnet Plus Group, NT&C Area, Lucie & Jo Taylor, Joan Clifford and Adam Redshaw (Midland Area) for their support and to all the members of National for their trust shown in electing me for this position – I will do my best to show that they have made the right choice.

Richard Mahaffey
Barnet Plus

Update from the January NEC Meeting

Congratulations to John Smith, who is now our National Chairman (whereas before he was Acting National Chairman). Also, congratulations to Steve Browning of EAA, who is now Deputy National Chairman.

Following the January NEC meeting, the format for transition to the new Area Lead structure has now been finalised. The key items to note are as follows:

The New Constitutions will be presented to the ANC at April for adoption by the Group Delegates. If adopted, they will take effect from the close of business of the ANC.

There will not be an "opening of one organisation / closing of another" as was previously implied by the last bulletin. Instead, the effect will be that the old organisation is transformed into the new one.

The format of the ANC will be:

- ❖ On the Saturday morning, before the Conference proper, there will be a Training Session for (potential) Area Membership Officers run by Joe Gurney and Dave Filer.
- ❖ During the Conference itself, there will be a presentation by members of the Constitutional Sub-Committee about the new Constitutions.
- ❖ There will then be the debate on the new Constitutions themselves. The Constitutions will form the supporting documentation to the Motion itself, hence no amendments will be taken at that stage. However...

- ❖ Assuming that the new Constitution is adopted, the rest of Saturday and Sunday will be given over to Group motions, which will allow the new Constitution to be amended. Some Group Motions have been received.



Joe cools down at the 2005 ANC

The new Constitutions, along with explanatory material and full details of all the motions proposed by the NEC, will be sent to the Groups in time so that groups will be able to propose amendments if they wish to do so.

The weekend of 11th and 12th March saw the Area Membership Officers go to Newent for a training session, hosted by Dave Filer, and featuring our office staff Christine and Sue. As a result, all of our Membership Officers

had a good time and now know all about how to run an efficient Membership system for their Areas. Which is just as well since **as of Monday March 13th**, they are now all responsible for issuing membership cards! Remember: send the membership form and group cheque to **your local Area Membership Officer from now on**. Then you will get back one of the nice new cards with the brand new numbering system on it!!!

NB: Up until **April 28th**, although cheques are being sent to the Area Membership Officer, group cheques should still be made payable to the **National Federation of 18 Plus Groups**. From April 28th, they should be made payable to **your own Area**.

Joe Gurney
National Training Officer

Saturday Night Fever in London Colney

This was the theme of the Stevenage Dance and it was well reflected in the fancy dress, with Tom Seddon dressed as John Travolta and Suzy and Paul shaping up well too. Nearly 50 attendees helped make a profit of £60 for the group, and it was good to see members from EAA and Midland as well as NT&C.

The winner of the fancy dress is a new recruit from Stevenage and it was her first 18 Plus disco. In the

raffle Jeff from Hillingdon won some Quality Street (and became very popular) and Lance got a teddy bear (let's not tell Wayne as he's a teddy bear collector)!

Stevenage have boosted their membership recently with several new (mostly female) members.

Mark Hawkins / Lucy Smith / Russell Webb
Barnet and Stevenage Groups

Diary of an ANC Booking Officer

October 2005

Oh God, Andy tells me I am now the ANC Booking Officer. I only offered as I had nothing better to do. Oh well, I'm sure it won't be too difficult. At least I won't have to start doing anything yet.

November 2005

Spent time at WASH discussing menus for the ANC dinner dance with Andy and my sister Lucie, who wanted to make sure there were veggie choices. Also went round putting out posters on tables advertising the ANC. Of course this was delegated to me by Andy. In return at the Midland Area dance I persuaded Ian Oliver to do the same. The word is delegation.

The first booking came in which was Andy (no surprise).

December 2005

3 more bookings came in: Gerry Edwards, Jackie Gilbert and Giles Kirby. Feel disappointed there haven't been more but I suppose people have been waiting till after Christmas.

January 2006

After Andy and I began advertising on the Onelist, more bookings have been coming in. Andy went away on holiday but has still remained in contact, texting me from Florida. How dedicated!

It has been fun reading the special requirements. My favourite is from Mr Fenton, who doesn't mind who he sits by! Put message on Onelist asking for volunteers!

Have been in contact with Francis, who wanted to know numbers for the NEC meeting. I was disappointed that the members of the NEC (apart from Giles) hadn't booked in, although they did after the NEC meeting.

February 2006

Christine and Sue have been excellent, especially answering any queries I have. More bookings are coming in as are the requests for the Jacuzzi rooms! [*Don't forget mine – Ed*] Of course, the best person won and I shall have one, though I think there are 5 altogether.



I'm enjoying this time as soon things will be more hectic, with Andy delegating more jobs for me to do ie. badges etc. I am in contact with Andy every day, he is very supportive and doesn't mind me ringing.

March 2006

Last deadline for accommodation bookings was on March 15th, still with a few groups to book in.

Andy and I have spent the last two days making up new signs and badges. They shouldn't have taken so long but we spent some of the time chasing up on bookings and receiving phone calls for people asking if we had done the signs. I didn't realise how many incomplete forms would be sent in! Thank heavens for Sue and Christine.

Andy had been getting prizes for the casino. The wonderful WASH Committee have donated a free place, shame I can't win it though ☺

Andy drew up a list of jobs that needed to be done on the day. Funny thing is, my name appears on most of them! I think Andy thinks he will spend most of the time in the bar; well he has a shock coming!

Seriously, we have most things done and are both looking forward to the day.

Jo Taylor
Solihull 18 Plus

Vacancy... Vacancy ... Vacancy..

North Thames & Chiltern Area currently have a vacancy in the position of **Activities Officer**. If you believe you've got what it takes to stand for the post (and are in NT&C of course!) please speak to Area Chairman Tracy Thorn.

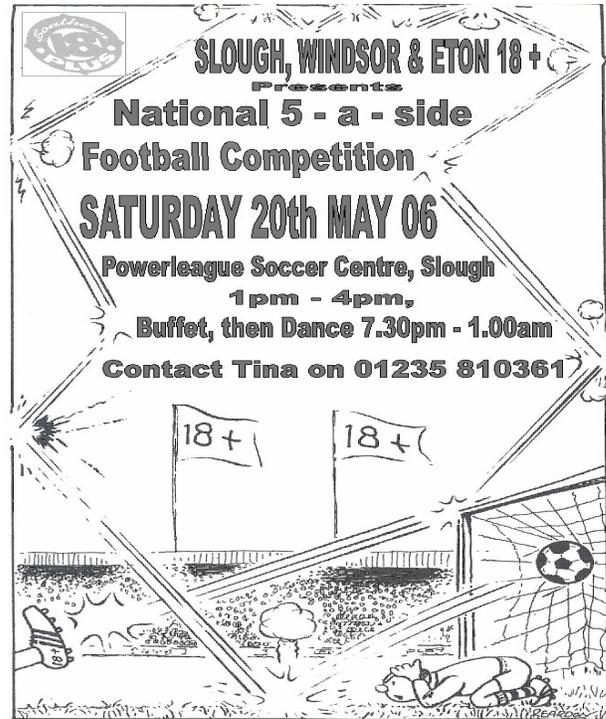
Future Events

We are organising the inaugural "Milton Keynes Mad Weekend" on the weekend of 2nd and 3rd September, a weekend of mad activities including tuition for these mad events.

- Indoor Sky Diving – that's right; floating in mid air and flying around in a sort of weightless state - cool!
- Choice of Skiing, Snowboarding (on a Real Snow indoor slope) or Rock Climbing (Climbing Walls)
- Outdoor Karting
- Paintballing (including 100 rounds)

Four events with equipment hire and tuition, and one night's stay in a hotel all for the bargain price of around £170. You won't find this price anywhere else (we've got great group discounts!). Book your time off work now!!

Richard Morton
So'ton Friends



Other Forthcoming Events 2006 – 07



Sat 15 th Apr	Southern: Unihoc Competition & Party, Willowbrook Leisure Centre, Didcot
Sat 22 nd – Sun 23 rd Apr	National: Annual National Conference, Coventry
Sat 13 th May	East Anglia: Clubbing Night, Brannigans, 64 South St, Romford RM1 1RB
Fri 26 th – Mon 29 th May	National: Outdoor Pursuits, Lake District
Fri 9 th – Mon 12 th June	National: SADY, Dalesbridge, Yorkshire
Sat 17 th June	East Anglia: Casino Night
Sat 17 th June	Southern: Area Beach BBQ (hosted by Thatcham)
Sat 1 st July	National: Rounders and BBQ, Havering
Sat 8 th July	National: Treasure Hunt, London (hosted by Slough)
Fri 21 st – Sun 23 rd July	East Anglia: King's Lynn Summer Weekend
Sat 22 nd July	Midland: Conf. and Dance, Rugby Club, Tamworth Rd, Lichfield WS14 9JE
Sat 12 th Aug	Northern: Annual Beach Party, Cleethorpes
Sat 9 th Sep	North Thames & Chiltern: Stevenage Skool Disco, London Colney
Fri 15 th – Sat 23 rd Sep	National: Holiday, Greek Island (location to be confirmed)
Thu 21 st – 28 th Sep	Southern: Cyprus Holiday
Sat 21 st Oct	Midland: Conference and Dance
Sat 28 th Oct	Northern: Ten Pin Bowling and Buffet, Leeds (hosted by Rothwell)
Fri 3 rd – Mon 6 th Nov	National: WASH, Hunstanton
Sat 20 th – 27 th Jan 2007	National: Skiing Holiday, Italy

More information on these and other events may be found on the World Wide Web at www.18plus.org.uk

Please email articles, programmes and comments to the PLUS NEWS Editor at plusnews@18plus.org.uk. The articles herein do not necessarily represent the opinion of the Editor, Plus News, or the National Federation of Eighteen Plus.

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