



BERRYSTEAD FAMILY NEWS

A quarterly Home and Community Newsletter of Berrystead Nursing Home

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HALLOWEEN AT BERRYSTEAD



Service users enjoyed seeing these children in their scary costumes

On Tuesday 31st October, Berrystead joined in with the tradition of Halloween. The home was transformed into a 'Haunted House' and decorated with themed props and motifs that made for a very atmospheric occasion.

Service users in their annual guise of witches and wizards joined in a game of bingo, the prizes themed to Halloween. The winner of each game received a Halloween bucket filled with a selection of sweets, spider bubble bath and a novelty witch pen.

The service users then enjoyed a special Halloween themed tea-time. Staff joined in the occasion by serving the tea in Halloween costumes. Berrystead also welcomed a group of children all of which came in costume of little witches, vampires, a grim reaper, a spider and Halloween characters. The service users thoroughly enjoyed having the children around and admiring their costumes.

Service user Nora Maddison enjoyed the occasions so much she wrote the following poem for activities leader Julie Hilton.



Poem by Service User

*Julie brought the place to life;
Made awkward ones forget their
strife;
An afternoon quite full of fun,
But only the children round the
room did run.*

*The children were as good as
gold,
Not too shy nor yet too bold;
The staff in their macabre attire,
Could have made a Satan's
choir.*

*It was quite a happy hour,
Really sweet nothing sour.
If there is another do,
I'll love to be with all of you.*



BONFIRE NIGHT CELEBRATIONS

This year 'Bonfire Night' was celebrated with a special supper for the service users of Berrystead.

Placemats were made featuring pictures of Standard and Wells fireworks from the 1960's. A display of homemade colourful rockets and sparkling fireworks was the centerpiece for each table.

Service users enjoyed a traditional bonfire night supper of jacket potatoes, brains faggots, Lincolnshire sausages, fried onions and garden peas. This was accompanied by a glass of sparkling wine. Tea, coffee and muffins finished off the meal.

The occasion provided much reminiscence value for the service users.

Sadly the fireworks display had to be postponed because of safety issues over the unfinished building work taking place at the time. A fireworks display and open evening is planned to celebrate the new year for the service users, their family and friends.

Afternoon Concert with John Montague

On the afternoon of 24th October, Berrystead welcomed John Montague to entertain service users with an afternoon of 'Country' style music.

John has been over to America and recorded an album of Country music in Nashville, Tennessee. He also contributes regularly on the BBC Radio Leicester country music show.



Service users enjoyed songs from the legends of country music including some of John's own arrangements

St Andrew's Day Celebrations



St Andrew's Day was celebrated on the November 30th with the usual quiz afternoon. This time, it was themed to Scotland and was very much enjoyed by the service users. The twenty or so questions challenged service users to find the identity of three famous Scottish people; Robert Burns the poet, Jackie Stewart (racing driver) and Moira Anderson (singer).

The A-Z round was fun filled with service users having to think of something to do with Scotland through each letter of the alphabet. Service users then enjoyed vintage Scottish cheddars on Scottish oatcakes with the afternoon tea trolley.

The bingo group was also themed to Scotland and service users wore tartan hats and played for 'big' Scottish prizes – a novelty gift Scotsman disguising a bottle of beer, traditional Scottish shortbread and miniature bottle of Scottish whiskey. The winning service users were Marjorie Newby, Ada Baines and Iris Parker.

Country crooner John Montague entertains the service users with country songs

taken from his next album.

John has promised to return next year to do a special St Valentine's day concert of love songs and an afternoon themed to the artists and groups of the 1960's.

BERRYSTEAD CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

On Sunday 19th November, a Christmas bazaar was held at Berrystead. The stalls were themed to Christmas. The ever popular tombola stall was set up using the many donations from staff, relatives and friends of Berrystead. An impressive array of around seventy prizes included Christmas crackers, sweets, tins of salmon, toiletry sets, wine, amaryllis bulbs and Christmas cards.

The craft stall featured hand knitted characters, lavender bags, pottey tea-light holders and hand made greeting cards. Traditional seasonal homemade fayre of min pies and cranberry and cinnamon muffins complemented the occasion. The main prize for the raffle was a Christmas hamper filled generously with luxury Christmas items.



Service user Majorie Newby with relatives Sylvia and Rey Newby and Ben Hall

- 1st Prize** - Hamper- Susan Broad
- 2nd Prize** - Christmas Cake- Lenny Cooper
- 3rd Prize** - Bottle wine – Bill Chetwyn’s Family

Visitors to the bazaar were offered free tea and coffee and invited to browse a their leisure. There was a relaxing atmosphere. It was nice to see service users with their relatives enjoying the afternoon.

The successful venture made an incredible total of £ 294.00 in aid of the Berrystead Patients Comfort Club.

THE BELTONE’S CHOIR



On the 23rd November, the Beltone’s choir returned to the Berrystead for an evening concert. The Beltone’s are a group of singers both male and female who enjoy singing. They rehearse regularly throughout the year and work towards an end of year concert which they perform at their local Church, Berrystead and another nursing home near Loughborough.

Service users enjoyed a glass of sherry whilst listening to the choir. A favourite novelty song always performed by the Beltone’s was the ‘advent song’. The television advertisement jingles from years past are skilfully linked together to form a very entertaining song providing much reminiscence for the service users. Some of the jingles included were; ‘a mars a day helps you work, rest and play’, ‘a double

diamond works wonders’, ‘hamlet cigars, hovis bread, lool carpet cleaner’, ‘a finger of fudge is just enough’, ‘heinz baked beans and ‘just one cornetto’.

The finale was a rousing rendition of songs from the musical ‘show boat’.

After the concert, activities leader helped by service user Florence Jones served tea and biscuits to the choir.

Autumnal Countryside Ride

A group of service users went for a countryside ride to enjoy the autumnal tints of the season.



We were blessed with a perfect clear, bright and sunny autumnal af-

ternoon. Our driver took us on a tour of quiet Leicestershire villages which also took in the lanes around Swithland Woods and Bradgate park.

The hedgerows and trees were adorned with foliage in glorious autumnal colours. Hawthorns, rose-bushes and holly were abundant with bright red and orange, hips, haws and berries. The Bracken was starting to die back and turn golden yellow on the peat land around Bradgate park.

Service users mused over days

before motor vehicles and of happy times cycling along the country lanes. Also of walking through and 'kicking up' the fallen leaves when they were kids. Thatched cottages and the village church architecture was admired.

There was something quite therapeutic about leisurely motoring along country lanes whilst listening to classical music.

On return to Berrystead the service users enjoyed hot buttered tea cakes and a cup of tea.

Harvest Festival Service

The Harvest Festival Service was held on the afternoon of Monday 18th September 2006 and was led jointly of the churches of St Peter and St Paul's of Syston and St Michael and All Angel's of Thurmaston.

Activities leader Julie Hilton made an autumnal harvest display as the focal point for the service. It was made up of fruit and vegetables, a variety of breads and floral arrangements of autumnal flowers, berries and foliage.

The service was made up of traditional harvest hymns, readings from the Bible, poetry and prayers.

The Harvest Festival Service was followed by a harvest supper. Service users enjoyed homemade Scotch broth served with fresh bread rolls. This was followed with either apple or rhubarb pie and custard.



Each table had a centre piece of a hollowed out pumpkin filled with a selection of vegetables arranged as if they were flowers. There was a vase containing a single orange Chrysanthemum and the placemats featured a close up photograph of orange dahlia flower

heads.

St Peter and St Paul's church held their Harvest Festival Service on Sunday 24th September 2006. Church wardens kindly donated part of their display for the service users of Berrystead to enjoy.

OUTINGS

Countryside Ride and Gates Tea Rooms

On Wednesday 27th September '06, a group of service users went for a countryside ride stopping at Gates Tea Rooms at Cold Overton for tea.



Kathleen Garner enjoying a jam & cream scone

Service users were able to enjoy picturesque views of the Leicestershire countryside at harvest time. Fields had the characteristic bales of straw or had recently been ploughed. Hedgerows were full of colorful hips and haws, elderberries and blackberries. The horsechestnut trees were just starting to show an autumnal tint with the colour of their foliage and were laden with conkers.

We passed through the quaint villages of Twyford, Burrough-on-the-hill and Somerby admiring their cottages, country homes and churches.



Dora Taylor

Gates tea rooms are situated within Gates garden centre at Cold Overton near Oakham. Service users take pleasure in toasted tea cakes and jam and cream scones together with a cup of tea.

Pub lunch at the Hope and Anchor

On a very miserable, wet and windy day in October, a group of male service users went out for a pub lunch.

Service users boarded the bus in heavy rain kept dry under large golf umbrellas.

A short drive and we arrived at the Hope and Anchor Pub at Wanlip. A warm and homely atmosphere awaited us as we entered the hostelry via the newly constructed wheelchair access entrance. Friendly staff saw us to our tables and made us feel welcome.

With a drink from the bar and browsing through the extensive menu on of-

fer, all thoughts of the weather were forgotten.

Service users enjoyed a relaxing lunch tucking into the meal of their choice and enjoying each others company.



Service users John McCormack and Isaac Pratt

Remembrance Service



A Remembrance Service was held on the afternoon of Monday 13th November. The service was led by members of St Peter's and St Paul's church, Syston and St Michael and All Angel's church, Thurmaston. Hymns, readings, poetry and prayers made for a very emotive service. Julie Hilton- activities leader read the poems, Flanders Fields and the Soldier by Rupert Brook. Two minutes silence was observed followed by the Homage.

After the service, there was much talk amongst the residents about the war years. Some reminisced about being land army girls while others remembered working in the ammunitions factories. One of the male service users told of the time he went down to London with member of his regiment to march to the Cenitaph.

Fond farewell for Curate Susan Cooper

On Monday 23rd October, Berrystead held a special service for Susan Cooper. Susan has been Curate of St Peter and St Paul's Church in Syston for the past three years. Continuing the work of her predecessor Father Tony Rindyl, she has worked closely with activities leader Julie Hilton to bring the church into Berrystead to meet the spiritual needs of the service users.

She has also encouraged and motivated other church personnel to help run the monthly services. The success of this venture at Berrystead has led the team to run afternoon services in two other care homes in Syston, Northfields and Syston Lodge.

Sadly, this was to be Susan's last service at the Berrystead. She is to be inducted as Rector of Chipping Ongar and Shelley in the Diocese of Chelmsford on Saturday 25th November 2006.

The service was made up of Susan's favourite hymns and scriptures from the Bible together with poetry themed to friendship and prayer. Activities leader Julie Hilton led a tribute on behalf of the service users to thank her for her invaluable support and friendship and wishing her well with her new pastoral ministry in Essex.

Susan was then presented with a bouquet of flowers and a card from service user Annie Allen. A

CONSERVATORY EXTENSION COMPLETION



Curate Susan Cooper

celebratory cake was made by Papijon of Thurmaston Village and shared with the afternoon tea and coffee.