

Manor Centre Newsletter April 2010

Welcome to our April 2010 newsletter. Time again to update you on changes and progress within the Centre.

Firstly, we are very pleased to be able to tell you that we have recently taken on two further permanent dementia support workers. Carole Millington and Lorraine Taylor have already proved to be very valuable and popular members of our care team.

On every other Tuesday we now have a qualified, professional aromatherapist visiting us at the Centre. Her name is Sue Collingwood and she is very experienced in providing therapy for older people. We are providing this free of charge at present, for a trial period with the option to extend if we wish. The guests who have taken advantage of this have really benefited from and enjoyed the treatments provided. We use the bungalow for Sue's sessions as this provides a more peaceful environment for relaxation. Before a guest is permitted to accept the therapy we need to have a signed permission from their GP or Sue can complete a medical form with them if they are able to provide the information required.

Our garden project has progressed at speed and we now have nine large raised beds which we are about to make a start on. The final task will be to fence around the garden which we hope will be soon. Rachael, our support worker leading the project, has produced a year planner for us, so we all know what needs planting when! We do hope that many of our guests, will spend many enjoyable hours out in the fresh air, tending the beds and we will welcome being able to tap into their knowledge and experience.

All of our new signage is now in and if you have visited or passed the Centre recently we hope that you agree that it looks so much better than it did before. The internal signage has helped all of our guests to find their way around more easily, increasing their sense of independence.

Our dining room has now been re-decorated and re-named the Manor Café. As we had anticipated, it has created a much more sociable and vibrant space. We have incorporated some lovely photo pictures of country scenes, which add to the overall lovely ambience. Our new activity, birthday, date and menu boards are up and we are now also providing individual lunch menus for each table.

Claire Irving our Financial Assessment and Benefits Adviser has now joined the Trust. Claire has already provided a very valuable service to many of our guests in ensuring that they are receiving all the benefits they are entitled to, in order to maximise their income. Do get in touch if you would like to advantage of this free service.

The first meeting of our newly formed carers group took place in March. The date for the next meeting will be April 28th from 1.30 to 3pm here at the Manor. Please see attached letter for further information.

Our training programme for all of the care team members is always ongoing. We will all have completed the 'safeguarding vulnerable adults in Gloucestershire' course by the beginning of May. Many of our care team have already completed the Level 2 Dementia Care Course. Three more have now commenced recently they are due to finish the course by the end of July. All of the team will have completed this very important course by the end of October. On the buses we are switching over to a new securing system for wheelchairs. All of the team will receive training on the use of it to ensure that we are achieving the highest standards of safety on our transport.

With Spring with us and the better weather, we have already started to commence trips out for our guests. We will be having short local trips for small guest groups and larger all day trips. These have always been very popular in the past and I am sure will continue to be so.

Finally, advanced notice of an event which will take place here at the Manor. On June 19th we will be holding a Summer Party which will be open to all of our guests, their carers and families. Entrance to the event will be by ticket, we will let you know as soon as these are available. We do hope you will all be able to come and join us.