

## BRANSTON FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The Friendship Club was formed in 1956 for Villagers over 60. The founders were:- Mesdames Tinsley, Nelstrop, Own, Palmer, Poucher, Clarricoates and Miss Grey from the Branston Hall Hospital. The purpose of the Club was for the over 60s to meet friends twice a month, play cards, bingo etc. have a cup of tea and a sandwich. The annual cost was 1/- and a 1d for tea. The club attracted about 60 locals and they met in the old Church Hall.

A number of members were given lifts to the hall. Mrs. Blythman (Nelstrop) recalls waiting for a lady until she found her glass eye!! It seems that it was always put in place at the last minute. Nurse Chapman would arrive at the end of the meeting to help with the 'taxi' service home. Nurse would report on any who were ill, then Mrs. I. Reynolds would visit and take flowers as well as sending Birthday cards. This practice has continued through the years.

When the new Church Hall was built in 1977 the subscription was increased to 50p a year and 15p for tea. Apart from twice-monthly meetings there are usually three outings a year and a Christmas luncheon. Many will recall the happy outings to Skegness, these are due to the generosity of the Blankney/Branston golfers who, for over 20 years have had a competition, the proceeds of which fund the trip. No outing to Skegness is complete without enjoying fish and chips! Other outings are usually into the country – always happy occasions even in the rain.

These days a coach is organised for members unable to walk to the Hall – part of the cost is met by the Parish Council and very much appreciated.

Since 1956 there have only been four Chairpersons – Mrs. Tinsley and Mrs. Blythman 1956-78, Mrs. Forman 1978-94 and Mrs. J. Isaac 1994-99.

Mrs. Hassell at 96, and Mrs. Duckles and Mrs. Allen (well into their 80s) have been members for over 30 years; Mrs. B. Blythman (a Founder) continues as a member.

Now in 1999 cards and bingo are still being played. The Church Hall on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays is a lively meeting place where the over 60s are always welcome. The cost is £2 a year and 20p for tea.  
LITTLE CHANGES!!

### COMMITTEE 1999

Mrs. S. Sale	Chairperson	Mr. R. Smith	Treasurer
Mrs. J. Bennison	Vice Chairperson	Mrs. B. Cole	Sick Visitor
COMMITTEE MEMBERS	Mrs S. Hodson	Mrs. E. Duckles	
TEA LADIES	Mrs. M. Allbones	Mrs. K. Waddington	