

News and Views from

AROUND THE HOUSES

Firstly welcome to the first issue of 2007 which is perhaps a little later than some of you may have expected. Due to a change in our production dates there was no newsletter to cover January and this issue will now take us to the end of March with the next edition due during the first half of April. We are always pleased to welcome any contributions towards the newsletter, either letters, articles or photographs and these can either be sent electronically or paper based.— details of where to send them are on the back cover of the newsletter.

There have been a great many changes in our three houses over the last three months with some sad departures but also some new faces.

At Sibley's Orchard we said goodbye to our house manager, Lily who moved on just before Christmas. We have taken this opportunity to revise the way that

we staff Sibley's Orchard and we will no longer be having a live in house manager. We are pleased to be able to announce that we have appointed Julia, who was previously the relief housekeeper, as our new house manager. Julia has been with us since 2002 and will formally take up her new role at the beginning of February. In future overnight cover will be provided by three overnight sleepers who will work five nights at a time on a rolling rota. Two of these have already been



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appointed and we are pleased to introduce



Allison and



Catherine.

A new deputy housekeeper will shortly be appointed to provide daytime cover for Julia. A final change to the staffing at Sibley's Orchard is that their gardener, Dyllan is returning to South Africa and we will therefore shortly be recruiting a new gardener/handyman.

As a result of these changes the accommodation previously used for the housekeeper has now been

refurbished as a one bedroom flat for either a couple or a single resident. Although redecoration is not yet complete there has been a number of enquiries and we will be welcoming a prospective resident for a week's trial at the beginning of February.

At St. Mary's House they have been pleased to welcome Barbara who initially will be occupying one of the bungalows but who will shortly be moving in to the main house. The one bedroom bungalows are ideal for someone who would like the support of someone on call and meals provided but who also wishes for more space and greater independence than the rooms in the main house provide.



Although Christmas probably seems a long time ago now - this is the first newsletter since Christmas and all of our houses celebrated in their own ways.



although this finished well before midnight.

At Sibley's Orchard they were pleased once again to welcome the choir from Holy Trinity church in Leverstock Green to lead them in a carol concert. This was greatly enjoyed by all of the residents.

At St. Mary's House the chairman and his wife (pictured above) hosted a special Christmas dinner for all of the residents.



Annett House arranged to take all of their residents out for Christmas dinner but regrettably there are no photographs available for this.

Sadly we have to announce the deaths of two of our residents earlier in January.



They also held a special celebration on New Year's Eve

Katherine from St.Mary's House had only been with us for just under a year but had quickly settled in to the house and was always to be found joining in with social events such as the weekly coffee mornings.

Mollie from Annett House had been a resident there for many

Abbeyfield Display

As a Society we will be having a display about our three houses in two local libraries. This is an ideal chance to come along and see more about us completely informally. The display will be at:

Hemel Hempstead Library 19th—23rd February

Leverstock Green Library - to be confirmed

years and will be very much missed. Mollie was featured in one of the very first newsletters when she volunteered to be the first resident interviewed as part of a series of interviews with residents..

Goodbye to

Mollie from Annett House
Katherine from St. Mary's
Lily from Sibley's Orchard
Dyllan from Sibley's Orchard



Happy Birthday to

Miriam from St Mary's House
Babs from St. Mary's House
Evelyn from St. Mary's House
Joan from Annett House
George from Annett House
Audrey from Sibley's Orchard

Welcome to

Barbara at St. Mary's
Alison at Sibley's Orchard
Catherine at Sibley's Orchard

As always if you are interested in one of our houses for yourself or a friend and would like to arrange a visit we would be only too happy to show you around by appointment. Please contact me using the details below.

If you would like to contact us you may e-mail us at susanpullen.abbeyfield@virgin.net , you may phone us on 01442 217578 or you can send items to Mrs Susan Pullen, St. Mary's House, 9 George Street, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, HP2 5HJ.