

OUR FIRST PROGRAMME - MARCH TO MAY 1987

First

HORIZONS

Programme

MARCH

- Sat 21 Games Evening at Keith Sterrow's (loads of games brought along by Norman Steward, a friend of Keith)
 Sat 28 Beacons Restaurant, Eastcote, Helen & Richard
 Sun 29 Concert at Hartspring Centre, Bushey, Helen & Richard

APRIL

- Fri 3 Coffee & chat, Diane Hewgill
 Tue 7 Bring favourite story/poem/joke to Rosemary Sheppard's
 Sat 11 Travel and General Knowledge quiz, Geoff & Barbara Burge
 Sun 12 10 mile walk in the Chilterns with Clare & Steve
 Tue 14 Bridge with Chris Young
 Fri 17 Hot Cross Buns with John Oliver
 Sat 25 Visit Savill Gardens & Valley Gardens, Geoff & Barbara
 Sat 25 Cheese & Wine, with Diane & Andrew
 Sun 26 Compass Walk part III (first 2 stages were on Coffee Pot programme) **

MAY

- Fri 1 Mah Jong with Clare & Steve
 Sat 2 French cheese then Charlotte Russe at Monique's
 Fri 8 Coffee evening with Franziska
 Sun 10 Walk with Chris, Burnham Beeches & Wooburn
 Thu 14 Watford Palace Theatre with Diane H
 Sat 16 Barbecue with Clare & Steve
 Thu 21 Coffee and chat with Angela Quick
 Sat 30 Greek meal at Moonlight Wine Bar in Hillingdon, Clare & Steve

** Compass Walks:

- Stage I Lunch at home A, linear walk, then tea at home B
 Stage II Lunch at home B, linear walk then tea at home C
 Stage III Lunch at home C, linear walk, then tea at home D

...and so on. There were 6 or 7 stages in all, over 2 or 3 years, with a couple of people very obligingly moving house in the middle of it all, which made planning easier! We eventually went full circle, ending up where we first started.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Still good value, at £20 per person since 2007

1987 = £6 1990 = £10 1992-2006 = £15 2007 = £20 / £35 couples
 2017 - still £20 / £35 - unchanged since the last version of this booklet



HAPPY 30th BIRTHDAY TO HORIZONS!



It's now over 30 years since a small group of us started up Horizons!
 Here's a little reminder of how we started up, and how it has changed.

Interest in forming a new group started early in 1987, we held several initial meetings, and our first event was on 21st March. It's difficult to believe that it was 30 years ago.

Going through my old Horizons papers recently I discovered the results of a survey we held early in 1989, asking people what they thought about Horizons. I've put a resumé of some of the replies onto a separate sheet. Some of the comments made are probably still relevant today - others are rather dated as the club has changed over the years.

If you have any ideas regarding Horizons, please let us know, we're always open to change. I'll put a copy of this leaflet, and the survey mentioned in the above paragraph, onto the Horizons website (members' news page).

This leaflet was compiled and produced by me - I've revamped a similar version which I produced for our 20th and 25th birthdays respectively. Apologies for anything I've omitted, or got wrong, you can blame me.

Clare Vincent - 25 March 2017



IN THE BEGINNING.....

Horizons was started up in 1987 by a group of 16 Harrow Coffee Pot (HCP) members. We were all beginning to feel that HCP did not fulfil our needs, and we were feeling like senior citizens compared to most of the HCP membership, and rather out of touch with the younger members. Keith Sterrow was probably the prime mover involved in getting the first informal meeting going - we were known in HCP for a while as "Keith's Club". HCP knew this was happening - it was all very friendly. They were probably glad to be rid of a load of stodgy "oldies"!

On 12th January 1987 a group of 16 of us met up informally: the idea of the meeting being to gauge feeling about setting up another club. We wanted fewer pub evenings, discos and parties, and more coffee evenings and walks.

Over the next couple of months there were several meetings - there was the original inaugural group, and a smaller working party who did a lot of the groundwork setting up the club. We voted on HORIZONS as our name. There was a long list of suggestions, whittled down to a short list consisting of HARMONY, HORIZONS, INNOVATION, OUTLOOK and SPRINGBOARD.

Our Inaugural General Meeting was held on 15th March 1987. A committee was elected, and a strong vetting procedure put in place. We carefully selected who we wanted to invite to join to help start the club up. We had to be sensitive regarding HCP - we didn't want to be seen to be snatching their members. There were certainly no hard feelings.

Clare & Steve planned the first programme, covering the period 21st March to the end of May 1987. The first event was a games evening at Keith Sterrow's flat. After that we produced two monthly programmes.

In October 1987 we had a "Six monthly general meeting" held at Helen & Richard's home, to review how the club was getting on. Our first AGM was held in March 1988.

OUR MEMBERS

Our first membership list is dated 12th May 87, with 38 members, all of whom had been members of Harrow Coffee Pot. Of these 38, 13 are currently still Horizons members.

Our original aim was for a membership of about 120 - we have never got really near this. From the original 38, the membership gradually rose to 74 in 1993, then from 1994-99 there was a dip, with membership between 44-64. After that, it rose steadily, and in 2012 we reached over 100. We now have 75 members, and 3 associate members (ex members who have moved away from the area).

We now have fewer couples, and substantially more single people. We now have more restaurant visits, and fewer at home "food" events. Possibly single people, especially when they are new members, find this more to their taste (literally!).

OUR EVENTS OVER THE YEARS

One thing that definitely hasn't changed - we love our food! In the early days there was a lot of at-home entertaining - ambitious food events. There were several members (mostly couples) whose homes were ideal for entertaining larger numbers. Nowadays, the emphasis is on eating "out" rather than "in".

Early on, only a few events required advance notice, with about 25% of events having a little asterisk against them that meant advance notice required. We just optimistically assumed that we'd get a good turnout to most events. On Sundays you'd usually find a walk, but nowadays Sunday events are more varied. Saturday events now often take place during the daytime rather than in the evenings.

Looking back through early programmes, there were virtually no events during the daytime on weekdays. For ages nearly all our events were held on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, and just the occasional weekday evening event. Nowadays we have a lot of daytime events, and several members who don't drive at night.

Events that were frequent, but now rarely (if ever) arranged include ceilidhs (folk dancing and singing), sketching walks, compass walks (see next page), charades, Call My Bluff, and holiday slide evenings. One event, frequent in the early years, were the Goulash Suppers at Les and Marilyn's home, and this was spoken of with nostalgia when Les & Marilyn first left Horizons. But 10 years ago, Les & Marilyn rejoined, and so back came their famous Goulash Suppers! They have now moved to Abergavenny, so we pine once again for the days of Les's Goulash evenings.

WHAT ELSE HAS CHANGED - COMPUTERS AND EMAILS!

PROGRAMME PLANNING IN THE "OLD DAYS" - go to one or two well attended Saturday evening at-home events with your programme grid, and it soon gets filled in. Perhaps make a couple of phone calls, then it's all done and dusted.

PROGRAMME PLANNING NOWADAYS - do a lot of phoning and emailing! And hope that you'll also get to meet a few people at events, and persuade them to put on some more events for you.

EXTRA EVENTS, REGULAR EVENTS, CHANGES TO THE PROGRAMME - most members use email, so it's now easy to advertise news of events. Non-emailers - please do keep your ears to the ground to check for news and updates, so you don't miss out.

In the early days everything was on the main programme, but before long we set up special interest groups (Horizons Plus), which put their events only occasionally onto the main programme.

HOWEVER SOME THINGS DON'T CHANGE

PAPER PROGRAMMES: A majority of us still like our paper programmes. At the recent AGM a majority of members voted to keep receiving the printed programme, rather than having it emailed. There is a copy of the programme on our website.

REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS OR CLUB NIGHTS? New members occasionally ask about this. We've never (yet) managed to arrange a regular club meeting, probably because we're all so widespread, and have never found the right place or time.