

News and Views from

AROUND THE HOUSES

Welcome to the Autumn edition of our newsletter.

Over the last few weeks the residents have found that on various occasions there has been someone wandering around with a video camera filming various parts of the house. This was part of a project to produce a DVD (and video) of the three houses which can be used to try and show potential residents and their families what life in one of our houses is like. The project has now been completed and the public debut of the DVD will be at our stand at the Berkhamsted Lions Community Fair on Saturday 24th September.

The first residents to see the DVD will be the residents of St. Mary's House at their coffee morning on 14th September. We hope to arrange for the residents of the other two houses to have viewings in the near future.

Our thanks must go to Mike

Martin who has put a great deal of time and effort in to the project and who has been responsible for most of the filming as well as all of the editing and the voiceover of the finished film.

We are very grateful to Mike for all of his hard work.

As mentioned we will be having a stall at the Community Fair in Berkhamsted on Saturday 24th September and we would welcome visitors to our stall. As well as showing the DVD we will have a wide range of leaflets and photographs on display and there will be representatives of the Society (either a volunteer or member of staff) to answer any questions you may have. Why not come along and see us and introduce yourself - you may even find yourself featured in the next edition of the newsletter!!

September/
October 2005

There was a very special celebration at Sibley's Orchard recently when two of the residents celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary. We are grateful to their son Mike for the following article and photographs.

70TH Wedding Anniversary

Maurice and Elsie Martin of Sibley's Orchard had a very special delivery in the morning's post on 3rd August – a telegram from HM The Queen congratulating them on their Platinum Wedding Anniversary.



70 years ago on the 3 August 1935, in the middle of a heat wave, Maurice Martin and Elsie Crump were married at St Mary and St John Roman Catholic church in Wolverhampton. Theirs was the second wedding at the church that day, the first being a much grander affair with the church bedecked with a canopy and red carpet. Any hopes of being able to walk along the red carpet were dashed when, shortly before the bride was due to leave home with her father, an

usher was hastily despatched to tell them to delay their departure by 15 minutes so that the canopy could be dismantled and the red carpet rolled up.

Maurice and Elsie have happy memories of celebrating their marriage with 50 family and friends at a reception at Elsie's parent's home. Maurice had borrowed trestle tables and a tea urn from the social club of his employer, whilst a work colleague had provided an armful of fragrant sweet peas to decorate the tables and guests tucked into a side of ham and plates of sandwiches washed down with a glass of beer from the barrel at the bottom of the garden.

Having lived for more than 65 years in the same bungalow in Wolverhampton, from where they moved to Hemel Hempstead two and half years ago. The happy couple celebrated their 70th anniversary with residents of Sibley's Orchard and with family and friends.





**ANNETT
HOUSE
WELCOMES
YOU**

To their next coffee morning and
bring and buy sale

Wednesday 12th October

From 10am

Enjoy a cup of tea or coffee with
biscuits and a chat with the very
friendly residents and volunteers

St. Mary's House have continued to hold their very successful Wednesday Coffee Mornings with a mix of in house entertainment and specially invited guests. Recent mornings have included a display of mobility aids, a talk about Flanders and Swann accompanied by a CD of some of their famous songs, a talk about Old Tyme Music Hall and contributions from the residents on cooking on a sheep farm in Australia and setting up a business on the Aegean Islands! Most recently the house was

visited by Mobile Clothesline from Suffolk who brought along a large selection of clothing for the residents and other guests to browse.



As mentioned on the front page we will shortly be showing the residents the new DVD which

Autumn Fair

St. Mary's House

Saturday 29th October

10.30am

Many stalls including tombola,
raffle, home made produce

Come along and
join St. Mary's
residents and their
friends



features interviews with residents from each of the three houses.

Plans for future coffee mornings include a talk about sailing around the east coast, and also a talk on the birds that are most likely to be found visiting the garden.

There have been a number of comments that in the four years that I have been producing the newsletter I have never appeared in its' pages! So for those of you who don't know who I am or what I look like and who would like to know so that you can come and introduce yourself at any of our open events here is a (not very good) picture.



I am at most of our coffee mornings and fetes and would be delighted to see you.

Welcome to

Babs Watson who has recently moved in to St. Mary's House.

John Wilson who is now one of our overnight sleepers at St. Mary's House

Goodbye to

Ilona Gatehouse who has decided that she would prefer to live with her family.

Happy Birthday to

Phyllis from Annett House

Jean from St. Mary's House

Steve from the St. Mary's House committee.

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.