

# **Midland Area Plus Report to NEC December 2024 Management & Finance**

There are 7 groups in the Area

Bromsgrove & Redditch	3
Coventry	0
Leeds Bradford	2
Lichfield	6
Lincs Quest	58
Rothwell	12
Solihul Quest	12

Total number of members: 94

Number of AEC Positions Filled - 5

## **Finance**

Total Area Worth - £2,224.35

## **Activities**

### **Quiz and Chips**

Saturday 2nd December 2024, held at Holiday Inn Express in Grimsby, organised by Lincs Quest.

Lincs Quest invited the Area to visit Lincoln for the Ice Sculpture Trail on December 9th, all welcome.

It was decided to fund £6 per member attending their groups Christmas meal.

Potential venues were investigated including Hafren Forest Hideaway for the Walking Weekend next year on the first weekend in July so as not to clash with Kings Lynn Plus groups Summer Camp. Rhyd Ddu Outdoor Centre, North Wales was chosen due to its more well known location and lower cost compared to Hafren Forest Hideaway.

### **Publicity & Communication**

Groups are continuing to publicise themselves. There is help available through the Area publicity grant. All Groups now have a Facebook page or group. Most groups also have a programme.

Following the Publicity Action day on July 21, the 'Landing Pages' were updated with group programmes and additional images and again advertised on Facebook funded by the Area which took place in September.

<http://aboutmeetingfriendsplus.org.uk/midland>

The publicity campaign is now complete, web pages have been receiving over one hundred hits per week (62 have subscribed) and we received many likes on our Facebook pages and adverts.

It was decided to run the campaign again in 2025 but in August.

## **Recruitment & Development**

Three groups have double figure memberships, Lincs Quest have 58 members now.

New group Bromsgrove & Redditch now hold meetings at a venue once a month.

Leeds Bradford group are still considering re-starting in person meetings.

Lichfield group are considering applying to Lichfield District Council which is offering grant aid to organisations.

The Area has enquiries from locations without a Plus group, (Blackpool and Cardiff) and is considering some form of development, possibly 'interest meetings' and Facebook pages have been created as a start.

A brief development guide has been created. See attached. This will be added to the Area Landing Page.

## **General**

We have Area Conferences, every three months on Zoom. At the October meeting we activated the AI feature to assist with minute taking.

We applied for a grant with Redrow Midlands (<https://www.redrow.co.uk/midlands-community-fund>) following a recommendation from Francis Wallington, thanks to James Oliver for his assistance also. The application was to fund an Area web-site. See the attached application form.

John A Smith  
**Chairman, Midland Area Plus**