

# Friends in Deed

## Newsletter 16 March 2012



Welcome to the first Newsletter of 2012.

We have been busy since our last communication, carrying out plans and looking ahead. Our usual role as visitors, befrienders and drivers continues as does our involvement in the Mums and Toddlers group.

In December, we were represented at the Quiet Christmas service on December 24th. We were part of a small but appreciative congregation. No-one who remained afterwards for coffee and biscuits was in need of a "listening ear" but there was a great feeling of warmth and peace, a lovely prelude to the more ebullient festivities.

On February 8th. we held our Winter Tea Party in the Methodist Schoolroom. Good friends, good conversation and excellent cakes. We are grateful to all the bakers, servers and the washing-up squad and most especially to Brenda Steadman who was responsible for the organisation. We do love these tea parties: the next one will be on August 8th.

Looking ahead, we have been invited to participate in the Community Matters Week, hosted by Buckden School, which will run from March 19th. to March 23rd. 2012. This event seeks to engage both the children and parents connected with the school and organisations in the community. A major part will be displays of art and craft work of different kinds on the themes of the natural world and springtime. Friends in Deed will be allocated a display space and invited to loan any piece of work they have created: drawing, painting embroidery, knitting, sculpture, flower arrangement which fits with the general theme. We hope to tap into a fine seam of creativity ! On Friday March 23rd. the school will also be putting on a lunch for Over 60s residents of Buckden and Friends in Deed have offered to provide transport for this event.

Our Spring Training Evening is on March 21st. at 7.30pm in the Lincoln Room of the Buckden Millennium Hall. This is an open meeting and we hope to have a good attendance from people unconnected with FiD as well as our own members. Our theme is "Planning a Funeral." We shall think about what happens when someone dies, the options when planning funerals, and how someone can plan in advance for their own funeral. A well-known local Funeral Director and our Vicar Ally, will be the chief speakers. Please draw the attention of anyone who may be interested, to the posters and flyers around the village. This will be a re-assuring evening.

April 6th. brings us to Good Friday when we shall support the children's Craft Morning run by Churches Together in the Methodist Church. As in other years, the activities will be appropriate to the day and the children will be warmly occupied whilst their parents attend the open-air service on the Village Green . Increasingly, we are enjoying working with people active in other aspects of village life.

You may recall a previous newsletter reporting on a visit from Angela Griffiths the Manager of "Poppyfields" part of the Hanover Housing Trust. We have accepted her invitation to visit the complex, view the flats and get an idea of the other facilities which are offered. Our visit has been arranged for Tuesday, April 24th. leaving Buckden at about 10.30am. This is not exclusively for FiD members and we should like to include everyone who would like to explore "Poppyfields." We intend to car-share and travel as "greenly" as possible. If you would like to join us, please would you contact Christine Lawrence on 07810 006598 or Ann Arran on 01480 810380.

By the time you receive this newsletter, you should have noticed some shiny new posters around the village, advertising Friends in Deed. At the foot, it says, rightly, "supported by St. Mary's Church Buckden." It is a support we value highly and could not survive without, but we should also have mentioned Care Network [Cambridgeshire] who also support us. We are grateful to everyone official and unofficial who gives us their encouragement.

Spring may well be on its way, and we wish you all a joyful Easter.