

## MANOR DAY HOME      NEWSLETTER February 2010

Welcome to our February 2010 newsletter. We need to update you on further changes at the Day Home.

We have recently started a new venture outside at the back of the Day Home. We are creating our own garden where our guests will be able to potter and assist us in growing our own vegetables and flowers. We are also planning a herb garden, so that Alan our Catering Manager will have access to fresh herbs and vegetables for use in the kitchen. The garden will be wheelchair accessible and will have raised beds, so all of our guests will benefit. Rachael Thomas one of our newer support workers and Brian Mitten have agreed to lead this project for us.

As you will be aware, Jane Williams one of our support workers will be leading a newly formed carers support group. Many thanks to all who completed our initial questionnaire, your feedback was very valuable. Jane will be joined to co-lead the group by Teresa D'Amico one of our Team Leaders who is also very experienced in dementia care. The date for the first meeting will be Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March from 2pm – 3pm at the Day Home. We look forward to seeing you then.

A new person will be joining the Trust shortly. Her name is Clare Irving. Her job title will be Financial Assessment and Benefits Adviser. As part of her role she will be offering all of our guests who would like it, an opportunity to get skilled advice and guidance to maximise their income by ensuring that they get all the benefits they are entitled to. So Clare's role will be primarily to visit guests, with their carers and families at home (only if they wish) or to see them in the Day Home, to provide them with advice about benefits and to help them to make applications.

One of our guests, Alan Darke will begin this week collecting memories from some of our guests who are willing to share with us recollections of their earlier lives and perhaps specific memories of Gloucester. Alan will collate this information using his lap top computer, and will, with the permission of the individual guests involved, put some of these memories into print in the next guest newsletter.

The new Day Home hall carpet we had laid over the Christmas break, has received lots of positive feedback, with people remarking that entering the Day Home feels a lot calmer now than before. As the next stage of making the environment within the Day Home better for all of our guests, our dining room will shortly be having a makeover. It will then be known as the Manor Café. Our colour scheme will be quite a departure from our current scheme but we are confident that it will really fit the bill in creating a sociable, positive and vibrant space. We will be having new menu and activity boards, and our birthday and date boards will also be replaced with new updated versions. The aim with all of our boards is to give our guests clear and easily understood information.

New signage will also be evident in and around the Manor soon. External general information will be much clearer for all visitors to follow. Within the Manor itself, clearer signage using pictures as well as wording, will assist our guests in finding their way around. All of our rooms will be clearly marked following our wild bird theme. We are taking this opportunity to give the Day Home a new name. From now on we will be known as the Manor Centre. The change is because we have had quite a bit of feedback that some guests have anxiety over the use of the word 'home' as they think it means residential care. We know that some people have declined to come because of it and we want to ensure that it feels comfortable for everyone.

