



St. Dominics Residential Home December 2017 Newsletter

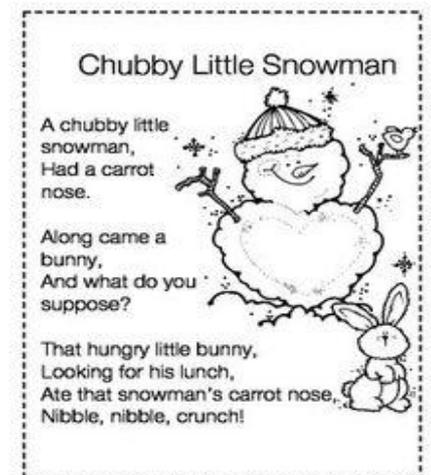


Well, another year has flown by and lots of changes and new things have happened during 2017. We have a new sensory garden and Kelvedon in Bloom awarded us a Rose Bowl "in recognition of the new and the consistently high standard of all floral displays". We also have a new gardener called Paul who will keep the gardens in tip top shape and keep the sensory garden in good order.

Another addition to the Home is our Residents' shop which is popular for many things including sweet treats! Our exterior, lounge and conservatory were decorated with the lounge extending into the former dining room to provide an Activities lounge which can be separated off. We have a new breakfast menu system and all meals are served on new tables. The staff have new serving uniforms and you have lovely new linen napkins too. Ellie provides a little pampering to you with the new nail bar. We also have weekly cinema afternoons with some great classic films for you to enjoy.

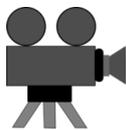
As Dennis reached 100 this year we now have 3 residents to have reached this grand milestone - congratulations to you all! We have been out and about to lots of places including Maldon for a traditional fish and chips lunch, visits to Cressing Temple and Coggeshall Flower Festival too. We had a lovely Strawberry Fayre, Tea at 3, and lots of wonderful entertainers throughout the year, not forgetting the visits from Gemma's Farm and Twilight the Owl.

Now the evenings are drawing in and the weather is getting colder, we have bedded down our Elephant fountain until the Spring and are looking forward to Christmas and the New Year celebrations.



WE HAD SOME LOVELY ENTERTAINMENT IN NOVEMBER

Brian Shaw, Saul Watts and the Feering Singers came to entertain us and Wild Science brought in some interesting visitors. We crooned and swooned to the singing but were you brave enough to get close to the creatures?



MOVIE AFTERNOONS

We have some new movies for you so we look forward to welcoming you to our Cinema afternoons. Perhaps you can make some suggestions for films you would like to see?

WHITE LETTERBOX IN RECEPTION



Hopefully, you will have seen our white metal letterbox in reception. This is where you can post surveys, suggestions, queries, compliments and concerns.

We are very open to any suggestions you may have and obviously its lovely to receive compliments. We would much rather deal with any concerns you would like to raise, face to face, but if you wish to raise them anonymously it allows you to do so. It is harder for us to deal with any issues if we don't know who raised them, but please feel free to use this letterbox. It is emptied at least once a week.

ST DOMINICS' BREAKFAST DINING EXPERIENCE!

As you know, we have made several changes to your dining experience. We are hoping to improve on the great service you were already receiving with these subtle changes to enhance your enjoyment of eating your meals in a nice social setting and a pleasant environment. You can now choose your breakfast from a displayed and varied menu. Your order is then written down and taken to the kitchen so that your breakfast can be freshly prepared for you. Similarly, at lunch and supper time, the staff are now wearing their smart serving uniforms and we have lovely fabric napkins for you on the table. The new tables and layout in the conservatory appears to be well received, please give us your feedback, we would love to know if you are enjoying the changes. We try to 'cater' for your every need (excuse the pun!).

CHRISTMAS PAST

Do you remember when you were a child, the excitement of Christmas Eve, listening for Santa Claus and his Reindeer as you tried hard to go to sleep? The thrill of Christmas morning and tearing open a gift wrapped in shiny paper? Maybe you even got an orange in your stocking and a few nuts too? Children nowadays want electronic toys but what did you want most of all in your Christmas stocking?

BRIAN SHAW Remembrance Show and SAUL WATTS entertains!

What a great weekend we had on the 11th and 12th November! After our 2-minute silence on



Saturday 11th at 11am, Brian Shaw gave us a wonderful show, full of everything from Frank Sinatra to a brilliant rendition of George Formby's "When I'm Cleaning Windows! He took a microphone around and a few of our residents sang along with him, including Mary!

Saul Watts is always very popular as he is a great singer and a bit of a flirt with the ladies! Having said that, Harry



enjoyed the show as much as was tapping their feet, along. Some were even a few of our visitors joined and visitors 'Doing The forward to seeing them



as the ladies did. Everyone waving their arms and singing dancing with the staff and a in too. The finale was staff Lambeth Walk' Oi! We look both again soon.

FEERING SINGERS (written by Margaret from our Activities team)

We were visited on Sunday afternoon by the Feering Singers. The ladies, plus two gentlemen, dressed in Old Time music hall costumes, complete with large feathered hats, to entertain us with songs from the days of Music Halls. It was standing room only in the lounge. We ended the afternoon with Nana and myself doing the Lambeth Walk (Oi!) to the amusement of everyone. As always, the singers stayed for a cup of tea and a chat with the residents. We look forward to their next visit.



ST DOMINICS ARE IN THE NEWS

Our roving reporter, Gill, managed to get St Dominics featured twice recently in the local paper. Firstly, they reported on our first ever Dog Show and, secondly, they are to publish about our Wild Science Day. Harry was a star in the Dog Show article and Mick, Margaret B, Jean L, Nana, Gladys and Dorothy were in the Wild Science article. Well done, Gill, your efforts are proving great publicity for the Home, informing readers of Tracy, our Manager's, new activities and initiatives.

CO-OP



Do you remember writing down your thoughts for Remembrance Day? Well, they were all displayed in the window of the Co-op Funeral Services. It was a lovely display for the village to stop and look at and read the stories.



ISAAC FROM WILD SCIENCE



brought a variety of animals to St Dominics including a Lionhead rabbit, a Chinchilla, a Frilled Dragon lizard and finally a Californian Kingsnake called Rex. Isaac told us the lizard loved to sit next to him on the arm of the sofa and watch TV in the evenings! If anyone thought the residents would be wary of these creatures, they were wrong. Lots of residents wanted to hold and stroke all of them! Residents told us about pets they had had in the past and some had never been able to have a close encounter with a snake or lizard before. We look forward to Isaac and friends visiting again.



WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER?

Friday 1st December	2.30pm - 3.30pm	Martyn Allen entertains
Friday 1st December	Decorating Christmas	Festival tree at St Mary's Church
Saturday 2nd December	10.00am - 4.00pm	Pupils from Honywood School activities with Residents
Saturday 2nd December	11.00am - 6.00pm	Christmas Tree Festival weekend at St Marys Church
Sunday 3rd December	11.00am - 5.00pm	Our St Dominics' Peace tree will be on display
Thursday 7th December	10.30am - 11.30am	Tessa Collitt sings in the lounge
Thursday 7th December	1.45pm - 2.15pm	St Mary's Choir sing to us in the lounge
Friday 8th December	10.00 onwards	Decorating the Home and Christmas Tree in the lounge
Friday 8th December	2.30pm - 3.30pm	Holy Communion / Service with Rev Thom
Saturday 9th December	2pm onwards	Residents' Shopping afternoon in conservatory
Sunday 10th December	2.30pm - 3.30pm	Saul Watts Christmas Show in the lounge
Monday 11th December	2.30pm - 3.30pm	Richard Catchpole entertains in the lounge
Tuesday 12th December	2.30pm - 4.00pm	Christmas Quiz hosted by Mr Banning
Friday 15th December	10.30am - 11.30am	Twilight, the Barn Owl, comes for a visit
Friday 15th December	2.30pm - 3.30pm	Brian Shaw's Christmas Show in the lounge
Sunday 17th December	2.00pm - 4.00pm	Residents' Christmas Party
Monday 18th December	2.30pm - 3.30pm	Kiddley Divey exercise with activities
Thursday 21st December	2.00pm - 3.00pm	Tania Honey entertains in the lounge
Sunday 24th December	2.30pm	CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE with Rev. Ken Thom
Monday 25th December	9.00am onwards	CHRISTMAS DAY presents from St Dominics bought by Residents' Key Workers, from under the tree

BIRTHDAYS IN DECEMBER



7th Margaret
8th Margaret
9th Raymond
21st Joan

SAD LOSS

Dorothy will be missed by residents and staff alike. She was a friend to all and helped fellow residents whenever she could. Her daughter Gill, from the office, was very touched by all the kind things said about her Mum. The last time she joined in an activity was when Wild Science visited and she loved handling the snake. A very cheerful photograph was taken of her that day. But, of course, the one thing that will never be the same is no-one folded the serviettes as neatly as Dorothy!



WHAT'S COMING UP NEXT YEAR?

We are pleased to be announcing that Sue will be joining our Activities Team. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience and we are pleased to have her help bolster our activities within the home. We have lots of new initiatives, some great new places to visit already lined up and we will be pleased to welcome back your favourite entertainers. If you really enjoyed a particular activity or entertainer please do let us know and we will do our best to get them to visit again. Or, would you like to restart a hobby you used to enjoy, let us know and we will see if we can accommodate this activity. We are looking to grow more vegetables and herbs in the sensory garden next year and are on the lookout for willing helpers, so, when the weather improves please volunteer to help Paul, the gardener.

DECEMBER GIGGLES

Why does Santa have three gardens?
So he can 'ho ho ho'!

Why did Santa's helper see the doctor?
Because he had a low "elf" esteem!

What kind of motorbike does Santa ride?
A Holly Davidson!

What do you call a dog who works for Santa?
Santa Paws!

What did the sea say to Santa?
Nothing! It just waved!

Q: What happened to the man who shoplifted a calendar at Christmas?

A: He got 12 months

Q: Why did they let the turkey join the band?

A: Because he had the drum sticks!



The staff and management would like to wish all our residents, their families and friends a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

