



BERRYSTEAD FAMILY NEWS

A quarterly Home and Community Newsletter of Berrystead Nursing Home

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This year's Garden Fete was held on the afternoon of Sunday 5th August 2007. After what was to have been the worst summer for a long time to have prolonged wet and dreary weather, we were blessed with a wonderful warm, sunny summer's day.

The event was well supported by service users' family friends, and staff and we welcomed many people from the local community.

Stalls included a tombola, raffle, book stall, bottle stall, bric-a-brac stall, treasure hunt map, the great balloon race and Hannah Marie's manicures together with refreshments and homemade cakes.



Vicar Javid Iqbal's children entering the great balloon race

Live entertainment was provided by John Montagne and Friends who performed songs from a wide repertoire of music. After supporting the stalls, many chose to partake of refreshments and take full advantage of being able to be outdoors enjoying the sunshine and listening to the band.

gardens under their umbrellas. It seemed unusually essential accessory has served from the rain and more



A local community newspaper reporter took a photograph of two of our service users sitting out in the las to shield themselves from the comical as this summer everyone's been an umbrella to shield themselves!

The great balloon race invited people to buy a balloon that would be filled with helium gas and labelled with a tag. The tag to be returned by the finder of the balloon when it eventually came to land. Amongst the tags that were returned were two from Hull. This leads you to think that perhaps many of the balloons found their way out to sea.

A visit on the internet deciphered which balloon had traveled the farthest and prizes and vouchers went to the finder of the balloon who kindly returned the tag and the winner of the balloon traveling the farthest distance. This went to Mrs. B. Hunt from Thurmaston who had come along to the fete after seeing the poster advertising the event in the local ASDA superstore.

A magnificent £789.11 was raised in aid of the Berrystead Patient's Comfort Club.



The garden fete was blessed with excellent weather



Popular entertainers John Montagne and friends



Service users Agnes Stokes enjoying the company of her family



Service user Jean Moulton with husband Arthur enjoying the atmosphere

Afternoon Concerts



**Mike
Gee**

Mike Gee
impersonating the
great Max Wall

On the afternoon of the 18th July, Berrystead welcomed a new entertainer by the name of Mike Gee. Mike is an all round entertainer. He sang some well loved classics from artists such as Cliff Richard, Elvis Presley, Frank Sinatra and Engelbert Humperdinck which were well received by the service users. Between songs, he put in a few jokes some a little bit naughty but then again nice! Mike also impressed his audience with his ability to tap dance and rock and roll. The service users were exhausted just watching him.

As a finale, Mike made a costume and wig change and became the music hall great Max Wall. Service users cried with laughter as he strutted around the lounge with the Max Wall walk. Laughter was certainly a tonic on this occasion. To close he sang a song whilst drawing a caricature of himself on a large easel. An enjoyable afternoon was had by all. Service users asked if he would come again.

Summertime Special

On a dismal, rainy afternoon in June SG Productions came to Berrystead to perform their show entitled 'Summertime Special'. The two performers who had visited us earlier this year to perform 'Sinatra and Friends' made the service users forget about the weather and the floods by taking them to summer climates, holidays and the good old summertime through song and dance and costume. Highlights of the show were in the costumes for Arthur Askey's 'I'd like to be a busy busy bee' which made for much laughter and amusement and the performance of the jazz classic, 'Summertime'.



Service user Irene Briggs enjoyed the concert

Our Flossie

Our Flossie has fast become a firm favourite of the service users of Berrystead. She delights us with two concerts a year, one in summer and the other at Christmas time. As with SG productions earlier in the month of June, Our Flossie arrived at Berrystead on a rainy afternoon to perform her Summertime concert. She took us all on holiday starting in Blackpool with George Formby classic 'With my little stick of Blackpool rock' and then further afield around the world through song and costume. Our Flossie is renowned for her costumes which she makes herself.

Our Flossie as Arthur Askey's Busy Bee with service user Evelyn James



Strawberry Teas

Two Strawberry Teas were organized to coincide with the annual Wimbledon fortnight. Service users were invited to the special themed strawberry teas which were held in the activities conservatory. Tables were dressed in tablecloths cleverly decorated with large photographic images of masses of strawberries - a talking point in themselves. Attention to detail was in the table settings; napkins and room decorations of paper steamers depicting tennis rackets and strawberries and special balloons decorated to look like strawberries. The service users enjoyed a bowl of fresh strawberries

and cream. The strawberries were freshly picked for the occasion at the seldom seen fruit farm at Billsdon.

After each tea, the service users either took part in a Wimbledon quiz or were just encouraged to reminisce. One service user used to farm in Lincolnshire and had land dedicated to growing soft fruits especially strawberries. Many used to make their own jam and some had been to Wimbledon and enjoyed strawberries and the champagne at extravagant prices.



OUTINGS

'This summer-time we have experienced some dreadful weather with much rain and flooding. Unfortunately this led to two of the three canal boat outings having to be cancelled due to high river levels making navigation of the boats dangerous. Also the planned outings to the local parks for picnic lunches also fell foul to the weather'



Mosaics canal boat sunbeam

CANAL BOAT OUTING ON MOSAIC'S SUNBEAM

A group of service users were able to go on a canal boat outing on Wednesday 27th June. Service users boarded the canal boat 'sunbeam' at its mooring at the Hope and Anchor, Wanlip. The morning was taken up with a leisurely cruise along the River Soar passing through locks at Cossington and Sibley Mill. Service users were able to take in the beautiful views of open countryside and the tranquility of the river banks through large picture windows. Herons, swans, mallards, moorhens, coots, iridescent damsel flies and yellow buttercup like waterlilies could be seen. Crews on other canal boats waved to us and it was interesting to observe the names of the many boats we passed and admired the canal boat art of 'roses and castles' on buckets, coal shuttles and planters displayed on the roofs of the boats.



Service users enjoying a pub lunch at the Waterside Inn

The service users stopped for a pub lunch at the Waterside Inn at Montsorrell. A welcome long cold drink was enjoyed by all from the bar.

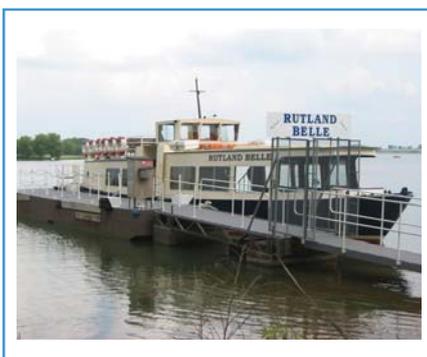
The crew are all volunteers who take groups such as Berrystead on the waterways. Activities leader Julie Hilton thanked them on behalf of the service users for making them feel so welcome and ensuring that they had a good day.

Rutland Water

On Wednesday 13th June a group of service users went to Rutland Water near Oakham.

On arrival we had lunch in the Harbour Bar and Restaurant. The restaurant had recently been refurbished and the new management made us feel very welcome.

After lunch the service users enjoyed a boat trip aboard the Rutland Belle. A taped recording told of the history of the area and how the reservoir was constructed. Areas of interest were pointed out to observe such as the submerged church and the huge dam. There was much activity on the water including trout fishing, wind surfers, canoeists and anglers in waders fishing from the waters edge.



On return we sat out on the waters edge with ice-creams and enjoyed the tranquility of the setting. Swans and ducks joined us for company and to see if there were any tit-bits going. The service users were amazed how tame they were and it was nice to be able to see wild fowl at such close quarters.

Left : The Captain boarding service user Margaret Cooling onto the Rutland Belle

*Top right: The submerged church at Rutland Water
Bottom right: The Rutland Belle*

Ulverscroft Grange

On Wednesday 8th August, a second group of service users had the chance to spend the day at Ulverscroft Grange.

We spent the morning sitting outside on the patio under large sun parasols. Service users were able to take in the views of open countryside that surround the Grange, whilst enjoying morning tea or coffee and biscuits.

At lunch time, the service users sat at two large dining tables. Many commented on the place settings and the central table runners that reminded them of bygone days. Before the meal was served, the Grange's cook said grace which impressed the service users. Staff brought out plates of poached salmon with parsley sauce and the service users were able to help themselves to new potatoes, cauliflower, carrots and broccoli from large vegetable tureens placed along the central table runners on each table. As is customary at Ulverscroft, a traditional homemade pudding followed – pineapple upside down pudding served with custard.

After lunch the service users were able to access the Sensory Garden before again gathering on the patio for afternoon tea. Tea and homemade lemon drizzle cake and coconut cake was served then the service users just enjoyed being outdoors taking advantage of the beautiful sunny afternoon and the idyllic setting.



Service users Alice Locke and Agnes Stokes sitting by the water feature in the Sensory Garden

BERRYSTEAD BY THE SEA WEEK OF ACTIVITIES

During the week of 13th – 17th of August the activities were themed to the sea-side.

The week opened with an afternoon service that focused on the sea and remembering those who work in the fishing industry, those who serve in the Royal Navy and the Coastguards and those who serve for the RNLI (Royal National Lifeboat Institution).

The service was led by members of St Peters and St Pauls Church, Syston; St Michaels and All Angels Church, Thurmaston and All Saints Church, Scraftoft. The service included hymns, readings and poetry.

A quiz was organized themed to the seaside. A Kim's game was very visually successful and also provided

much reminiscence value for the service users trying to remember as many items as they could from a total of 24. The A-Z round challenged the service users to think of something to do with the seaside through each letter of the alphabet. Hangmen, anagrams, 20 questions and songs associated with the seaside all added to the occasion.

An end of pier type afternoon concert with Mr Spoons was much enjoyed. The concert also included a Punch and Judy show that added to the ambiance of the occasion and brought back memories of day trips and holidays by the sea. After the concert service users enjoyed an ice-cream cornet.

To end the week, the Friday Af-

ternoon Bingo Group played for prizes of a seaside bucket that contained a magazine of summertime stories and articles, a word search pocket booklet, a bottle of a softdrink J2O and a bag of mixed sweets.



Bingo winners with their seaside buckets full of prizes: Molly Kelly, Dorothy Brigstock and Laura Greasley.

Flower Festival

As part of the Afternoon Service programme at Berrystead, we now organize an annual 'Flower Festival' for the month of June. This mirrors what is happening out in the local community churches.

The service was held on the afternoon of Monday 18th June. It was led by members of St Michaels and All Angels Church, Thurmaston, St Peter and St Pauls Church, Syston and All Saints Church, Scraftoft. The service included hymns, prayers and poetry themed to flowers.



The flower arrangements from each of the churches had sent floral arrangements and a spectacular pedestal display. These together with flowers arranged into vases by activities leader Julie Hilton were used to decorate the lounge for the service. The flowers made for much comment by the service users.

After the service, the service users enjoyed tea and biscuits and reminisced about favourite flowers, their own flower arranging talents, growing prize Chrysanthemums and the flower tent at the old Abbey Park Show.

To follow through the theme of flowers, a quiz afternoon was arranged themed to flowers of the garden. Activities leader Julie Hilton collected an example of every flowering plant she could find from around the gardens of Berrystead. Service users had to try and identify each of the flowers found.

HAIRDRESSING at Berrystead

Berrystead has its own hairdressing salon and is fortunate to have two fully qualified and experienced hairdressers. Adrienne hairdresses on a Saturday afternoon and Rachel on a Tuesday morning.



Hairdresser Rachel with service user Florence Jones

Hairdressing Prices:

Shampoo & set	£ 6.00
Trim, shampoo & set	£11.00
Wash & blowdry	£6.00
Trim, wash & blowdry	£11.00
Trim (men & ladies)	£5.00
Perm	£25.00
Colour & blowdry	£24.00

Appointments arranged through Julie Hilton (Activities Leader)



Hairdresser Adrienne with service user Dorothy Brigstock



GARDEN FETE '07 RAFFLE WINNERS

Maggie Chambers	Bottle Cava
Mandy Pateman	Leicester City Football Stadium tour
Bill Chetwyn	Toiletry Set
Boughton	Bottle Sherry
Kathleen Garner	Bottle Sherry
Sybil Sharp	Toiletry Set
M. Hardy	Bottle Port
Michael Harrison	Decorated Cake
Julie Hilton	Book
Florence Jones	Box Chocolates
Earnest Dennis	Box Chocolates
Ron Brigstock	Bottle Cava
M. Hardy	Book

Treasure Hunt Winner - Mrs. J. Wheat

Prize – Bottle of wine and box of chocolates