



**ST DOMINICS**  
RESIDENTIAL HOME

## **JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER**

### **HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**

Welcome to our January Newsletter, covering Christmas and New Year events and activities, including welcoming local groups and school children to St Dominics.

We have embraced the festive season and enjoyed a great variety of fun and entertainment.

#### **‘Granting Wishes’**

Our last Wish ‘Granted’ of 2023 was for Mary S who had requested a shopping trip a ‘Superstore’. Mary’s trip did not disappoint and she literally went ‘wild in the aisles’ of Sainsbury’s, stopping for a break in the café and coming home with lots of goodies. We were also able to take some resident friends who also enjoyed the trip.



## Christmas Tree Festival

Despite the bitterly cold weather, Sally, Eileen W and Josie were able to enjoy the Christmas Tree Festival at St. Mary's Church, some accompanied by family members. The church looked beautiful with all the trees decorated and lit up and we enjoyed seeing our 'intergenerational' tree decorated with yarn hearts and heart threaded plates which we worked on with the Feering Rainbows.





Christmas Tree Festival visit

### **Performance from Chelmsford Silver Band**

6 members of the Chelmsford Silver Band provided wonderful music during their performance, playing some very well-known tunes and also taking requests! Afterwards, they were happy to answer questions about some of the instruments which residents found very interesting.





We were also able to grant a wish for a fellow care home resident who had requested to hear a Band playing via FaNs (Friends and Neighbours Charity) Judith joined us from a home in Southminster, accompanied by Bea the Activities Co-ordinator and a fellow resident. The ladies loved listening to the music while enjoying some festive refreshments and they were incredibly happy to be invited to our event.

### **Perrywoods' Visit – All the magic of Christmas!**

Christmas just isn't Christmas without a trip to Perrywoods and this year was better than ever! After spending a great deal of time admiring all the displays, trees and beautiful decorations, we relaxed in the coffee shop, enjoying chatting together. Having residents' families join us always makes a trip extra special.





*Shopping, browsing and  
enjoying the wonders of  
Perrywoods.*



## Church Services

Our monthly visits from Father Simon and newly Priested Natasha are always very popular. This month we had two visits, an Advent Communion Service and a Carol Service. Both Simon and Natasha are always happy to stay for a chat (and some homemade cake) with residents after the service and Simon needs no encouragement to share his jokes with us!





## **Kelvedon Players – Performing Christmas Carols**

We welcomed a visit from Kelvedon Players on a Saturday afternoon as they took time out from their busy Panto rehearsals. The group sang a range of festive tunes and there was a great deal of audience participation. By their own admission, not all the songs had been rehearsed so this made the afternoon even more entertaining!



## **Performance from Tiptree U3A Choir**

25 members of Tiptree U3A Choir filled the Conservatory with music and singing during their performance. Residents joined in with enthusiasm, getting into the festive spirit. Many of the choir stayed after the performance, chatting with residents and staff.



## **Festive Kiddleydivey**

Probably one of the best sessions of the year, Gunni's music and movement was such good fun. With a huge array of props, hats and music, we had an action-packed hour and both residents, visitors and staff had a fabulous morning. We look forward to our regular visits from Gunni in the New Year.



## **Mr Banning's Christmas Quiz**

Residents, staff and visitors had their brain cells well and truly tested during Mr Banning's Christmas Quiz! There were some very obscure questions (and some even more obscure answers!) but it was all in the name of fun.

The winning team were given chocolates and tree decorations and the losing team (their names will not be published to hide their identity!) were given packs of quiz questions so they can polish up on their knowledge ready for next year.

## **Festive visit from Kelvedon St Mary's Reception Children**

We were delighted to welcome St. Mary's School Reception children to sing a selection of festive songs for us. 47 children and their Teachers and carers joined us. The children had been rehearsing and remembered all the words. As a thank you, we sent the children away with a selection of snacks and drinks which they were looking forward to enjoying at their Christmas party.



## **Panto 'Me & My Shadow' Frederick Douglas Theatre Group**

With a cast of just 3, lots of props and a number of costume changes, the Panto based on Peter Pan could not have been more entertaining. Residents ensured they booed, hissed, clapped and sang in all the right places and it was an incredibly fun packed show which had everybody getting involved (oh yes it did!).







### *Me and My Shadow Panto Photos*



## Goldies Singalong

The Golden Oldies Charity 'Goldies' singalong sessions are held in various locations countrywide. We have been fortunate to organise for Rob, one of the Leaders, to come and host a session at St Dominics. With a giant screen showing the song lyrics and a booklet to encourage individuals to chose favourite songs, it was a really fun afternoon with lots of participation and good mix of festive and well-known music.



## Joanna Lee Singer – Christmas Party

Unfortunately, due to illness, our 'Christmas Spectacular' show was cancelled; thankfully the amazing Joanna Lee came to the rescue and performed a fabulous set which created a real party atmosphere.





Residents, families, visitors and staff had a great time singing and dancing, enjoying Joanna Lee's singing, and it was all finished off with a buffet supper.







## Community Tea Party

Our last 'Community Tea Party' of 2023 was a great success. Since its introduction in July, this has become a favourite event with both St Dominics Residents and members of the community and some firm friendships have developed in this time. We were entertained by 'Nadine' who sang and played the guitar beautifully. It was also Joy B's birthday so her homemade cake was enjoyed as part of our afternoon tea.





## New Year's Eve

Although we didn't stay up quite late enough to see the New Year in, our party was great fun. With a buffet, drinks, party games and dancing, residents and staff all got involved and had a good time. Traditional games like pass the parcel and 'Charades' was highly entertaining and everybody enjoyed the last evening of the year, as it was also Mary S's birthday, it was a double celebration.





*New Year's Eve  
fun and games.*



### **A 'BIG' Thank you**

So much of what we do at St. Dominics is achieved by teamwork and communication. We thank all departments for their hard work and commitment over the year, especially over Christmas which is an incredibly busy time.

Extra thanks to our Chefs and kitchen staff who worked especially hard to prepare a wonderful feast on Christmas Day and all over the festive period, including making some incredible Birthday cakes.





Sylvia's 90<sup>th</sup>



Joan's Birthday

### **Another Thank you!**

Thank you so much to all the families who took the time to give cards and gifts to the staff. We appreciate your kindness and generosity.

### **Employee of the month Scheme**

A new scheme has been launched to recognise the achievements of our staff members. If you feel a staff member has gone above and beyond in their work, we would love to hear about it. Nominations can be made by fellow staff members, families and residents, by filling out a form and placing it in the white letterbox on the wall in the Reception area. Announcements will be made at the end of each month.

### **JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

Happy Birthday to Josie and Madge who celebrate birthdays this month.

## **JANUARY 2024 EVENTS**

Wednesday 3rd	2.30pm	Church Service – Father Simon
Wednesday 10th	2.30pm	‘Joanna Lee’ Singer
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	‘Active Motivation’ with Jo
Friday 12th	12.45pm	Performance from Angela – Pianist
Wednesday 17th	11.00am	‘Kiddleydivey’ Movement & Music
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Anne Townley – Local History Talk
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	‘Burns Night’ Visit from Witham Caledonian Society
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup>	2.30pm	Community Afternoon Tea
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	2.30pm	Performance from Andy Farrow (Singer)

**‘MOTHER GOOSE’ PANTO – KELVEDON PLAYERS AT INSTITUTE –  
DATE TBC**