



January 2015 Issue

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Brookfields

Private Nursing Home



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Welcome to the Winter Issue of the Brookfields Gazette

Christmas is all over... and we welcome you to the first Gazette of 2015.

In the run up to Christmas, we enjoyed a variety of seasonal activities, which were rounded off by a splendid Nativity performed by the Brookfields staff and their children.

Look out for photos of the Nativity and some of the other great functions, and see who you can spot!



NEW carpet

In the first stage of our rolling internal refurbishment, the new carpet was fitted to some of the public areas.

The carpet was chosen by the Brookfields Residents and Staff after much agonising! .. and we hope you all like it - the feedback so far, has been pleasingly positive.



In the next stage of our refurbishment programme - sometime in February, we will be commencing the refurbishment to the en-suites. Disruption to our residents will be kept to a minimum but this work will be ongoing throughout the year.

Brookfields NEWS ...

The regular **Residents & Visitors Forum Meetings** continue to be a popular opportunity for discussion, reviewing, making suggestions and socialising.

The next meeting, has been scheduled for **Wed 25th February 2015 from 10.30 a.m.** All Residents' family and friends are welcome to join us for the meeting, some refreshments and a chat.

Contacting and Updating Family and Friends ...

We know that many of our residents' relatives are busy people and to bring our communication methods completely up-to-date, we would like to offer you the opportunity to join our new electronic mailing service

If you find the use of technology unappealing, we will continue to use the old methods of letter and telephone calls too, so please don't worry.

To join our email service, would you please send an email to enquiries@wearebrookfields.com which needs to contain :-

- **your name**
- **postal address**
- **email address**
- **contact telephone numbers**
- **your relative's full name**

This information will enable us to update our records and add your email details to our email service list.

Alternatively, please collect a form from the hall table, insert your details and leave your completed form with Matron, or the nurse in charge.

We would like to reassure you that any details shared with Brookfields will only be used by us and will not be passed to 3rd parties, we want to be in a position to provide you with swift, up to date information and interesting news about your relative.

Brookfields
News

Staff News...

Returning Staff

Welcome back to **Natasha Clarke** who has rejoined the team until she resumes College.



We also welcome back, **Cindy Leachman** who left us in October 08 to pursue other opportunities.

New Starters

Welcome to two NEW Domestic staff members:-

- **Diana Berzina**
- **Michele Armstrong**
- **Lesley Hames-Fathi**



Brookfields Entertainment

We continue to enjoy our regular musical entertainment programme which seems to brighten up the dark afternoons; and our regular planned activities have included a number of seasonally themed ones - all organised by Rebecca York, activities have included:-



Sporting Activities ...

Some of our residents have been enjoying playing floor Basketball in the lounge whilst others watched and cheered on those who were playing. Here is "hot-shot" Olive about to score!



Memory Tray...

Our residents love the challenge of the memory tray game... here's Peggy concentrating on her tray of items to remember.



Musical Entertainment

We regularly organise sing-a-longs for the residents to enjoy, and the latest musician to come along and entertain us was Suzy - pictured opposite, playing her organ and singing with the residents.



And, remaining on the musical theme... when the residents recently found themselves with a quiet morning, Rebecca arranged an impromptu musical session, which meant it wasn't quiet for very long - much fun and amusement was had by all - especially Elisabeth with her Maraca

What a Star!!





Remembrance Day

2014's Remembrance Day was obviously very special and our residents (helped by Rebecca) wanted to join in, so they spent time creating Poppy Cards with tissue paper. Hedley wrote a message to the fallen soldiers which was sent to the Poppy Association to be placed at the Cenataph in London;

The completed cards were so lovely, we decided to hang them in the hallway for everyone to see.

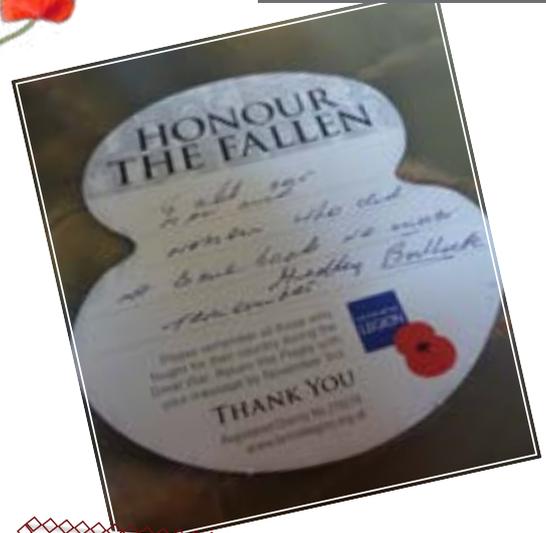
Ruby Wallace painted some poppies and wrote a Poppy Day poem for us, which we have reproduced hereunder...



My Remembrance Day Poem

*Poppys grow, and tears show
Soldiers march to and fro
Two minutes of peace to remember the dead,
the soldiers march on, without going to bed.
A trumpet sounds, and the soldiers run,
to the sound of the evil machine gun
as soldiers die without regret,
in a blood stained field.
We'll never forget ...
So wear a Poppy!*

written by Ruby Wallace (aged 8)



Baking for Poppy Day

Hedley and Hilda (with Rebecca's assistance), baked some Poppy themed sponge cakes which the residents enjoyed for tea on Remembrance Sunday.

Brookfields collected in excess of £34 for the Poppy Appeal - many thanks to the Staff, Residents, and their families and friends for contributing.



Autumn Party

After devouring a spooky buffet tea our residents had fun and games in the lounge with the staff and their children. This included such favourites as “pass the pumpkin” and “bobbing for the apples”. We were joined by a couple of pirates and a very cute pumpkin.

After the fun, the residents enjoyed cake and a little tittle of Sherry!



Residents Activities

And, in preparation for all of our Autumn and Winter Celebrations, our Residents spent time making paper chains, creating christmas cards, baking pies and helping to plan the Nativity with Rebecca.



The Nativity

The Nativity which involved the children of Brookfields staff, was a bit of a logistical headache but Rebecca pulled it off superbly in the end, many thanks to our last minute volunteers.

Ruby was our Narrator, Leila was the Angel Gabrielle (who arrived on a rocking horse)!! Lorena was Mary, Kean was Joseph, Kyal and his cousin were the Wise Men along with a guest performance from Kath Fitchett who was the 3rd Wise Man, and the Shepherds were Julie Wallace and Stephanie Hicking.

Thanks also to the wardrobe department!



Entertainment



The Christmas Party

The Brookfields Christmas Party took place on Saturday 13th December, the catering staff did us proud with the excellent standard of catering - the food looked beautiful and tasted great.

The evening provided a buffet and entertainment for all of our Residents and any relatives and friends that wanted to join us.

Celeste together with her parents (Brookfields founders), her husband Andrew and sons joined in the Festive fun along with many friends of Brookfields, off-duty staff members, who returned to work to join in the revelry, making it a really enjoyable and lively evening - it was really good to see so many old acquaintances and new.





Christmas & Birthdays

Belated BIRTHDAY WISHES :-

Dec 26th Noel Francis
Jan 4th Elisabeth Simmons
Jan 12th Brenda Marsh
Jan 30th Esther Blythe

Forthcoming BIRTHDAYS :-

Mar 8th Winnifred Stokes
Mar 13th Mick Sparkman
Mar 23rd Peggy Short
Apr 12th David Jones
Apr 26th Gladys Bray

NEW RESIDENTS

We would also like to welcome the following new Brookfields Residents:-

- Anne Chasin
- David Jones
- Doreen Jackson
- Hussain Shah
- Hazel Hemmings
- Irene Testro
- Leslie Horne
- Minnie Chappell
- Winnifred Stokes



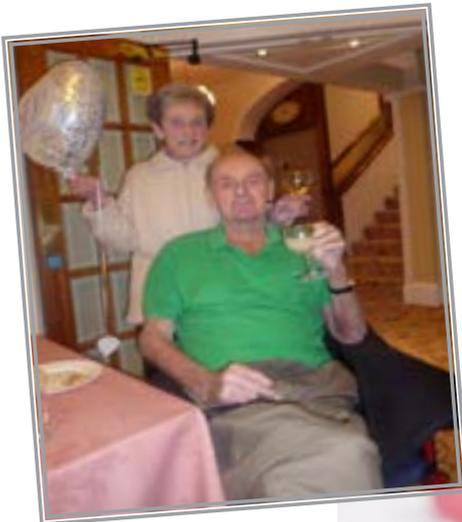
Leslie & Ros Horne - 60th Wedding Anniversary

It was 1952 when Leslie was home on leave from the armed forces he met Ros at the Boot Inn public house in Repton.

Three years later, on the 15th January 1955, Les and Ros married at St Wystan's Church in Repton, and they enjoyed a week's honeymoon at the Stand Palace in London.



This January, it was the couple's 60th Wedding Anniversary and they shared their special day with family and friends at a small celebratory party organised by the Brookfields staff.



Michael & Eve Leveaux - 63rd Wedding Anniversary

It was 1949 when Michael and Eve met in a lift, in the block of flats in Kensington, London, where each resided with their parents.



Two years later, on 8th December 1951 Michael & Eve married at the St Barnabas Church - just around the corner from the place they first met - both agreed that it was a wonderful day.

Their marriage was followed by a ten day honeymoon at The George Inn, in Sussex.

Michael and Eve have two sons and two daughters; they are also proud grandparents to a grandson and granddaughter.



Peggy Georgina Short ...



Peggy was born in Portsmouth, Hampshire in March 1922, and there she spent her childhood years with her sister Edna and a brother Lawrence, Peggy was the eldest of the three siblings.

After leaving school, Peggy joined the WRNS - serving during the Second World War and, she says her luck was "in" the day her family home was destroyed by a German bomb during one of the many bombing raids that Portsmouth suffered; fortunately, her Parents and siblings had all made it to the shelter with her.

Peggy met her future husband Don whilst he was home on "survivors leave" - his naval ship had been sunk in the Mediterranean.

They married during the War in September 1942, but it was only after the War (1947), Peggy gave birth to their first child, a daughter called Patricia, who was closely followed by the birth of their son Mervyn (pictured with Peggy).

Post War - in the late 1950s, Peggy, Don and their family spent their most memorable times living abroad in Malta, and upon their return to the UK, the family moved around the country a fair bit. During this time Peggy worked as an Auxiliary nurse in a maternity hospital in Chertsey, Surrey, where she was on hand to see her grandson Adam born - who is now 35!

Today, Peggy is the proud grandmother and great grandmother of 4 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren - the youngest, most recent addition being Seth who is just 10 months old.

Peggy and Don never lost their love of the sea and during their retirement they enjoyed many cruises together but sadly, in 2009, after 66 wonderful years of marriage Don passed away. Shortly after Don's passing, Peggy decided to move from their home in Redhill, Surrey to Derby, to be closer to her son Mervyn and daughter-in-law Chris.

In late 2012 Peggy found she was unable to look after herself and her home any longer, so made the decision to move into Brookfields where understandably, she took time to settle in; two years on, Peggy is now very happy in her lovely sunny Room No. 14, where she enjoys keeping an eye on the local bird-life that regularly visits the garden to sample the well-stocked food table just outside Peggy's window!



Advice Corner

We've been trying to find helpful and interesting items for our Gazette and we wondered if you would like to read about 'Care Planning'. You may have bumped into Steve Bryan around Brookfields - he pops in from time to time to assist with training and assessments.

Steve has very kindly written a piece for this issue on Lasting Power of Attorney which we hope will prove helpful to you ...

What is a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA)?

When planning for retirement Mr and Mrs X made and registered a Lasting Power of Attorney allowing their children to manage their affairs if they, (Mr and Mrs X) ever lost the capacity to manage these for themselves.

“Capacity” is the word used to describe the mental ability a person needs to make a specific decision. Sometimes one person will want to give another person authority to make a decision on their behalf. A power of attorney is a legal document that allows the chosen attorneys to make decisions that are as valid as one made by the person.

The Mental Capacity Act increased the range of different types of decisions that people can authorise others to make on their behalf and, as well as property and affairs (including financial matters), **LPA's** can also cover personal welfare, and decisions about treatments etc.

Who can be an attorney?

An attorney should be someone who is trustworthy, competent and reliable. An attorney has a duty to act in the donor's “best interests” at all times and, all LPA's have to be registered with **the Office of the Public Guardian**.

If you lose capacity and have no LPA in place your loved ones are faced with very high legal costs in the Court of Protection to put one in place!



For more information speak to **Steve Bryan** personally on **07854 585 585** or please review his website: www.eagleestateplanning.co.uk



Next Issue : April 2015 - we'd love to have some more life stories or any other articles that may be of interest to our Residents and their families and friends.

Relatives and friends can email stories to: admin@wearebrookfields.com or Residents can talk to Rebecca Yorke who will be happy to make some notes. Your stories should be submitted by Early March for the next edition.

