

Reconnecting Support Group Meetings

These meetings were set up last summer following the first lockdown and held in the Pocket Park. The purpose was to bring people together safely to reconnect with friends and make new ones. The Town Council then kindly granted us free use of the Town Hall enabling us to meet over the winter as long as restrictions allowed. Calne Area Board also gave us funding to pay for us to continue using the Town Hall every Tuesday from April 2021 until the end of this year with funding also for refreshments and entertainment. We now have 25 members who attend regularly enjoying not only the social side but quizzes, word searches, bingo, fun exercise sessions, watching Celebrating Age concerts on YouTube. For some members this is still their only outing and contact with others. As a support group, regulations would allow up to 30 members plus volunteers. Risk Assessments are in place and all guidelines followed.

In January with the help of volunteers, 70 Afternoon teas were sent out to Older People in the community along with greetings cards from Calne School Pupils. An amazing 140 cards were made and delivered.

Petting Zoo. Chloe's Petting Zoo has been booked for 20th July in the Pocket Park from 10.30-12pm. This has been a favourite activity of members of the Reconnecting Group Members

Celebrating Age has been actively working with our community by providing on line concerts for those who have access to computers.

Also following the success before Christmas of the short outside garden concerts for people either isolating or unable to leave their homes, two more successful days this year saw performances in Derry Hill, Hilmarton, Calne and Compton Bassett. These included visits not only to Individuals but also to our two Sheltered Housing Schemes and local Care Homes. Another day is planned for 19th August.

Also an outdoor musical concert by Mary Lou is planned for 29th July in the Pocket Park from 10.30-12pm. Weather permitting.

All this can only happen with the support received from the Volunteers.

Many of the Activities and Clubs for Older People have still not opened, including Day Care. Information still needs to be gathered re the need for these and if changes need to be made, as the needs of Older People and Carers may have changed over this last year.

