

*News and Views from*

# AROUND THE HOUSES

Welcome to the first issue of 2006.

Sadly there have been many changes in our three houses since the last issue went to press as we have said goodbye to a number of residents as well as a volunteer and a member of staff.



Fred Glasscoe joined the Sibley's Orchard house committee in 1992 and due to circumstances at that time became Chairman of the house within a couple of months, a position he has held ever since. Fred has worked tirelessly for the house, calling in most days to check that all is well and always

being available to deal with any minor problems - even cooking when a temporary problem left the residents with no housekeeper for a couple of days! Fred now feels that after thirteen years it is time to retire and will formally leave the committee at the January meeting. Look out for an announcement as to his successor in the next issue of the newsletter.

Obviously the whole Abbeyfield movement relies on volunteers to undertake a range of jobs from chairing house committees to helping with social events for the residents. If you have an empathy with older people and would like to be involved at any of our houses please get in touch as we would be delighted to hear from you.

**January/February  
2006**

Many events have taken place in the run up to Christmas but one of the first of these was a coffee morning and bring and buy at Sibley's Orchard in November.

Although Annett House were unable to make it on this occasion several residents from St. Mary's House were able to come along with the house manager and one of the house committee members.



and relatives of residents of Sibley's Orchard.



Other guests included friends from the local church and the local community as well as the friends

There was an excellent range of items for sale on the bring and buy table including many new items suitable as Christmas presents as well as a raffle and a selection of charity Christmas cards. Over £100 was raised which will be used for social activities for the residents.

After making their purchases guests were invited to join the residents for complimentary tea and biscuits and a chat.



St. Mary's House coffee mornings have continued with a range of topics including life in the workhouse by one of the residents. The resident, Babs, was not actually an occupant of the workhouse but as her father worked there she had an interesting insight in to life in the workhouse and some of the people she encountered.

Another of the weekly coffee mornings was given over to decorating the Christmas tree in the conservatory ahead of the special Christmas dinner. As the residents usually spend Christmas day with their families the house holds a Christmas dinner in the run up to Christmas so that the residents and staff can celebrate together over a traditional turkey meal. Unfortunately three of the residents had been taken in to

hospital shortly before the meal and so were unable to be there but they were remembered by those able to join in the fun.

This year the staff joined the residents at the table once lunch had been served so that they could all eat together.

After lunch one of the house committee members played Father Christmas and gave out presents to the residents.

Annett House residents had two celebrations as they were taken out for a Christmas dinner by house committee members and there was also a Christmas party to which all of their sponsors were invited. Thanks must go the house committee who prepared all the food for the party and were responsible for serving it on the evening.

Sibley's Orchard also held a Christmas dinner for all of the residents and committee members and thanks must go to Lily the house manager there for all of her hard work.

The residents of Sibley's Orchard were also entertained firstly by children from Leverstock Green school and then the following week by the choir of Holy Trinity Church who made their annual



visit to lead the residents in a selection of traditional Christmas Carols.

Sadly for Annett House their housekeeper Phillippa has decided that it is time to move on and has left Annett House. We are grateful to their regular relief's for filling the gaps in the short term and we are currently advertising for a replacement who we hope to be able to appoint in the next few weeks.

### *Welcome to .....*

Miriam at St. Mary's House

### *Goodbye to .....*

Fred, the Chairman of Sibley's Orchard

Bessie from Annett House who has moved on as we are no longer able to fully meet her needs

Eileen from Sibley's Orchard who also needs more specialist care than we are able to provide.

Maurice from Sibley's Orchard who sadly died at the beginning of

December. Our condolences to his wife Elsie who is still at Sibley's Orchard.

Veronica from St. Mary's House who died in hospital just before Christmas.

Joan and Jane, previous residents of St. Mary's House who had moved on to registered care and who have recently died.

Phillippa from Annett House.

### *Happy Birthday to .....*

Joan from Annett House

Miriam from St. Mary's House

Rita from St. Mary's House

Anne from St. Mary's House

Babs from St. Mary's House

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.

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If you would like to contact us you may e-mail us at [susanpullen.abbeyfield@virgin.net](mailto: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.