AGE CONCERN EAST BELFAST & CASTLEREAGH (INDEPENDENT)

AGM 3 May 2016

CHAIR’S REPORT

I would like to welcome everyone to the 14th AGM of our group. The past year has once again been very successful for us.

The Line Dancing continues every Wednesday and Patience organised a very successful Halloween party on the theme of Peace. Members made very artistic contributions to this. The class also produced lovely Easter Baskets in March of this year. These were once again sent to the Thorndale Family Centre and were very gratefully received. Thanks are due to Patience for her loyalty to the class and also to Ivor and Eleanor without whose input we would all be gasping for a cuppa!

The Crochet Class continues to meet every Friday and the class is able to enjoy outings throughout the year under the very capable leadership of Maureen Harron. Once again the class have supported worthy causes throughout the year, including Tiny Life and Thorndale Family Centre. We were sorry to lose Liz Armstrong who retired during the year. The committee presented Liz with a gift voucher and we are sorry to lose such a faithful leader of the class.

The computer classes run three days a week and are very well subscribed. There have been at least 6 new members this year. The Thursday class in particular now exists to teach members how to use an i-pad. Once again thanks are due to Craig Clarke without whose technical expertise we could not continue to function.

Sadly the Gardening Club had to be closed down during the year. We were unable to find enough volunteers to keep it going and the Salvation Army wanted to reclaim the space for car parking.

Funding has been difficult to access in the past year but we were given a grant of £650 towards an outing for members. This outing will take place tomorrow. It was so popular that we had to upgrade the bus to a 58-seater. Everyone is looking forward to the day out and we are praying for good weather.
In total 51 members went on holiday to Arklow in September 2015. The hotel and the visits were excellent and everyone agreed that it was a very successful holiday.

Margaret Reid celebrated her 90th birthday this year and in true selfless style raised £400 for two charities.

Future plans:

1. An application will be made to Awards for All to upgrade the computer equipment

2. An application will be made to Lloyd’s Trust for help with the rent.

3. The committee plans to run a fundraising event on a quarterly basis. We have already held a Tea Dance and a Car Boot Sale both of which proved quite successful. Thanks are due to Pat from the British Legion who gave us a free table at the Car Boot Sale in Holywood on May Day.

May I finish by thanking all the committee for their help and support throughout the year. Thanks to our President Walter Love and a big thank you to Laurence Wright and Anne Greenan who very readily chair our AGM every year. Best wishes to our Honorary President Michael Copeland who I believe has given up smoking. Finally thank you to Aidan Campbell who will be giving a talk on the history of Cregagh.

This concludes my report. I now declare all offices vacant.

SIGNED: ___________________________ DATE: 3-5-2016

Sydney V Cook (Chair)