



BERRYSTEAD FAMILY NEWS

A quarterly Home and Community Newsletter of Berrystead Nursing Home

Sep-Nov Issue 2007

HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE



On Monday 17th September the afternoon service celebrated harvest time with a special harvest festival service.

The service was led by members of St. Peter and St. Paul's Church, Syston, St. Michael and All Angel's Church, Thurmaston and All Saints Church, Scraptoft.

Activities leader Julie Hilton made a visual display of autumnal flowers that included Chrysanthemums, long stemmed red gladioli, autumnal berried foliage and leaves. Pumpkins were hollowed out and used as vases to arrange vegetables in. These were placed around the lounge to bring the dis-

play out from the central focus. Service user Dorothy Harrison's son and daughter-in-law John and Jackie contributed a basket arrangement of autumnal leaves, nuts, berries and seed heads and also a large basket of orchard apples.

The service was made up of traditional harvest hymns, prayers and poetry.

Afterwards service users joined together with our friends from the three churches and enjoyed tea and coffee and oat baked biscuits.

Following through the harvest theme later on in the week the Friday afternoon bingo group played for prizes of mini harvest hampers.



A basket of vegetables that formed part of the display

Service users were remembered when St. Peter and St. Paul's Church in Syston held their own harvest festival service later in September. Church wardens donated part of the display to Berrystead.



BONFIRE NIGHT CELEBRATION

On Monday 5th November Berrystead celebrated Bonfire Night. A traditional bonfire night supper was arranged for the service users. They enjoyed jacket potatoes, sausages, faggots and mushy peas. Afterwards service users, relatives, friends and staff and their families gathered to enjoy a spectacular firework display.

Parm Gill who organizes the firework display falls shy of public praise. So through this article a big thank you must be made in appre-

ciation of an excellent display. We must not forget to thank the directors of Berrystead who matched the activities funding enabling us to put on such a quality show.



Parm Gill, organizer of the Annual fireworks display at Berrystead

ACTIVITIES

HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION

On Wednesday 31st October Halloween Celebrations came to Berrystead . A special themed tea-time was arranged for the service users and staff were invited to come in fancy dress themed to Halloween.

Activities leader Julie Hilton with the help of Robert Pateman decorated the foyer and dining areas with witches, skeletons and pumpkins and other Halloween effects. Led by manager Gail Duggan, many of the staff dressed up for the occasion to add to the atmosphere. The service users, relatives and professionals who visited the home on the day joined in the fun and were impressed with the effort many had made with their costumes and theatrical make up effects.

At tea-time the tables were set with dark cloths. Table centres were an arrangement of a sparkly light up pumpkin, ceramic tea light holder in the shape of a pumpkin and a bud vase containing a black rose and a dried stem of Chinese lantern seed heads. Disposable Halloween themed plates and napkins added to the ambience. Each service users had a personalized Halloween place card to welcome them at their table. A CD of Halloween sounds, effects and music played in the background.

Following the theme through Chef Philip made homemade pumpkin pies and pumpkin cakes for the occasion.



Chef Philip made pumpkin pies for the occasion.



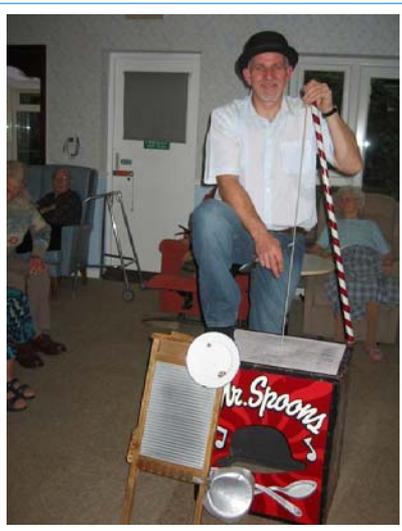
The morning shift in their Halloween attire.



The afternoon shift also dressed up for the occasion.

AFTERNOON CONCERT

MR. SPOON'S ENTERTAINS



Mr.Spoon's and his skiffle instruments the tea chest and wash board!

On the afternoon of Tuesday 20th November, we welcomed back an old favourite of the service users of Berrystead –Melvin Godber alias Mr.Spoon's.

Mr .Spoons has his own brand of entertainment which is based on audience participation. Singing songs with well known choruses that the service users know word for word and accompanied by his guitar this gets everybody in the mood. Those service users who are able are encouraged to play percussion instruments which adds to the fun of the occasion. It is surprising to see just how much of a sense of rhythm and timing some of the service users have.

During the concert Mr.Spoon's demonstrates his talent as an entertainer by expertly playing the spoons, a skill taught to him by his late grandfather. He also plays the harmonica.

Melvin is a talented member of a skiffle band and regularly performs in Germany. He also brings with him the two most popular skiffle instruments the tea chest and the wash board. With two brave volunteers an old skiffle classic of Lonnie Donegan's was performed.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

On Sunday 28th October, Berrystead organized an early Christmas Bazaar as a fund raising venture. All monies raised were in aid of the Berrystead Patient's Comfort Club.

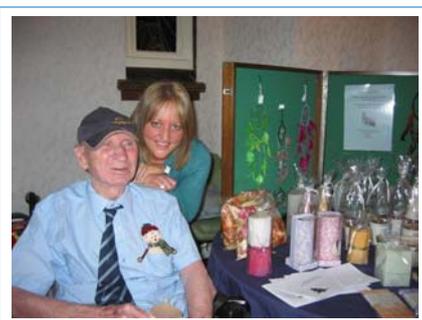
All of the stalls were themed to Christmas and included a tombola, raffle, book stall, Christmas novelties, scented candles, homemade Christmas cards and a bran tub. Refreshments were also served and had a well stocked homemade cake selection including mince-pies and cranberry and cinnamon muffins to carry through the theme of Christmas.

The event was well supported and visitors commented on the visual atmosphere that the stalls reflected when they were all set up around the dining room.

An outstanding total of £398.00 was raised. A big thank you to all who supported the fund raising venture in many different ways.



Sheila Ludlow and her sister-in-law Angela ran the refreshment stall.



Hannah Montague with grandfather Tom selling scented candles and homemade Christmas cards.



Gail Duggan and her sister Fred Keble helped by Megan Cox ran the tombola stall.



Service user Dorothy Harrison with her son John and daughter-in-law Jackie organised bran tub



Geoff Hilton organized the raffle.



Lesley Palmer helped her friend Nicola run the Christmas novelties stall.



CHRISTMAS BAZAAR RAFFLE WINNERS

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 237 Jackie Harrison | Basket of fruit |
| 355 B Hunt | Tin Biscuits |
| 333 Mary Tomblin | Tin Biscuits |
| 275 Gail Duggan | Bottle Gin |
| 336 Ena | Bottle Sherry |
| 216 Pat Cookson | Bottle mulled wine |
| 154 Lilida Heaps | Christmas CD |
| 281 Peggy Flaherty | Ceramic biscuit holder |
| 388 Hannah Montague | Christmas book |
| 284 Noreen | Bottle wine |
| 200 Mercie Lardner | Tin biscuits |
| 320 R.Hubbard | Cut glass tumblers |
| 110 Linda Barratt | Cuddly toy |
| 302 Pat Davies | Bottle Sherry |
| 325 M.Hubbard | Bottle Sherry |
| 406 M.Montague | Christmas cake |

Lunch at the Conservatory Café at Wyevale Garden Centre at Rothley

On Wednesday 10th October '07 a group of service users went out to lunch at the Conservatory Café situated at Wyevale Garden Centre at Rothley.

On arrival we were made to feel very welcome. Over a cup of tea we browsed through the menu and made our choices from an excellent range of meals. Service users enjoyed well cooked and presented breaded plaice fillets, gammon steaks, beef and ale pie and chicken in a white wine and mustard sauce. Accompanied by either chips or new potatoes and side dishes of a medley of vegetables. Room was still found to enjoy a traditional pudding of either treacle sponge or fruit crumble and custard.

Service user, Hilda Shuttlewood enjoyed a cream tea instead of a meal. A freshly baked scone with clotted cream and jam was for Hilda the right choice.

Jean Moulten was able to enjoy the company of her husband Arthur. The outing was special to the couple as it was the first time they had been able to go out together since Jean had taken poorly and been in hospital. Coming from nearby Birstall, Jean and Arthur had used to use the garden centre (then known as Rowena Garden Centre) for their gardening requirements. The day brought back many happy memories for them both.



Service user Hilda Shuttlewood enjoying a cream cake



Jean and Arthur Moulton enjoying a meal together

PUB LUNCH AT THE FLYING CHILDERS KIRBY BELLARS



On Wednesday 14th November another group of service users were taken out for a pub lunch. This time it was to the Flying Childers at Kirby Bellars.

Recently refurbished and under new management the pub has excellent facilities for the disabled.

We were made to feel very welcome by the staff who met us as we arrived and helped us to our table in the restaurant.

Service users ordered a drink from the bar and chose from the menu what they would like to eat. We enjoyed a leisurely, relaxed lunch that was a welcome change from routine.



Service user Dorothy Brigstock was able to enjoy a meal with her husband Ron.

PUB LUNCH AT THE HOPE AND ANCHOR

On Wednesday 17th October a group of service users were taken to lunch at the Hope and Anchor at Wanlip.

The service users appreciated the homely and relaxed atmosphere of the pub and enjoyed a drink from the bar and their choice of meal from the menu.



Service user Jessie Brocklehurst enjoying a glass of white wine.



Service users Mary Tomblin and Florence Jones.

THE “HILTON EXPRESS”



Dutchess of Sutherland steam engine evoked many memories of the era of steam railways



Service users enjoyed thinking that they were dining on a Pullman Carriage

On Thursday 11th October '07, the service users of Berrystead were given a special invitation to have 'high tea' on the Hilton Express.

Following the example set for guests dining on the world famous Orient Express, attention to detail was of great importance. Tables were dressed in matching cloths with the napkins expertly folded into Bishops hats. Place mats had been made for the occasion depicting another famous steam train from the era of the LMS(London ,Midland Scottish) railway company, the crimson red locomotive the Dutchess of Sutherland. These images led to much conversation and reminiscence of the era of steam trains. A CD of train sounds together with music connected with trains and railways was played in the background to give that atmospheric ambience to the occasion.

On arrival service users were welcomed 'on board' with a glass of Bucks Fizz. They then enjoyed their choice of freshly cut sandwiches. There then followed a cheese board, wedges of blue stilton, Irish Wexford cheddar, Wensleydale and French Brie were displayed among sprigs of grapes and served with selection of crackers.

The finale of the occasion was the ultimate act of decadence a freshly baked Danish Pastry decorated with autumnal fruits.



REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

On Monday 12th November there was a special service organized for Remembrance.

The service was led by members of St. Peter and St. Paul's church Syston, St Michael and All Angels Church Thurmaston and All Saints Church Scraptoft.

The service was made up of hymns, bible readings, poems and prayers. Activities leader Julie Hilton read the poems 'The Soldier' by Rupert Brooke and Flanders Fields. Peter led the poignant Homage followed by two minutes silence. Pat Davies in her address told of the British Legion and the importance of the poppy donations. Monies raised from these donations help those injured as a result of war and their families to rehabilitate.

Service users each were a Poppy with pride. Many reminisced of their own experiences of being a para trooper, serving as a wren, working in the ammunitions factories and as land army girls.



Hannah Wild proudly wearing a Poppy at the Remembrance Service.

LIBRARY BUS

We have some good news that the library loans service to the home is to be extended free of charge until further notice.

The Library Loan Service is based at Coalville Library and the specially fitted bus visits those communities who cannot access a library and this includes care homes.



Previously we had been informed that as the service was proving to be very costly those groups in the community that were privately funded would have to pay a yearly subscription which was to be set at £100.

Activities leader Julie Hilton has also liaised with the Librarian at Syston Library so that a representative can collect books requested by service users.

For further information and request for loans please see Julie Hilton.

The library bus visits Berrystead every two months.

NEWS OF FORMER STAFF OF BERRYSTEAD

BERRYSTEAD WELCOMES NEW VICAR

At the November communion service, Father Javaid Iqbal introduced us to the new Vicar of Syston, Father David White. David will alternate with Javaid in leading the monthly multi-faith communion services at Berrystead.

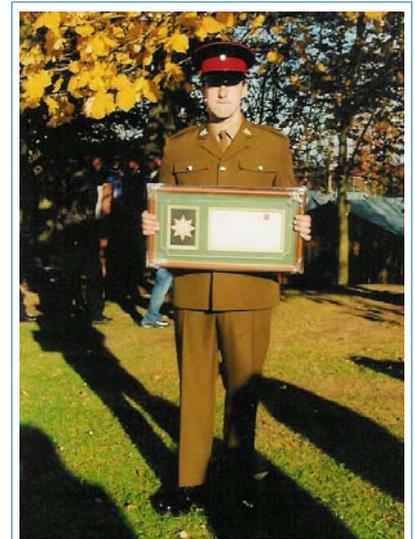


New Vicar of Syston, Father David White

Father David is married with two grown up children. Previously he was the Vicar at St. John's Church at Knighton. He is now team Rector of the Syston team and oversees eight local churches. Syston, Thurmaston, Barkby, Queniborough, East Goscote, Rearsby, Thrussington and Ratcliffe –on- the Wreake.

Father David can be heard regularly on the local radio station, BBC Radio Leicester, broadcasting 'Thought for today.' Lyn Padmore who used to

run our afternoon services was ordained at a special service in Leicester Cathedral during the summer. She is now a fully fledged Vicar. Presently she is continuing servicing her curacy at Christ the King Church, Beaumont Leys.



David Sleath

David Sleath joined the Royal Anglians Regiment and has recently completed a 26 week basic infantry mans course at Cattarick Garrison.

The photograph shows David at his passing out parade which was on the 2nd November '07.

David then enjoyed a two week break with his family and friends before being posted to Celle in Germany for advanced training and weaponry.

All at the Berrystead wish David every success for the future