

News and Views from

AROUND THE HOUSES

Welcome to our new look newsletter. Thank you to all of you who took the time to enter the competition last month to find a new name for our newsletter. As you will see from our masthead a new title has been chosen and the lucky winner was Miss Sylvia Brightley, a resident at our Sibley's Orchard House.



Sylvia was 'surprised and delighted' to be presented by her prize of a Marks and Spencer voucher and kindly agreed to having her picture taken for the newsletter.

As part of our new format we would welcome contributions from you all. This could be a letter commenting on a topic of interest, a photograph or a poem that you have written. Any contributions can be sent by post to the address on the back page or electronically as either word or 'pdf' documents to our e-mail address.

If you have any suggestions as to anything else that you would like to see featured please let me know.

Our next issue will be going to the printers in mid-July so any contributions should be sent by the end of June to allow time for the newsletter to be edited.

May/June 2005

The last few weeks have been very busy for all of our houses with many events being held.

Annett House held one of their twice yearly bring and buy coffee mornings. These are open not only to those connected with Annett House and the Berkhamsted and Hemel Hempstead Society but also other Abbeyfield Societies and friends from the local community.



This was the first coffee morning held since completion of the new extensions and Shirley Clarke, a member of the house committee, was kept very busy giving tours around the house showing how the rooms had changed.

As well as the bring and buy there was, as always, a raffle with many lovely prizes and the house managed to raise over £300 towards the residents fund.



The very next day the house had another visitor, this time from Abbeyfield head office. Our Society, like all Abbeyfield Societies, is affiliated to the national Abbeyfield Society which sets down minimum standards for Abbeyfield houses and provides central resources and advice when required. New employees starting work at the national office try to visit a number of different Abbeyfield Houses to get an idea of how they operate and how unique each one is. The House Chairman, Christine Hopcraft, was pleased to welcome our guest and show her around.



Another important event for the residents of Annett House this month was the 100th birthday of former resident Trudi Pitt. Although Trudi has now moved on to a nursing home, volunteers and residents from Annett house have continued to visit her regularly and were delighted to be a part of her recent 100th birthday celebrations visiting her on the day with a bouquet of flowers. Some of you may have noticed this special occasion being featured in the local Gazette.

found that some of our residents were very well travelled whilst others had somewhat more limited experience.



St. Mary's House have been continuing their series of guest speakers at their Wednesday coffee mornings. At the beginning of May committee member Steve Coster came to talk to the residents about owning a property abroad, and a little about the area of Spain where his flat is situated.

Our regular readers will remember a couple of months ago we featured Derek and Irene Saunders of St. Mary's house as they had finally been able to celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary after their original plans for a party had been postponed due to illness. As part of their Golden Wedding Derek and Irene have very generously donated a double seat for the back garden.



The talk was accompanied by some interesting photographs and in the discussion that followed we



Also at St. Mary's this month the chairman of the house committee celebrated a significant birthday. The residents and staff marked the occasion with a small tea party.



Sibley's Orchard residents have also been enjoying themselves recently although their events have not been open to everybody.

For the royal wedding the residents held their own party in the lounge complete with sherry to toast the good health of the couple. In the afternoon they reassembled to watch the Grand National and held their own mini sweepstake.

Interviews for a new house manager have now taken place so look out for an announcement in

the next edition of the newsletter as to the successful candidate.

Events to look out for.....

St. Mary's House will be holding a bring and buy coffee morning which is open to all on;

Wednesday 15th June from 10.30am.

Welcome to.....

Mrs Irena Gatehouse and Mrs Eileen Scanlon

Both of whom have joined us at Sibley's Orchard recently.

Goodbye to.....

Mrs Joan Merridan and Mrs Jane Whewell

Both of whom have left St. Mary's House as they needed more care than we are allowed to provide as very sheltered housing.

If you would like to contact us you may e-mail us at 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.