

St Katharine's House Newsletter - February/March 2011

Building Work

The Dementia Unit on the first floor will be in operation from 1st April. The old library will become the new Dining Room/Sitting Room/Activities Room within the Unit and Welcome will be a quiet room.

Social events and activities that were once held in the Old Library will now have to relocate elsewhere. We will make more use of Charity and the Sisters have very kindly offered us the use of their Sitting Room for the Winter Talks.

The new disabled toilet next to the hairdressing salon is now complete, enabling Charity to be used more as a sitting room.

Activities and Entertainment

Winter Talks

The final Winter Talk of the year was held on 9th February when Judy Dewey gave a really interesting talk on Researching Local History. Although mainly based on Wallingford, it nevertheless gave an excellent insight into the treasures we are still finding today.

Food Tasting Sessions

At the beginning of February we had our first food tasting afternoon, with the focus on fruit. We had a good selection ranging from apples and pears to kumquat, papaya and physalis. Some of the fruit was very nice; others not so good and a few faces were pulled at the sourness of the physalis.

Morning Coffee

We held morning coffee on 23rd February and our theme for this was animals. A good crowd attended and our "animal" experiences were shared.

Cinema

Several residents went off to the cinema in Didcot to see the "King's Speech". An excellent film and very worthy of the awards it received. If you haven't managed to see the film, we will get a copy as soon as it is available on DVD and show it here.

Daily Newspapers

We have held our first "What the Papers Say" discussion group and, although numbers were small, we all had a lively chat and a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.



Entertainment

Bernie, our 90-year-old entertainer, played the keyboard and led a lively sing-a-long at the beginning of March. He was followed by Becky who played the accordion and again everyone had a good time and a bit of a sing-song.

Lent

The Lent Talks started on 9th March and ran for three weeks.

Morning Coffee/Afternoon Tea

At the end of March we had afternoon tea and the topic for discussion was Phobias.

Quiz

We ran our first quiz during March which proved very popular. The prize was a plant and the winner was Sister Honour Margaret. The next quiz will be available in April with a closing date of 26th.

For those of you who entered the March quiz and would like to know the answers, they are now displayed on the main notice board in the Hall.

Forthcoming Events

ON 5th April Annabelle Green starts the first of many visits to entertain us. Annabelle is a 13-year-old who has recently won a place in the National Youth Choir. She is a soprano, attends St Helen and St Katharine School and wants to eventually become a professional singer. Annabelle is now doing here Duke of Edinburgh Award and has asked if she can come and sing to us.

On 6th April we will hold our first Travel Group where, hopefully, many of you will be willing to tell us of your travels over the years.

Many of you may remember Margaret Betts, who has sung at St Katharine's on previous occasions. Margaret will be here on 12th April to give an Easter recital in the Chapel.

On 21st April we will hold an Easter Egg hunt. More details to follow.

At the end of May the Activities Team invite you to a Cheese & Wine Evening.

All activities will be displayed on the notice boards so please keep an eye out for further details.

Staff News

There is some positive news this month. It is hoped to increase staff numbers by one in the House from the beginning of April. So we will have two staff based in the Dementia Unit and two with the rest of the residents.

Congratulations

Our congratulations go to carer Gosia who has recently passed her NVQ II. Well done Gosia.

Hello

We have three new carers joining us this month - a warm welcome to Linda Copewell, Penny Grimes and Julie Hoyland.

And Finally...

It really does feel very spring-like at the time of writing this. The bulbs are blooming and the garden is beginning to look lovely again.

