

About the Out and About Club?



Our Out and About Club is really going places! Out of 372 churches applying for funding St Stephen's Out and About Club was one of the six winners of the 2016 'Churches Helping Communities', sponsored by Ecclesiastical Insurance Company, to receive £2,000.

We were placed in the final draw to win £10,000! However this went to St John's Church, Shildon in the Diocese of Durham. Their application was "local people supporting a wide range of community activities in a deprived small town". But, we still have our £2,000, which is a very great achievement in itself.

There was a prize giving lunch in the Crypt of St Martins-in-the-Fields. Each of the 6 prize winners were presented and congratulated by the judges who then announced the overall winner. Russell said "I was, personally, very flattered to have been invited to attend this function together with other members from St Stephen's Church".

As was stated in the list of finalists - "Out and About Club for pensioners, to challenge the idea that older people just want to fill their time with 'lounging' activities such as bingo. The Out and About Club provides incredibly creative opportunities for meeting the clear and extensive needs of older people for social interaction and mental and physical stimulation".



If you would like to learn more about the Club, or join in the activities, just contact us through St Stephen's.... you don't have to be a Church member to come along. Watch the video to learn more about the Club

<http://www.ecclesiastical.com/churchmatters/churchinsurance/church-insurance-made-simple/community-outreach-activities/ideas/out-and-about-club/index.aspx>

The person who really needs to be congratulated is Linda Inniss who through her foresight and thoughts has created the Out and About Club.

Linda was born in 1953 in Port of Spain, Trinidad. Her mixed heritage (Trinidadian father and Yorkshire born and bred mother) may account in part for her 'easy' friendships with those of different ethnic backgrounds.

Following in the footsteps of her parents Linda trained to teach modern foreign languages (German and French) and in her career was also a pastoral Year Head. In both roles she organised trips for pupils in the UK and abroad. This has stood her in good stead, of course, for arranging Out and About Club outings.

She retired early to live in Dulwich with her elderly parents, whose health was declining. It is probable

that this, combined with eight years previously as a Samaritan volunteer, meant she developed a natural empathy with the elderly, lonely and vulnerable, an invaluable quality when dealing with club members.

In her spare time she loves to go to concerts, theatre and cinema; and she also enjoys visiting new places and travel, in general.

The Out and About Club will be losing Linda - its founder and facilitator- in 2017, when she returns to live on the Kent Coast. So we need to find as many volunteers as possible to carry on her idea and share in the work of the Out and About Club Committee. Otherwise, the club will fold. If you can help with any of the tasks listed on the enclosed sheet, - even on a one-off basis, or offer your support in any way, PLEASE contact the church office.



With acknowledgements to Russell Baird and Linda Inniss for assistance with this article. Our thanks also to all those who supported our application for the prize including Revd Canon Schunemann, Revd Dr Lloyd and Helen Hayes MP; all the volunteers and members too!