

OPEN AT LAST

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100th Birthday

It's been a long time coming but the time has finally arrived when we can legally and safely re-admit members back inside our day centre.



Back in April during stage one a few hardy souls came for an afternoon tea and a chat but the weather was not on our side, as I type the weather not so important so it is of course glorious.

Competing for the top slot in this edition of Lodge news is Elsie's 100th Birthday. Here she is proudly displaying her letter from the Queen.



And here she is at one of the two celebrations held for her at the Lodge.



There is a full size cake for all to share but the cup cake with a candle was so we could go ahead with the blowing out of the candle ceremony without the obvious risks.

Charges and Activities

Price rises are as inevitable as the bad weather and we have reluctantly increased our prices. Currently a full day at the lodge including drinks, lunch and most activities will set you back £12.50 with an extra £4 if you use our transport. If you come in just for a half day for the morning exercise class or afternoon bingo for example it will cost £4.

We have no plans to increase prices again until April 2022.

Currently we open three days a week with activities as below

Tuesday AM exercise	PM bingo
Thursday AM exercise	PM puzzles
Friday AM discussion group	PM bingo

Helen is here to look after your hair most Tuesday mornings and Jane comes to look after your feet when there is the demand the office can take bookings for either.

Amazon Smile

If you or anybody you know shop on the Amazon website we have signed the charity up for Amazon Smile this is a system where we get a small donation every time someone who has chosen us as their charity shops on Amazon. It's simple to set up just access smile.amazon.co.uk and search for Sutton Lodge as your chosen charity then anytime you shop we get a small donation.

Looking Back

The last 18 months have not been easy for many charities and businesses, many have not survived. Thanks to financial assistance from the government, the local Council and charity funders we are still holding on.

We are very grateful to all who helped us financially but also to our staff and volunteers who by their helpfulness and flexibility helped us deal with the many challenges the pandemic threw at us.



Looking Ahead

Now we have the challenge of rebuilding our services, we are not here to make a profit but we need a small surplus to rebuild some reserves so we can deal with future challenges.

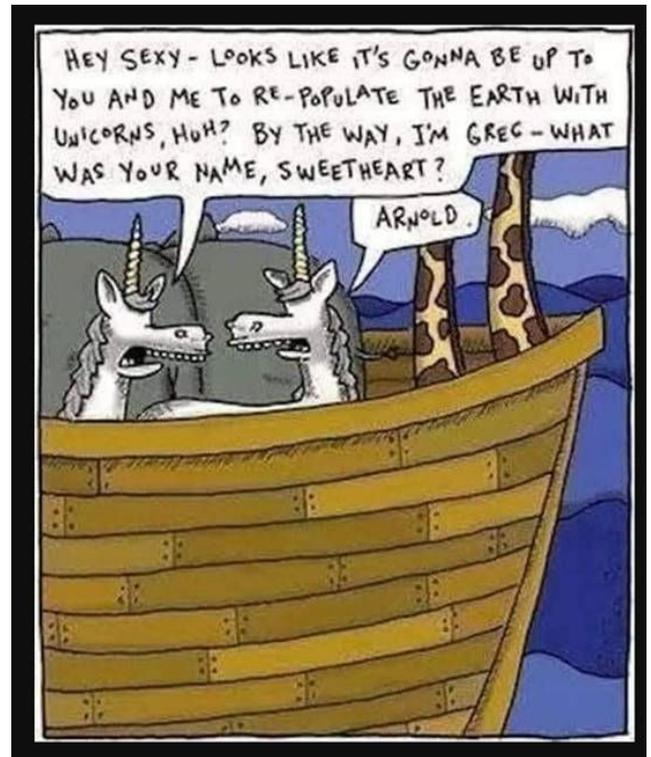
To do this we need to increase income and reduce costs, to increase income we need to welcome more members back and recruit some new ones, reducing costs is not so straight forward as we were already working hard at that before the pandemic. One thing we are doing to save money is not opening every day when the three days we are open start to get full we will open another day.

The government has used the alliteration "Build Back Better" and that's what we intend to do. These are some ideas we are considering

- Sunday opening I am told that for some people Sunday can be the loneliest day should we open on Sundays?
- More trips Trips out were always popular, if there is the interest then we could do more trips perhaps on a day where the day centre did not open
- Shared use If we are not using the Lodge every day perhaps another group would like to use it one day a week (and in return help us with the bills).

"To be successful one needs to give the people what they want" as you are the people in this case please tell us what you want.

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Puzzle

Always difficult to find a different puzzle but I don't think we have had a maze before.

