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Bridge February 2010 News (including report on Christmas Day Meal)

STOP PRESS: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR BRIDGE COFFEE MORNING AT METHODIST CHURCH: SATURDAY 30th JANUARY.... THANK YOU!

- You are warmly invited to our next **Prayer Breakfast** on **Saturday 6th February at 8am**, at the Methodist Church. The URC smashed the existing record in December: **20** people turned out on a cold, damp morning (they must have heard about the delicious fruit salad!)
- **Guiz Kidz: Sunday 21st February** – 10.05am – noon, Pursglove Centre.
- **Wish tokens**: a big thank you to all who collected the Gazette tokens for us this autumn. We were delighted to receive a cheque for £94 – more than twice last year's amount. So it was worth all that cutting and sticking.....
- The staffing problems at the **Half Century+ Club** have now eased thankfully, but we would appreciate one more soup-maker to join the rota (just one Monday per month).
- We **urgently** need more volunteers for the **Kemplah Day Centre Wednesday Lunch**. No cooking skills needed – just laying tables, serving food and drink, helping the guests to and from the buses. Come along and try a morning sometime: 10am – 1.30pm, once a month.
- We also need one or two more people for the **Soup and Roll** rota: again, just one Thursday would be a huge help. Mention it to people in your churches who are not already actively engaged in Bridge projects – we don't want to overburden our existing volunteers.
- I'm going to give you two dates for your diaries and then refrain from nagging until the appropriate time! The **Summer Holiday Club** will be the week commencing **2nd August** (yes, I know that's difficult to think about when we're knee-deep in snow!) And even further away.... is the **Annual General Meeting** – on **Monday 18th October**. We'd be very grateful if we could avoid clashes with other church meetings.
- The Methodist Worship Group's next **Sanctuary** event will be on **Sat 27th Feb**: venue TBA

Our Christmas Day Meal seems to get bigger every year, and this year the Methodist Church hall was bursting as we entertained 102 people! As one guest put it, she could not get over people's generosity – not just in terms of money and food, but also in giving up their time. Though it was again a case of "giving blesses the giver" for we would all say that we were hugely blessed by the day. The weather caused a few anxious moments in the days leading up to Christmas, but we stepped up the prayer, and it cleared just long enough for us to get everyone in and out safely. Special thanks to all our drivers (12 of them!) who interrupted their family Christmases to transport our guests. There is a long list of thank you's – worthy of any tearful Oscar speech! – I'm afraid of missing anyone out. Thanks to all who prepared the veg on Christmas Eve, decorated the tables and made place cards (Mary and Megan). We are grateful to all who donated food – cooked turkeys, baked mince pies, puddings (a great selection this year), Chris Smith's Christmas cake, and as ever – to Paul Burns for kindly donating all the fruit and veg. The food was superb – and so efficiently rolled out by a now highly experienced kitchen team (please don't all decide to have a year off at the same time folks – you're a tough act to follow!) The bar staff did a great job – again led by Sheila – and tactfully explained to one or two guests why they couldn't have a lager... And wonderful entertainment once more compered by Rev Catey Morrison (there are rumours she has been head-hunted by the BBC to replace Ant and Dec at Britain's Got Talent this year): table quizzes and songs from the children which somehow captured the mood of the whole day; carols led by Dorothy on the piano; painting and games for the children in the Fellowship Room when they'd had enough of sitting still! Thanks also go to all the table hosts who made sure the guests at their table had everything they needed in terms of food and fellowship. And then there were the pudding chefs, the Colombi family who did teas and coffees and last but DEFINITELY not least, those who came along at 3pm like Snow White's little animal helpers to take over the mountains of washing-up and clearing. We were very pleased to see them....

Final thanks must go to our Lord for so richly blessing our day. To quote from a letter from one of the guests: "Thank you with all my heart for memories I will treasure forever." Amen to that.

