



BERRYSTEAD FAMILY NEWS

A quarterly Home and Community Newsletter of Berrystead Nursing Home

Volume 1, Issue 6, Summer 2006

AN ENGLISH AFTERNOON IN THE GARDEN

ON A SUNNY afternoon in July, service users and their relatives and friends were invited to an English afternoon in the gardens of Berrystead.

The entertainment was provided by a troop of **Morris Dancers**. Their costumes, dance routines and antics made for a very visual and exciting performance. The dancers were

accompanied by band members playing the violin and accordion.

Typically English refreshments were available. Teas, coffees and traditional lemonade. Cucumber sandwiches, and a selection of home-made scones and cakes.



ders mat provided for the children.

The afternoon was a chance to enjoy a relaxing afternoon out in the garden and to celebrate all that is English.

A game of croquet could be played on the lawn and there was a large snakes and ladders



The Morris Dancers - nothing can be more English

Caribbean Themed Tea-time Special



Service user Paul Jones with care staff Harriet Daphah and Bijimol Thomas

A SPECIAL CARIBBEAN themed tea-time was organised to end the programme of summertime activities at the Berrystead.

The dining room was decorated with palm trees, giant yellow suns that were suspended from the ceiling above each table and streamers that opened out into strings of paper tissue pineapples. Each table had an orchid as a centre piece. To complete the theme novel paper napkins in the shape of a shirt with colourful tropical designs on were used.

A summertime punch was made in a large glass punch bowl and ladled into glasses for the service users to enjoy. See recipe for a refreshing summer sensation cocktail.

Ice creams sundaes were made

up of cherry flavoured Carte D'or and Cornish ice creams. They were decorated with fancy wafers and cocktail umbrella trims.

The tea was served by staff wearing colourful leis around their necks and straw hats to help make the occasion atmospheric.



Service user, Louise Mills spoke on behalf of all the other service users present. She thanked Julie Hilton (Activities Leader) for a wonderful summertime of activities. Paul Jones was then asked to lead a hearty three cheers.

AUDREY AND FRIENDS

On the afternoon of Wednesday 19th July, a trio of ladies calling themselves 'Audrey and friends' came to entertain the service users of Berrystead. Audrey, Christine and Jean are all well into their seventieth years of age and are still giving up their free time to entertain others. They are an inspiration.

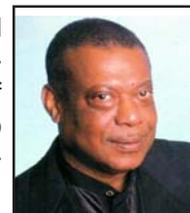
Audrey and Christine sang songs from the musicals and operas. They also included some hymns and classical numbers as well as the better known easy listening type of songs. They were accompanied by Jean on the keyboard.

Audrey and Christine take their performances very seriously and between them do many costume changes over the hour long concert. We were amazed at just how many hats they brought with them to complete their colourful costumes.

Audrey and Friends captivated their audience with much affection. Thanks must go to Antony Greasley for the loan of a keyboard for the afternoon.

LEWIS ARRISOL

Newcomer to Berrystead Lewis Arissol was welcomed on the afternoon of Tuesday 22nd August to entertain the service users.



Lewis was a former professional musician in nightclubs, grill rooms and also has appeared on the television. He has been a semi-professional and played in a jazz band. Also played in other bands covering an array of ballads, soul music and popular music including Nat King Cole, Louis Armstrong, Drifters, Platters and many more well known mature artists.

Lewis played his electric guitar and performed familiar songs from an extensive repertoire. His portrayal of Louis Armstrong with the song 'What a Wonderful World' brought a tear of emotion to many of the service users. Many of the service users chatted to Lewis after the concert and asked him to return to Berrystead soon.



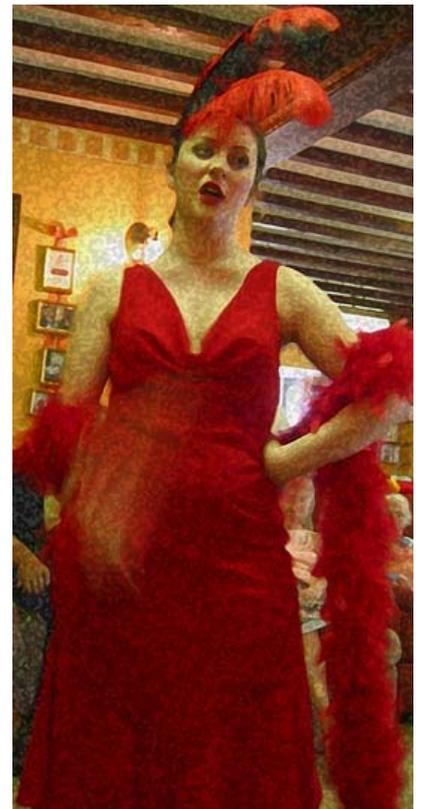
‘THE SUN HAS GOT HIS HAT ON’

On Friday 16th June, the service users of Berrystead welcomed back SG Productions for an afternoon concert. The show entitled ‘The Sun had got his hat on’, was full of songs themed to the summertime. Performed by two very talented young actors with a musical theatre background, they entertained us with song and dance routines. The magnificent costumes and attention to every last detail made for a very visual performance.

Service users were amused when Daniel performed the George Formby

classic ‘With my little stick of Blackpool rock’, complete with a knotted handkerchief on his head! His portrayal of Carmen Mirander was an absolute favourite. Marianne became Marilyn Monroe and gave a very sensual performance much to the obvious delight of some of the male service users.

The fast moving production of popular classic songs coupled with lavish, colourful costumes gave the service users a very memorable experience.



FLOWER FESTIVAL



The afternoon service for the month of June was a celebration of flowers. The service was led by member of St. Peter and St. Paul’s Church, Syston and St. Michael’s and All Angels Church, Thurmaston. Parishioners from both churches made floral arrangements of flowers from their gardens especially for the occasion.



Susan Cooper (Curate) and members of the team that help lead the afternoon services

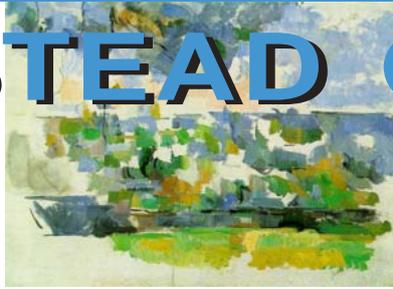
The church flower arrangers made a beautiful pedestal arrangement.

Service users joined in with hymns, readings, prayers and poetry, all themed to flowers. Sarah Walton was able to join us again playing her flute. She continued the flower theme by performing ‘Eidelweiss’.

After the service, the church members surprised Julie Hilton

(activities leader) by presenting her with a birthday cake. Service users sang Happy Birthday to Julie and also to Gladys Frisby who was to celebrate her 80th birthday the next day. Everybody admired the many floral arrangements whilst enjoying a slice of the birthday cake with the afternoon tea-trolley.

BERRYSTEAD GARDEN FETE '06



THE GARDEN FETE was held on the afternoon of Sunday August 6th. Again we were blessed with a good weather and an excellent turn out of service users, relatives, friends and staff.

The traditional fete stalls of a tambola, raffle, book stall and face painting were joined this year by stalls providing fun entertainment, a coconut shy, splash attack, penalty shoot out and basket ball.

Refreshments were enjoyed by many. Coffees, teas and a selection of homemade scones and cakes. Barbequed hot dogs were also available. There was also the chance to have a manicure and nail polish or a relaxing foot massage.

The magnificent sum of **£ 638.60** was raised in aid of the Berrystead Patients Comfort Club. Some of this money goes to fund the November 5th fireworks display and the Christmas pantomime. The balance of the monies goes to help support the activities programme.

Thank you to all those who bought reprints of the photographs taken at the garden fete. A further £ 34.50 was raised and has been paid into the Berrystead Patients Comfort Club.

A big thank you must also be extended to all those who helped in so many different ways to make the garden fete such a resounding success.



Snapshots of a memorable garden fete '06

BERRYSTEAD BY THE SEA WEEK



DURING THE WEEK 24-29th July, a week of sea-side themed activities was organised for the service users of Berrystead.

The week started with an afternoon service. This was led jointly by St. Peter's and St. Paul's Church, Syston and St. Michael and All Angel's Church, Thurmaston. The service was made up of hymns, readings and poetry and a special thanksgiving for the work of the RNLI (Royal National Lifeboat Institution).

Service users enjoyed a quiz with a sea-side theme. The A-Z round proved to be very popular, Service users had to think of something associated with a sea-side town through each letter of the alphabet. Another round featured the first line of songs about the sea-side. Service users took pleasure in finishing the George Formby song, 'With my little stick of Blackpool rock' – some in a rather dodgy Northern dialect!

An afternoon concert with Mr. Spoons was likened to an end of pier matinee show. Variety style acts playing the spoons and a skiffle band with service users able to join in and have a go at playing the tea chest and wash board were very popular. Well known songs which everybody joined in were a tonic. Many service users had the chance of playing the tambourines and percussion instruments on offer. A lively afternoon was had by all.

Ice creams were enjoyed in the interval. One service user remembered fondly a day trip to Skegness sitting on a deck chair with a knotted handkerchief on his head eating an ice cream.

Service users were also very lucky to be treated to a traditional 'Punch and Judy' show. Afterwards they were able to hold the puppets Punch, Judy, Mr Crocodile and the Policeman. The afternoon was a huge success and in our experience you are never too old to enjoy a 'Punch and Judy' show.

The week ended with seafront bingo with yet another chance to enjoy an ice-cream in the interval. There were prizes for the winners of all games. A bright orange, sandcastle shaped sea-side bucket containing a bottle of wine and a bag of toffees.

Berrystead-by-the-sea week provided service users with much reminiscence value.



Mr. Spoons's a very versatile entertainer



MOSAIC CANAL BOAT 'SUNBEAM'

This year three groups of service users have been able to go on the canal boat outings. The canal boat 'Sunbeam' is owned by Mosaic and moored at the Hope and Anchor in Wanlip. It is adapted to facilitate its



use by disabled people and can accommodate some of the passengers within a group to remain in their wheelchair when on board.

Three outings were booked for June 28th, July 26th and August 23rd.

The outing starts by service users leisurely cruising along the scenic waterway enjoying a very visual experience. We were able to see swans and their cygnets, mallards and their ducklings, herons, moorhens and coots. Water lilies



Sarah Walton and Antony Duggan receiving their 'skipper' certificates

were in abundance with yellow flowers that looked like giant buttercups. Above the water's surface, dragonflies could be seen gracefully hovering. When the sunlight caught them, you could see their iridescent blue



colourings. The banks of the canal have overhanging trees with many shades of lush green foliage. On some stretches of the canal they let through dappled sunshine. On route we stopped at Mountsorrel to have lunch at the Waterside Inn.

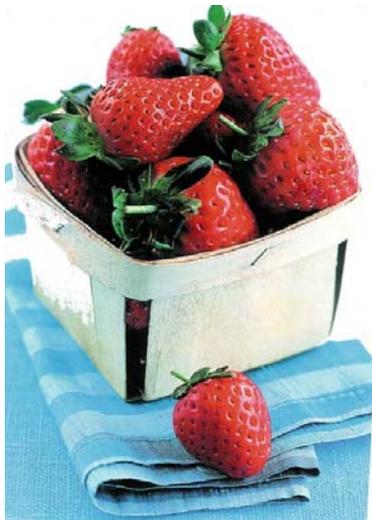
Helping with one of the outings were Sarah Walton and Antony Duggan. The skipper on that particular day invited them both to have a go at steering the 'Sunbeam' on a quiet stretch of the waterway. He awarded them with a certificate to mark the occasion.

The 'Sunbeam' is crewed by volunteers who give up their time to enable those individuals who would not normally be able to access a canal boat to do so, and be able to enjoy the peace and tranquillity of England's waterways.

Far Left: Stanley Moore remembers fishing on the canal bank

Left: John McCormack enjoying the good weather

WIMBLEDON STRAWBERRY TEA



Service users joined together for a special Wimbledon Strawberry Tea on Tuesday 4th July. The dining room was decorated with giant strawberry motifs and novel ceiling streamers that stretched out into chains of tennis rackets and balls. Special balloons with a strawberry designs supplemented the occasion.

The tablecloths were replaced with vinyl cloths featuring a photographic image of a mass of strawberries. Green napkins were folded intricately into what resembled the hull of a strawberry.

A selection of sandwiches was served before service users enjoyed a bowl of British strawberries and cream. For those on special 'soft' diets, there were individual strawberry trifles.

Strawberry cream tartlets and a cup of tea finished off the specially themed tea-time treat.

PICNIC LUNCH ON ABBEY PARK

On Wednesday 14th June a group of service users went to the Abbey Park in Leicester for a picnic lunch. After a scenic tour of the park a picnic lunch was enjoyed in the formal gardens. The flower beds had already recently been planted out with bedding plants and the lawns were immaculately mown and edged. The very tranquil setting made for an enjoyable al fresco dining experience.

Afterwards service users were taken around the gardens and alongside the river before returning back to the Berrystead Nursing Home.



The group pose for a photograph in the formal gardens of the park



Rachel Hallam and Frances Lewis enjoying an al-fresco lunch

ACTIVITIES – CONSERVATORY EXTENSION

The activities conservatory extension continues to take shape. Concrete sleepers have been laid to reinforce the floor and it has been sealed with black tar awaiting a concrete screed. Work is now in progress on the ramps and fire exits.

Plans for the glass structure have now been passed and are soon to be manufactured. It is hoped that the project will be completed October of this year.



Fine weather aids the progress of the builders

GARDEN FETE RAFFLE WINNERS

FORTHCOMING EVENTS . . .



Fireworks Display
Friday 3rd November '06
6.30 PM



Christmas Bazaar
Sunday 19th November '06
2:00 – 5:00 PM
In aid of the Berrystead Patients
Comfort Club



VERONS FOOTWEAR RETAILERS
(Specializing in supplying slippers for the elderly)
SLIPPER PARTY WEDNESDAY
29th November '06
2:30 – 4:30 PM

Yellow 280	Geoff Hilton	Bottle Brandy
Blue 125	Alan Proudman	Bottle Whiskey
Blue 47	Brenda	Lavender gift set
Yellow 221	Teresa	Facial
Yellow 468	Jake Hill	Football tour voucher
Blue 311	Matt Locke	Bottle wine
Yellow 252	Dave Frances	Bottle wine
Pink 62	Ray Howden	Garden centre voucher
Blue 416	Pauline Churchill	Bottle sherry
Yellow 423	Eunice Bollington	Bottle sherry
Pink 54	Greasley Family	Ragdale voucher
Yellow 239	Amanda Hall	Coffee maker
Yellow 499	Michael Kemey	Wine flutes
Yellow 166	Lloyd	Bottle champagne
Pink 14	Mackley Family	Chocolate cake
Yellow 364	Dorothy Brigstock	Bottle Sherry

Guess the name of teddy
'SAMMY'

Won by Mandy Pateman

Guess weight of 'PAT' dog Megan
'1st 13lb'

Won by Natasha Kika