

## UCC Article for December 2017

As another year draws to a close I have been looking back over 2017. UCC has had another busy year with occasional ups and downs. We are very lucky to have so many dedicated drivers and office staff who give so much of their time and help to the community.

UCC has a Business meeting every two months when we have a speaker followed by the meeting and over the last year we have had a variety of speakers. On 6<sup>th</sup> January we started the year with a New Year's Party for everyone, we had a very good turnout with lots of lovely food & drink. On 2<sup>nd</sup> March Jill Price came along and gave a very interesting and humorous talk and demonstration (including a hip bath) entitled 'Before we had Bathrooms'

In May we had our AGM. On the 7<sup>th</sup> July we had planned for a speaker from the 'County Air Ambulance' but unfortunately he was taken ill on the previous day and so our very own Sue Spackman stepped in with less than an hour's notice and gave us a talk about her 'Life in Tanzania' which in parts was hilarious.

On June 17<sup>th</sup>, a lovely hot sunny day, we held our summer Cheese & Wine party in the wonderful garden of Eleanor Grigson's home in Upton. Again a good get together which everyone enjoyed. In September two gentlemen from the Environment Agency gave a talk and showed many slides about the 2007 Upton Floods, and then brought us up to date with what has been done to help prevent any future flooding.

Finally on 3<sup>rd</sup> November Jackie Surtees (one of our drivers) gave a very informative talk with slides about 'Upton in Bloom'. Most of us had no idea of just what she and her team were expected to get involved with, and that it isn't just about planting a few flowers.

**Unfortunately as the year draws to a close we are having some difficulties in our office due to staffing problems. We may, on a few occasions, be unable to staff the office between 09.00 – 11.30am. Clients will be able to leave messages on our answering machine in the normal way for their driving requests. It will help us greatly if they will give us as much notice as possible, and we will always get back to them later in the day to let them know we have received the request and then again when we have found a driver. Apologies for this and we look forward to resuming our normal service ASAP.**

Finally it only leaves me to say a big thankyou to all our drivers and office staff for all the help and support they provide for every one and to wish them and you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

**Jan Bastick**

**UCC Co-ordinator**