



BARTY HOUSE

THE LATEST WINTER NEWS

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Art Therapy and Music

We are busy collecting artwork together for our very first Art Exhibition planned to welcome in the Spring.

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Supporting our local Rugby Team

Our wish for a win for the home team was rewarded with a 17-14 for Maidstone in spite of a second half downpour.

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Local School Children Sing Carols

Festivities got off to a wonderful start when children from the local junior school arrived to sing carols.

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Art Therapy and Music

Art Therapy sessions at Barty are usually a very peaceful quiet time, and have produced some fabulous creations that we are busy collecting together for our very first Art Exhibition planned to welcome in the Spring.

Recently we combined the arts, with inspiring music to sing along too whilst penning a masterpiece! The combination was very successful with residents staying focused on their creations whilst simultaneously toe-tapping and singing to all the Golden Oldies. Bob came along with his guitar and antique banjo (way older than any of us at Barty) and sat with us strumming and singing and taking us down memory lane.

A few more sessions and Barty residents will be ready to exhibit their inspiring artwork to family and friends.



Honouring our very own Bevin Boy

Barty House Nursing Home were delighted to welcome Dr. Ann Kneif in November, to give a fascinating talk on, 'The Bevin Boys.'

Mr. Kenneth Griffiths, who has been a resident of Barty House since 2014, was a Bevin Boy during the war. Ken said of the presentation, "I really enjoyed it and it brought a lot of memories back!" A spokesman for Barty House said, "We are very proud of Ken's war effort and it was a real pleasure to be able to host an afternoon to honour him in this way."



Who were the Bevin Boys?

In 1943 this country faced a crisis in coal production as there was only three weeks of coal stock available. This put the country's ability to win the Second World War in jeopardy. The then Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, charged Ernest Bevin, Minister of Labour and National Service to increase coal production.

It was decided that ten percent of all 18 to 24 year old men drafted to serve in the armed forces were to be directed - on pain of imprisonment - to work in British coal mines. Approximately 48,000 Bevin Boys (as they came to be known) undertook unskilled manual jobs to release more experienced miners to move on to coal production at the coalface. The role played by Bevin Boys should not be lost to history.

Cake Sale for Cancer Support and a Fond Farewell to Mary

On September 30th, along with many other people nationwide, Barty House held an 'Afternoon Tea' and Cake Sale in aid of MacMillian Cancer Support.

The array of cakes was sumptuous and seemingly endless and together with beautiful vintage china cups and saucers filled with tea and coffee to wash down lots of cake, there was plenty of music and laughter. All the residents and their families and friends joined in the celebrations, as we were not only raising money for Cancer Support but also saying a fond farewell to Mary Grant our highly regarded Head of Activities.

Mary, who has worked tirelessly over the years for Barty House with much love and devotion, retired on the same day. The day was a fitting end to her time at Barty House, with everyone present to wish her well in her retirement.



There was plenty of music and laughter

The afternoon was a happy and entertaining event, and to top it all we managed to raise £145.12 for MacMillian Cancer Support.



Supporting our local Rugby Team

On Saturday 19th November Maidstone Rugby Team were playing at home at Mote Park, Maidstone against Chobham. It was a crisp autumn day and we were all pinning our hopes on no rain, and a win for the home team.

Jim and Richard had been looking forward to the trip out, and were not disappointed.

A big "thank you" to the Maidstone Rugby Club for the warm welcome by Shaun Neaves, the Chairman, and Jim Tinsley, the President, who presented Jim and Richard with club scarves and a programme each. Also thanks to Carol McKenzie, House Chairman, for organising the trip and providing hot tea on the day. Richard said of the trip out, "We had what I would call an adventure!"

The first half saw three tries and, unfortunately, two of them to Chobham. Halftime brought darkening rain clouds and hot tea and Chobham were in the lead. In the second half, the rain descended with Maidstone 7-14 down. We made an early retreat to Barty, not being hardened supporters of all weathers anymore but left the guys battling on in the downpour. The whistle blew with Maidstone coming back to win 17-14, so a brilliant afternoon was had by all. Richard said of praying for the rain not to start; "It took me back to my youth", when he played football at weekends. However, they were only allowed to play if the rain held off because of the need to preserve the pitch!

Both Richard and Jim had a fabulous time watching the match and discussing the tactical moves of the players. Next time a cricket match in fairer weather maybe?



Barty Gentlemen's Club and Ladies Spa Afternoon

Our Gentlemen's Club got off to a flying start on Friday November 25th in the Monckton Lounge and was well attended.

The gents enjoyed a sporting afternoon away from the ladies. The free bar was most agreeable, as were the pork scratchings and pickled eggs.

The gents congregated around the card table and things got rather competitive. But all remained gentlemanly... just. The football table also saw some action and John was very gracious in his 8-2 defeat to Jude (the only female member of the club on the day).

Conversation flowed as freely as the Guinness and Lager and stories were told from previous careers to a backdrop of Frank Sinatra.

Meanwhile, at the other end of Barty in Willow lounge, the ladies were not to be outdone. They were thoroughly enjoying a well-deserved Spa afternoon. Liz, our reflexologist, worked her way around the room, tending to the ladies feet, whilst nails were being painted and sherry was sipped.

The weather outside was indeed frightful, but inside was quite delightful for Barty Residents.



Razzamataz Dazzle Us With Their Moves

December 10th saw the arrival of Razzamataz Drama Group at Barty House. The children were all buzzing with excitement and looked fabulous in their black and white uniforms.

The children sang with confidence and danced brilliantly and the residents clapped their hands and tapped their feet. They rounded off their afternoon's entertainment with a rendition of "We wish you a Merry Christmas" and we all sang along.



It was a delight to bring together the different generations. The performance of the children lit up the faces of our residents, cheering them for the afternoon and beyond. Hopefully they will revisit Barty House and entertain us again soon in the New Year.

Staff Spotlight

Catherine Rouse - Team Leader

Cat came to work at Barty House in February as a Care Assistant. Her dedication, hard work and pleasant manner contributed to her promotion to Team Leader in July 2016. Since then Cat has proved herself to be a dependable staff member, a credit to Barty and a pleasure to work with.

Kelly Murphy - Clinical Lead

Kelly came to Barty House as a newly qualified Nurse, having previously been a Dental Nurse and a Phlebotomist. She worked with enthusiasm and devotion, providing excellence in care delivered with dignity. In June, Kelly was promoted to Clinical Lead. She too is a pleasure to work with and an asset to the team at Barty.



Kelly (Left) Cat (Right)

Christmas Carols

Festivities got off to a wonderful start on 5th December when children from the local junior school Roseacre arrived to sing carols to everyone.

Some of the residents were treated to carols in the Lounge, whilst the rest of the children went off down the hallways singing aloud for all to hear round the home. They took the time to pop into rooms to sing some well-known Christmas classics and the faces of the residents lit up with pure delight!



A huge thank you to the staff and children of Roseacre School, you started Christmas off for us in splendid fashion. We hope that you come back to visit again soon!

Gone - Yet Not Forgotten

The staff at Barty House honoured the memory of our residents that have peacefully passed away with dignity within our care over the last year.



The occasion was marked with beautiful blue balloons, and to each was tied hand written notes on little symbolic paper butterflies from all the staff remembering those that they had cared for.

Gathering in the summer sunshine on the decking at Barty House we let go of our balloons setting them free to rise up into the clear sky with our blessings attached.



BARTY HOUSE

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