

## **HISTORY OF 'STEAK NIGHT'** – For other BC's if they wish to use the same model

<https://www.facebook.com/notes/bbc-barkers-breakfast-club/how-it-all-started/778020782234566>

You may have read 'How it all Started' already (see link), but alongside that, there has also been another useful spin off from the Breakfast Club.

'Steak Night' originally started approximately two, to three years ago, and was originally just my partner Sue and myself, some of our family and a few friends. The reason for its realisation was, that I had been tipped off that 'Zacharia Pearson's' on Beverley Road in Hull were encouraging Tuesday evening custom by doing a 'Steak Night' offer (Hence the name), which was any of their medium steaks, or a mixed grill for £4.99 including a pint – a real bargain.

Sue and I used to go after work for our evening meal, meet up with a small circle of our friends, before going home, and after a visit or two, I passed the information on to a wider circle of friends, some of whom were already members of the BBC.

As the BBC grew, so did the word on 'Steak Night', and more and more of the BBC attended.

We quickly realised that 'Steak Night' offered an opportunity which the BBC did not, which was to allow partners, spouses, family members of veterans to get involved; to meet and socialise on neutral territory and get to know each other, so it gradually evolved to be a 'BBC' spin off.

Then last year, for reasons only known to them, the Manager of Zacharia Pearson's started to make things very difficult for us, and told us she could no longer reserve tables for us, because 'the students had returned to University', and it would be unfair to reserve tables ... yes... we struggled with that too; I think a more plausible explanation was that they didn't want to go to the effort of putting together tables for sixteen to twenty persons, sometimes more, which is how well it was being attended.

We changed venues to 'The Whistling Goose' on Sutton Fields Industrial Estate in Hull at the end of September 2014, and had a great Christmas dinner there in the December, attended by fifty people; all veterans and their spouses. Unfortunately, shortly thereafter, there was a change of both management and policy, and the quality of the food took a down-turn. So, following discussions within the group, in February this year we changed venues again to 'The Good Fellowship' on Cottingham Road in Hull. This was far from ideal, it is situated inconveniently for many, and the prices are slightly on the high side, although the food is very good quality; but we are about to change again; we are moving tomorrow night to a pub called 'Sutton Fields', on Oslo Road in Hull, ironically just over the road from 'The Whistling Goose'.

A lesson we have learnt the hard way; in our experience, a linear table encourages division, because people end up sitting with those they 'normally' sit with, and it is difficult to talk to people at the far end of a long table. We are hoping this change of venue will also encourage people to talk with attendees they have perhaps not talked to before as they used to in the old days when 'Steak Night' first began, because it allows for us to sit in a group, instead of a long linear table.

As far as allowing spouses and family to become involved, it certainly been extremely successful, and I know of several strong friendships that have been formed between 'the Staffies' (WAGS) and other members of the BBC, and beyond, solely due to 'Steak Night'...

It is certainly a different animal from its inception, as I am sure Sue, as its joint founder will agree, but for illuminating the danger of the BBC leaving out families of veterans, 'Steak Night' has evolved into the ideal platform to prevent this.

It only remains for me to say 'thank you' to Sue for all your work and support in making it what it is, and all the members of the BBC and their families who regularly attend, strive to and make 'Steak Night' friendly and inclusive, so that we can all look forward to, and enjoy our family friendly spin off every Tuesday