

The Tuesday Club Letter

The letter, which has been anonymised, was sent to Upperthorpe Library sometime in 1992.

I am not by nature a joiner, and when I agreed to go to the meetings I didn't really expect much from it, and supposed I'd go once or twice and then drop it. I have however missed only one and that through family illness.

I found it filled a need in my life that until then I hadn't realised I had. To meet new people who were not already sharing my hobbies and pursuits.

I look forward to the meetings because

- 1) They meet in the Library where I feel comfortable and at home. I am a great library visitor.
- 2) They have a definite subject to discuss
- 3) I have always been fond of "History" and our meetings seem to me to be living history, related by the ordinary people who experienced it, and not told years later in the context of great events and important people.
- 4) We talk about Old Times but not as I feel about "The Good Old Days" most of us remember a lot of our lives as the Bad Old Days.
- 5) We all come from working class backgrounds, but I didn't live in the same area, and I have found that a few miles makes a great difference in outlook.
- 6) I am sure we have all enjoyed the meetings because we can talk and be sure that we are being listened too [sic] which doesn't happen so often as you grow older.

After the "business" is closed we find time for a general chat. One lady came who lived in America, and gave us a first hand insight into life in the States very enlightening [sic].

We have had most interesting subjects ie Transport, The War Years, Sheffield's Cinemas etc. I love knowing things and have learned a lot which I pass on to my friends and daughter.

I had not realised how diffident I had become over the years, I didn't want to meet new people and avoided even casual conversations on the bus or in the shops, in fact I had built a nice comfortable shell around my life and resented any intrusions.

I can't say the Tuesday Club has changed me into a different person, but it has certainly broadened my outlook and made me friendlier, and I have found a lot of the confidence I had lost over the years.