



Chair's Report for the ESF AGM 2019

Dear Members

ESF has now entered its 12th year and since our last AGM, we have continued to keep our members informed of issues relevant to them at all levels.

We have given this information obtained through a variety of sources, via our seasonal/quarterly Newsletters and via e-mails and our regularly updated website which also provides a number of useful links.

Many thanks go to Steve Thornett, Newsletter Editor and Ian Weeks website Manager, for their time and hard work.

As Chair, I have been delighted to continue networking and building stronger links with many organisations.

I have continued to attend the bi-monthly East Sussex Seniors Association meetings where many topics which affect the over 50s daily life and care are discussed and useful information passed on.

Recently I also had the opportunity of being part of a small group which organised the first Silver Sunday event in Eastbourne. The aim of this event was to target people at risk of loneliness and isolation.

Some of our Committee members have also attended a number of meetings including The ESSA management meetings with me, the ESSA Health and transport meetings, the Older People's Day planning meetings (which are also bi-monthly).

We were invited to attend an NHS event and offered the opportunity to have an ESF stand.

At the beginning of the year, we spent a half-day in the shopping centre at The Beacon to promote ESF.

We held three Open Meetings with presentations from representatives of One you East Sussex, Health in Mind and the Police.

Our biggest events were our OPD events:

The Good Life Show (in 2018) which was renamed the Good Life Event 2019. We held the 2018 Show in September at the View Hotel in Eastbourne with 43 exhibitors and over 900 visitors. Great location but space and lay-out were still an issue.

This year's event also in September was held at the brand-new Welcome Building situated between the Congress Theatre and the Winter Gardens. This great venue enabled us to welcome just under 50 exhibitors and over 800 visitors who braved the weather! in the two massive exhibition halls. The events were very successful and the feedback we received was very positive from both parties.

Huge thanks for both occasions go to Shirley Davis, our Coordinator and Ian Weeks for his input in IT, design and advertising. We have been really lucky to benefit from their commitment, expertise and professional approach. I would like to thank also our sponsors Heringtons Solicitors, The Chaseley Trust and Meads Care in 2018 and Stephen Rimmer Solicitors for 2019 as well as all who supported us and all who helped to ensure the smooth running of the day.

There have been committee changes:

Sadly, one of our members Robert Cooper passed away this Summer. Robert served on the Committee for a number of years. We miss him, his friendly personality not forgetting his sense of humour!

Members who have stepped down from the Committee: Colin Akers, Stephanie Blackledge, Vera Tyler, Julie Tremlin, Mike Parkinson, Pamela Gibbs.

We were delighted to welcome Gill Morris who became our Minute Secretary.

I would like to thank all the Committee members and supporters for their support and contribution to ESF and give them my best wishes.

On a personal note: this is my last Chair's report as I am stepping down from the role due to family commitments. I have enjoyed meeting and networking with a lot of people who work hard to make a difference within the community and I give ESF and its members my best wishes for the future.

Nadine Harris Chair ESF 12th November 2019

