

*News and Views from*

# AROUND THE HOUSES

As you will no doubt recall from our last issue, this month we have been celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Abbeyfield Society.



The first event was a party to thank all of the volunteers who are so essential to our Society.



The weather could not have been better and we were able to take advantage of the beautiful front garden at St. Mary's House to enjoy the celebrations. The Chairman of the Executive Committee, John Stevens, gave a short speech thanking the volunteers and also reminding them of the need for change to meet the changing expectations of society as a whole. Thanks must go to John Stevens and the St. Mary's House Committee for

**July/August  
2006**

their hard work in organising the event.

Our second event a week later was for all of our residents, their sponsors and staff.



This was a lunch buffet held at Annett House and we are very grateful to the House Committee



and the housekeeper there for their hard work. Thanks must also go to those who helped to provide transport for those that needed it.

We were very pleased to be able to welcome the Mayor of Berkhamsted, Mrs Freda Earl, as our guest of honour.



The final event at which our Society participated was a service of thanksgiving held at St Albans Abbey. One of the residents from Annett House, Miss Joan Carr,

was chosen to give one of the readings and the service was attended by our Royal Patron HRH the Prince of Wales.

Apart from the 50th Anniversary celebrations the houses have continued to hold their own events.

In May Annett House held one of their regular coffee morning bring and buy sales and as always were pleased to welcome many residents from other Abbeyfield Houses as well as members of the local community.



For those that had not yet had a chance to see the house since the major building works, tours were on offer whilst others took advantage of the fine weather to look around the gardens.

This time the coffee morning was in aid of the Hospice of St Francis which is based in Berkhamsted. The sum of £288 was raised from the bring and buy, sale of



refreshments and the raffle and this money has been sent on to the Hospice.

St. Mary's House held their summer fete but regrettably there are no pictures available for this. Despite many of the usual supporters and helpers being away for the weekend the fete was a great success and raised approximately £250 towards the social fund.

A forthcoming social event is a trip along the canal early in July. The house has hired two fully accessible boats from the Reach Out project and all of the residents of St. Mary's House and their sponsors along with members of the House Committee will be able to enjoy a gentle cruise with afternoon tea provided. Hopefully we will be able to bring you some pictures of this in the next newsletter.



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The Abbeyfield (Berkhamsted and Hemel Hempstead) Society now has a supply of plastic business cards - both sides of which are shown above. These can be pinned on to display boards or placed available for prospective residents or their families to take. If you think you may have somewhere suitable for these cards to be displayed, please let me know and I would be happy to arrange for a supply to be sent to you.

## ***Welcome to .....***

Lily at St. Mary's House

## ***Goodbye to .....***

Eleanor from St. Mary's House

## ***Happy Birthday to .....***

Irene of St. Mary's House  
Bill of St. Mary's House  
Len of St. Mary's House  
Kathleen of Annett House

John from the Executive

As always if you are interested in one of our houses for yourself or a friend and would like to arrange a visit we would be only too happy to show you around by appointment. Please contact me using the details below.

I also continue to be available to give free talks to any group large or small about the work of our Society.

If you would like to contact us you may e-mail us at [susanpullen.abbeyfield@virgin.net](mailto:susanpullen.abbeyfield@virgin.net) , you may phone us on 01442 217578 or you can send items to Mrs Susan Pullen, St. Mary's House, 9 George Street, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, HP2 5HJ.