

## MANOR DAY HOME      NEWSLETTER January 2010

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2010. The year came in with an icy blast! The snow and ice although lovely to look at, gave us some problems here at the Manor. We took our decision to close the Manor when we had to, on a daily basis. We needed to weigh up the risks of bringing people out of their homes onto untreated front paths and very icy pavements, even if we could have managed to safely arrive with our transport. Thank you all for patience and understanding through such a frustrating time.

We need to update you on some of the changes within the Day Home. We carried out a full review of the rooms and space available for our use within the Day Home and felt that the main lounge was not really suitable for group activities other than entertainment, due to the size of the room. The main lounge has been named the 'chaffinch community lounge' and is now used only for specific large group activities and as a coffee lounge. All of our other activities now take place in the smaller rooms that we have. These rooms have been named the magpie room, the robin room and the red kite room. The robin room was the old hair salon which with its new carpet, has proved to be popular with guests. Using these rooms enables us to offer our activities to smaller groups and with our increase in staff, a better mix of activities with something for everyone.

Screens have now been put up between the dining room and the smaller lounge. This has made the lounge feel much more like a cosy room, with much less noise and visual distraction for our guests. This is particularly important if guests have difficulty in concentrating. The screens have been decorated by some lovely silk paintings created by some of our guests.

Between Christmas and New Year, we had a new carpet laid in the main hallway and the carpet was also replaced in the bungalow dining room. We are all very pleased with the new look. Our next aim is to lighten up the dining room, with a fresh coat of paint. We have our colour charts at the ready and our guests will be

helping us to choose the colour scheme. We have also introduced new crockery. We now have a café approach to our tea and coffee service. Individual tea and coffee pots are now taken to our guests, with milk jugs and sugar bowls provided to get that cup of tea or coffee exactly as they would like it. This change seems to have gone down very well with our guests.

This week we have had a visit from Adele and her dog Oscar. Adele is a volunteer with the group Pets as Therapy. Our guests were very pleased to meet Oscar who is a lovely retired racing greyhound. Adele has kindly agreed to bring Oscar along once a week.

As we mentioned before Christmas we are hoping to start a carers group, for relatives of our guests with dementia to get together. Our Dementia Support Worker, Jane Williams is very experienced in this field and will be setting up this group. Please find attached an initial questionnaire which we hope you will complete and return to us in the stamped envelope provided. Please return by February 7<sup>th</sup>. This will give us a better idea of who might be interested in joining the group and in what way people would wish the group to run.

Finally, as with other organisations, the Barnwood Trust will shortly begin an initial financial review of the services it offers. The review will include the Day Home. We will of course keep you updated as the review progresses.

Regards

Heather Woodward

Manager