



OLD HASTINGS HOUSE

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

April - July
2023

We hope that you find this interesting and informative, and that it gives an insight into some of the things going On at Old Hastings House.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR RESIDENTS:

April

9th Marion Monger
13th Joan Brooker

May

3rd Barbara Burgess
14th Margaret Earland
14th Anne Marr
15th George Griffin

June

2nd Shirley Oliver
7th Lorna Judge
12th Valerie Sinclair
19th Phyllis Mumford
25th Brenda Dwyer
27th Isabel Burgess

Springtime

Welcome to this season's newsletter. Springtime is a wonderful time with growth and opportunity enabling us to do more outside activities.

The lighter evenings are wonderful too.

As many of you know, our new extension, the All-Saints Suite, is now open. Staff and residents have remarked on how relaxing it feels with its panoramic views over the East Hill and All Saints church. Please feel free to come and spend quality time here when you are visiting your loved ones.

Big thanks to activity assistant Val who retired on the 24th of March. Val had given eight years to Old Hastings House and will be missed dearly by everyone.

Resident of twenty-five years, Joan Willett, has been honoured by the Prime Minister Rishi Sunak for her fund-raising efforts in 2020, and this will be recognised with a 'point of light' certificate and a personal letter from the PM. Well done, Joan, you continue to inspire everyone!

Dorlene

Photo Gallery



Happy Retirement
Val & Lorraine



STAFF NEWS

Welcome

Main House

- Louisa Burton
- Leanne Oakman

Magdalen Suite

- Mandy Vaney
- Emily Granger
- Sarah Hill

All-Saints Suite

- Mark Gean
- Sunny Jergovic
- Kelly King
- Natasha Collins
- Daisy Gray

Have joined us, we hope you enjoy your time here.

Note from the Manager: April 2023

I write to you from a vibrant and optimistic place and not just because we are now in spring with the sign of rebirth all around us, to be followed by sunny summer days to further lift the mood. The team love their job which is WHY they do it. Many left other care services so they could make a real difference at Old Hastings House through great care. It's the sense of why (and not the seasons) which really inspires us each day to make the difference for those whom we have been trusted with their care.

We have successfully opened our new All Saints extension, which has proven beneficial not just for residents who have moved over for something more therapeutic but also other residents who love the unique light and vista. It's proven to be the ideal setting for art-based activities.

The success of innovations is made possible by a special kind of teamwork based on being resident-led and looking to the needs of others first to keep moving forward. (Servant Leadership). It's great to see the renewed energy by which the whole team, working together, are pushing the boundaries of what is possible for our residents. In addition, we now have new residents coming into our service at a faster rate, adding to the vibrancy. The main house is now full.

We are grateful for those special moments with residents which make this kind of work so rewarding, not least the wonderful Easter weekend celebrations. Along with the daily activities, plans are afoot in preparation for the King's coronation. These special moments are the result of the support of residents, relatives and the commitment of staff who are called to the role.

We approach the summer with much to look forward to, not least the expansion of activities under Pauline's energetic leadership, a full service of residents (now that Covid is less of a hindrance) more outings, and the eagerly awaited summer fete.

Our new Annual Development Plan sets out our goals for the coming year, and the Mission Statement sets out the wider vision beyond that. I hope you find us going that extra mile in our attempt to make Old Hastings House a home-from-home experience. This is a cause which will we hope will live beyond us for future generations of older local people looking for somewhere special in their final years. After all, our residents have simple tastes, they like the best.

At the time of writing Joan Willett will be receiving a special award sent direct from the Prime Minister, no less. This is in recognition of her charity fundraising during the pandemic where she lifted our hearts as she lifted her head to take on her daily hill walks. Raise a glass for our inspirational and irrepressible Joan who is set to turn 107! on July 19th. This is why we do the job!

And finally: Do what you can, because you can, because it's good for you and probably good for everyone else too.

Jason Denny

Registered Manager

What's been going on?

April 2022 – We had our Armchair travel to London. Fun packed day tasting traditional London foods like cockles & mussels. At lunchtime we served the traditional pie and mash and liquor gravy. The afternoon was a West End show armchair style with popcorn and fizz. Overall, the feedback was great

May 2022 – Michaela (staff member) bought her Chickens in, and we had the opportunity to pet them, and she gave a talk about the upkeep and responsibility she has.

June 2022 – Our Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee was so much fun, we had a cardboard cut-out of HRH and a throne that we created, and this was great to use as a photo booth.

July 2022 – We celebrated Joan Willett's 106th Birthday in our Dignity meeting.

August 2022 – Our Manager gave permission for the coffee mornings to relaunch as it was now safe to do so. Such a lovely atmosphere flowed through, with families coming to meet with their loved ones. We raised £146 towards the residents' fund!

September 2022 – Armchair travel took us to Greece; this was a fun packed day with traditional tasters like olives, and a Greek-themed meal served at lunchtime. We also mourned the death of our beloved Queen and witnessed the televised funeral.

October 2022 – Our monthly coffee morning this month raised £176.31. The Gemini Fashion store came into the home, bringing their garments for us to buy.

Nov 2022 – The home's maintenance man Nigel put on fireworks display outside on the lawn, orchestrated to the music of Mozart.

Dec 2022 – We were able to hold our traditional Christmas Fayre, which was a great success, on Saturday 10th December. Additionally, we went to the Robin Hood Pub in Icklesham for our pre-Christmas meals.

Jan 2023 - Mosaic Malarky has come in to provide guidance in producing beautiful mosaics for the home, and this time we are creating mosaics for the bathrooms.

Feb 2023 – Dudley School Children came in to read their schoolbooks to mark National Book Week.

March 2023 – Val, activity assistant, retired. Staff and residents had a little get-together to thank her for the last eight years of service with flowers, gifts, and chocolates.

April 2023 – Resident Joan Willett has been honoured by the Prime Minister for her outstanding fundraising achievement and inspiration to everyone. Well done, Joan!

Future planned activities

We are in the process of recruiting a new member of staff to join the Activity team.

Easter will be fun-packed, showing off our Easter bonnets and Easter fun and games.

Our next 'armchair travel' will be in June: a whole day's event to somewhere in the world which has yet to be decided.

Liz and I have been doing some lovely scenic drives, during which we stop for a cuppa. Residents who attend always enjoy getting out and about in the lovely Southeast countryside.

We now have a quarterly magazine which is packed with lots of information on the goings on at Old Hastings House, and this can be viewed on our website by clicking on the activities section.

We are planning to celebrate the Kings coronation on the 6th of May, combining some activities with quizzes and fun and games before watching the Coronation itself, followed by a themed 'street tea party' being held in the dining room.

We have also been invited to a street party in Court House Street in the Old Town on Bank Holiday Monday 8th May. We have accepted the invite, and we are allowed to park the minibus in the street which will enable some residents to enjoy viewing the goings-on from the comfort of the bus.

I hope I have given you a sense of how active we all are, and that this has helped reassure your families of our wellbeing.

