

MINUTES of a general meeting held at the Carlton Theatre on February 25, 2009.

1. Attending: Professor Frank Hartley (chairman), Mary Awcock (secretary), Richard Watkins (treasurer), Paul Fluck (minutes secretary and publicity), Eileen Brierley, Pamela Martin, John Vaughan, Sue Watkins and about 10 members of the public.

2. Apologies were received from Jim Corben (vice chairman) and Alan Garnett.

3. Frank apologised for the fact that Lucie Burnell, who was to have given a talk on Benefits on behalf of Care Direct, was not able to be present.

In her place, Sally Milton gave a talk on Time for Life, a new organisation which helps people over 50 get out and about and make new friends.

Time for Life is a service which helps housebound people remain active and independent throughout Devon. It is based at Westbank, Exeter, and has people aged up to 99 on its books.

Sally said the organisation has mentors who have supported 222 people across Teignbridge. She quoted a case of a blind man with no guide dog who had no contact with anyone else in the community after moving into the area.

"One of our mentors helped him to contact a number of organisations he was able to join. Now he goes to the theatre and goes to the pub for a drink."

4. Frank Hartley outlined future meetings at the Carlton Theatre including one on March 20 when Amanda Trafford, NHS cluster manager for Teignmouth and Dawlish, would give a talk on health.

The Annual General Meeting would be on April 17 when there would be a talk by Inspector Shaw about the police. On June 19, Trading Standards would describe how to keep Devon safer from scams and rogue traders. Later, probably at a school or college, there would be training on computers.

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