



St. Dominics Residential Home January 2018 Newsletter



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HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR RESIDENTS!



Did you know that many years ago, New Year started with a custom called "First Footing"? As soon as midnight passed and it was the first day of January, people used  to wait behind their doors for a dark haired person to arrive (if it was a blond Viking type, he might be bringing an axe rather than good things!). This person would arrive with several gifts, including perhaps a coin (silver is considered good luck) for prosperity, bread symbolising food, salt for flavour, coal for warmth, evergreen foliage for long life and a drink, usually whisky, for good cheer.



Well, this is the first newsletter of the year, and it is hard to believe that it is **2018!** We are looking back at the busy month of December, when we had so many entertainers that I'm not sure how we are going to fit them all into these few pages. Martyn Allen, a long standing visitor to St Dominics was the first to come and sing for us, then we had the lovely children from Honywood school and the younger children of St Mary's School Choir. Tessa Collitt, Saul Watts, Richard Catchpole, Brian Shaw, and Tania Honey came to sing to us and Kiddley Divey mixed a little exercise with singing too. Rev Ken came in twice, once to offer Holy Communion and once for a Christmas Eve Service. Twilight the Owl made an appearance too. So let's get on with our review of December;



MARTYN ALLEN

Martyn came to sing to us and from the photo on the right, he was making a good effort to propose to Mary! He brought back the good old days with his renditions of songs from yesteryear. A lovely way to start the month.



HONYWOOD SCHOOL



6 pupils from Year 9 at Honywood School came to visit and they spent the whole day with our residents playing Bingo. our 'smashing' balloon game and they also made cookies with some residents. The 2 generations found chatting was a great experience on both sides. The pupils learned a lot through our Residents reminiscing about the old days. The pupils also took charge of the tea trolley and played skittles which is always great fun and very competitive. They raised £60 for St Helena Hospice, a local charity who do so much good work within the community.

MESSING PRIMARY SCHOOL CAROL CONCERT by Margaret, Activities

One of the many treats we enjoyed last month was an invitation to Messing Primary School to be entertained with Christmas carols and songs. Messing is one of the small country schools remaining, with just 80 pupils. What a grand time we had! We were met off the bus on a cold, but sunny morning by two of the older pupils who helped us to our seats. Once inside the small, warm hall, we were welcomed again by the teaching staff. The children sang beautifully. Even the four years olds had learnt the words and actions to popular carols, and we were encouraged to join in too. During the entertainment, we were indulged with mugs of tea or coffee, along with mince pies, Christmas cake and delicious shortbread. We sincerely thank the pupils and staff of Messing School for inviting us to such a lovely festive morning.

RICHARD CATCHPOLE

Richard Catchpole was as popular as always, with his relaxing musical style. Richard is a professional musician who visits us most months to play his saxophone and/or his clarinet.

TESSA COLLITT

Tessa got the residents singing and some were even dancing, as you can see. Margaret and Nana were having a great time, and everyone was tapping their fingers and moving their toes to the music. We look forward to seeing lots more of Tessa this year!



BRIAN SHAW AND SAUL WATTS CHRISTMAS SHOWS

Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without our favourite crooners, Brian Shaw and Saul Watts. We had a great time, singing along to lots of our favourite Christmas songs, which no doubt brought back many memories of yesteryear to us all. We look forward to seeing them again in 2018!



CHRISTMAS QUIZ The annual Christmas Quiz certainly got the grey matter working overtime. The devilishly fiendish questions devised by Mr Banning might have been difficult at times, but moments of brilliance resulted in Sandie's team comprised of Margaret V and Margaret H, along with Doreen and June as the overall winners. They must have been swatting up on their general knowledge for weeks! Lisa had been hoping her team would win but she had to accept the honour of a third place this year. No doubt she will be even more determined next Christmas!

SCOUTS VISIT, a report by Sarah Openshaw, one of our Volunteers

Three Blind Jellyfish

On a particularly chilly December evening 30 Kelvedon and Feering Cubs and Scouts burst into the St Dominic's lounge ready to entertain and chat. Having done reminiscence sessions with residents, I know that most of them have been members of Brownies, Guides, Scouts etc and so there was bound to be an interest to see not only how things have changed but actually how similar and popular these groups still are.

I'm sure neither the boys or the residents had any idea what to expect from the evening. I know several of the Cub and Scout Leaders and when asked for advice, steered them away from singing Carols, one can get a bit Carolled out! So they sang Campfire songs, loudly and enthusiastically with actions. Where my own memories of Campfire songs were more Ging gang goolie...than Three Blind Jellyfish, there was a lot of interest in the song about those poor Jellyfish. They played some games - "I went to the Coop and bought" ... having to remember the whole (and increasingly improbable!) shopping list, this was a familiar game, we have all played a variation.

Then the chat. It never ceases to amaze me at the strong bond between the young and the old. It's not only the faces of the elderly that lit up, but those of the boys too. The conversations were real, thoughtful and intense. There was a sense of amazement and respect from the boys when they began to realise that the residents had actually lived through their history lessons. That Dorrie was born the year WWI broke out....that Ruby remembers the day the Queen was born.

ST MARYS CHOIR

We had a large group of children from the local Kelvedon Primary School, St Mary's Academy, who came in to sing for us some lovely Christmas songs and Christmas Carols. There is nothing nicer at this time of year than being entertained by such a lovely group and watching their little faces smiling whilst they sing in the way only young children can. We hope to see more of them in 2018.

ST MARYS CHURCH CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL



What a magical event it was, with over 40 Christmas Trees all festive and sparkling. Our tree had a theme of 'Peace' and was number 28. It looked absolutely lovely and was later put into our quiet room at the end of the festival. A nearby tree of Remembrance had a dedication to 2 of our previous residents, Olive and Dorothy. The local children sang Christmas carols and there were refreshments with lovely homemade cakes and soups too..We are lucky to have such a beautiful church in our village.



CHRISTMAS SHOPPING AFTERNOON

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed our Christmas shopping afternoon. We had lots of stalls set out in the conservatory. There was a book stall, Mrs Buttons Chocolates (always very popular of course!) along with craft stalls, card and stationary stalls and of course cakes for sale too. We even had a visit from Father Christmas who was as busy giving out gifts to the children as he was chatting to the residents. The staff provided endless teas, coffees and mince pies for everyone. We raised £83.05 from donations made by



various stalls and the plant raffle. A big thank you to everyone who came and made the afternoon such a success, and special thanks to Santa's Elf who made cakes and manned a stall too. Others who helped on the day are too numerous to mention, but all are remembered with thanks.

CHRISTMAS PARTY



What a magnificent display of mouth-watering food greeted you when you walked in. The Christmas Party is always a highlight of the year. The Raffle raised £139.60 towards the residents fund which goes towards entertainment and activities which are enjoyed throughout the year. A HUGE thank you to all the staff



who worked so hard to prepare the food, and to all the FAMILIES for coming and being so generous when buying raffle tickets, proceeds of which go to the Residents Fund for entertainment and outings

KIDDLEY DIVEY

The usual fun and frolics were had when Kiddley Divey came to see us this month. Helga looked very festive with stars on her head!



TWILIGHT THE BARN OWL

Twilight always brings a smile to our Residents' faces, and at the last visit amongst those beaming with pleasure were Dorrie and Jean. Seeing a barn owl in the wild is a very rare occurrence, so to see one up close and to even have it on your hand is a rare thing altogether and a real privilege.



WHAT'S ON IN JANUARY?

Thursday 4th January	2.30pm - 3.30pm	Holy Communion/Service
Friday 12th January	10.00am - 11am	Musical activities with Kiddley Divey
Wednesday 24th January	2.30pm - 3.30pm	Music with saxophonist Richard Catchpole
Monday 29th January	2.30pm - 3.30pm	Tania Honey sings for us

BIRTHDAYS IN JANUARY

19th Jean Warner
28th Marjorie Hellen
30th Joyce McArthur



NEW YEAR FUN Tommy Cooper Humour

Two aerials meet on a roof - fall in love - get married. The ceremony was rubbish, but the reception was brilliant

I had a ploughman's lunch the other day. He wasn't very happy

I went to buy some camouflage trousers the other day but I couldn't find any

I went into a French restaurant and asked the waiter, 'Have you got frog's legs?' He said, 'Yes,' so I said, 'Well hop into the kitchen and get me a cheese sandwich'

SOME MORE JOKES:

Q. Why do the French like to eat snails so much?

A. They can't stand fast food.

How many gorillas can fit into a car?

Eight.

How many chickens can fit into the car?

None, the car is already full of gorillas.

A man was admitted to hospital with 8 plastic horses in his stomach. His condition is now stable.

AND FINALLY:..

A SPECIAL THANK YOU!

Many thanks to all our STAFF who helped to make the CHRISTMAS PARTY such a success. You all worked so very hard to prepare the food and make the event so enjoyable for our Residents and their families.

A HUGE THANK YOU to Residents families for coming to support the afternoon and for being so generous in supporting our raffle, which goes towards entertainment etc for the benefit of Residents.

THANK YOU to all who gave so generously boxes of chocolates and biscuits for the Staff at Christmas.

We wish you all a very Happy New Year!