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**JOYARA Active Retirement Association 2018 Report**

It seems hardly credible that JOYARA is in its 6th year and over that time has grown and plays a vital role in the community of over 50s in the area of Joydens Wood.

The first five years of the Association’s existence was presided over by our chairman Don Bartley who has laid down the mantle due to his move north with his wife Heather to be closer to their family. Don was the perfect chair for the pioneering early days and his larger than life personality and drive was what the fledgling club needed. We all wish him well for the future.

Our membership has grown virtually to its maximum with only a very few places now available. Attendance at our monthly meetings has also grown and we are now achieving record numbers which I believe is partly due to the excellent external speakers we bring to JOYARA, the renown monthly raffle, but mostly the friendships that have grown through the club. I am pleased to report that a significant number of members have stated that JOYARA has changed their lived for the better.

The committee recently had its planning meeting, detailing the events for members for 2019. To name but a few events include; West End theatre trips, social evenings, monthly walks, dining events, trips to places of interest, short holidays and breaks and a monthly art class. Our objective is to provide our members with best value in connection with the events and trips we organise and offer. An example of this is the fact that we recently offered £80 West End theatre tickets for £45 including a coach to and from the venue. Small wonder that our events are well attended!

The club is managed by a dedicated and energetic committee who generate, manage and lead events for the members. In addition they are concerned for our member’s welfare.