

FORTY GLORIOUS YEARS

BRIXHAM DOES CARE is planning a series of fundraising events throughout 2018 to celebrate 40 glorious years serving the local community.

First up, on Friday 9th February 2018, in the Scala Hall, is a special version of The Last Night of the Proms, featuring Brixham Town Band. Everyone is encouraged to come along, bearing Union Flags, to be waved at every opportunity. David's Fish & Chip Shop will be providing a supper in the form of our national dish (with a Veggie alternative), which is included in the £12 price for tickets, available from the BDC Office next door (01803 857727). Doors open at 6.30pm.

Next up, on Monday 12th February 2018, is Martyn & Josephine's St Valentine Song & Dance Party, in the Brixham Does Care Cafe, from 1.45 to 3.45pm. Tickets are £3 and include a cuppa and a delicious slice of Josephine's cake in the interval, when a raffle will take place. Donated prizes are always appreciated. Again, all present are invited to sing along and enjoy an afternoon of fun and entertainment. At the very least, you'll enjoy the cake and, who knows, under the spell of St Valentine, you might even fancy a dance! Doors open 1.30pm.

Other social occasions will take place in the coming months, including Steve Watkins' regular Brixham Does Care Film Club on most 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month (excluding Bank Holidays), again in the BDC Cafe. Tickets are £6, (Members £5). Doors open 1.00pm.

From humble beginnings in 1978, when meetings were held in the front room of its founder, Joyce Woolley-Lane, to the invaluable service provided today from its Town Hall base by the staff and volunteers of Brixham Does Care, the charity, then known as Brixham Befrienders, has a lot to celebrate. Together with her husband and like-minded friends, Joyce recognised the need to combat the loneliness, isolation and despair felt by a number of people in our community, suggesting that “we could ALL be lonely TOGETHER”. They battled to secure funding, support and premises in order to allow our charity to provide vital services to the community. Initially, home visits were made to the house-bound, co-ordinated from the one room that the local council were persuaded to make available in the Town Hall. Later on, more space was provided as a meeting place for folk to share a morning cuppa and many were encouraged to return in the afternoon to attend a whole range of weekly groups, and in some cases, having re-discovered confidence and old skills, some agreed to become volunteer group leaders, drivers or assistants in the BDC Café, then situated on the 1st Floor. Later on, a lift was installed to help those less mobile to get upstairs and a charity shop was opened in Middle Street. The latter switched to its present position in 2013, when ALL of its premises were re-housed together on the Ground Floor.

If she could only see what is now so readily available to the local community, Joyce would surely be truly amazed.