

Report on 2025 Christmas Party Friday 12th December at the Friary

Party Team

Carol Allen, Sue Mearns, Jenny Ramsey, Sheena Garson, Jean Austin, Magda Ersoz

Organisation

- We held a general meeting to discuss what we were up against to make the party a successful afternoon which we did !
- Once I had the correct Beacon access (Communications Coordinator access) to the list of members the invites went out firstly to those without email and then to the other members Each member were asked to pay £1 on entry which gave them a raffle ticket
- Although all members were invited we were restricted to 120 for Friary insurance reasons.. I set up a wait list of 8 members but during the last 10 days before the party there were a few members not able to come due to family commitments or sickness so all on the wait list received a place, on the day we had 115 total
- The Friary hall was hired from 1 00 pm to 5.00 pm which gave us enough time to set up and clean down afterwards

Budget and Spending

- I was given £700 budget so I knew I would have to go carefully on how it was spent
- I did spend some time shopping for the best price in Christmas crackers , serviettes , plates etc
- I ordered by online click and collect from Sainsbury's 15 trays of mixed filling sandwiches and 1 tray of vegetarian sandwiches to be collected the morning of the party which were so worth the money, each tray had 30 quarters ... 1 tray per table of 8
- After some research I purchased mince pies from Lidl's and small cakes from Home Bargains.
- Guest were asked to bring their own mug which saved a lot of washing up for the RUGS in the kitchen
- Peter Beckley supplied a quiz and the winning table received a tin of celebration sweets each
- Carol Palmer made beautiful table decorations
- Maggie Berrill was given £170 from the £700 budget to buy raffle prizes , 3 prizes of hampers containing Christmas goodies and wine
- I would suggest for 2026 more prizes of less value - maybe tin sweets, biscuits etc or gift vouchers. Also hampers are very difficult to take home using public transport. The entertainment proved to be a great success the Harlequinn trio " and I would happily book them for 2026
- The cost was £130 for entertaining us in two sessions of 45 minutes
- I am not sure of the final costing I am waiting for Graham to finalise the figures
- The M C for the afternoon was Gill Cooban who made sure all went smoothly The rugs team Sue Means , Marion Long, Cherie Chorley, Isabel Baker, Maureen Bufton

Outcome

I received many thank you emails to say how they enjoyed the party which was good to hear. There were also very favourable Crawley u3a Facebook posts.

I will be happy to do it all over again 2026

Carol Allen 6th Jan 2026