

RMBI news



Residents' Christmas cheer

The Christmas season provided much opportunity for all of our Homes' residents and staff to partake in parties, pantomimes and many present openings!

Father Christmas paid a visit to residents at Connaught Court and

Scarborough Court, wishing them a very Happy Christmas. (Photos 1 and 4)

On Christmas Eve, Canon Tydeman read Cornwallis Court residents "A Christmas Carol". Said Sue Gosling, Activities Co-ordinator,

"He was wonderful and everyone said how much they enjoyed the afternoon." (Photo 2)

The Northenden Pipe Band entertained everyone at the Annual Ecclesholme Christmas Fair. Home Manager, Julie Deakin said, "The Fair was well attended and raised in excess of £1,700 which will be used to provide those little extras to make the lives of our residents more pleasant and comfortable. A big thank you to everyone who supported this event." (Photo 5)

Residents at James Terry Court enjoyed a pantomime starring

(continued on page 2)



CONTENTS

- 2 Residents' Christmas cheer
- 3 Friendship Dancers visit Cornwallis Court ♦ A musical treat for Shannon Court
- 4 Connaught Court's centenarians ♦ James Terry Court's new car ♦ Poetry corner
- 5 A tribute to WWI veteran William Stone ♦ Songs of Praise at Queen Elizabeth Court ♦ Remembrance Day
- 6 RMBI pocket watches ♦ London Appeal reaches £4 million mark ♦ Raising funds for Ecclesholme

Residents' Christmas cheer

(continued from cover)

entertainer Marie Kelly, and co-starring residents Ron Martin, Barbara Scales and Joan Walters! (Photo 7)

Prince George Duke of Kent Court residents were also treated to the pantomime, "Cindyella", by the Home's staff. The stars of the show were Ken Brown as an Ugly Sister; Chris Tegg as the other Ugly Sister; Tina Brookes as the Wicked Housekeeper; and Debbie Hurst as Cindyella! (Photo 3)

Queen Elizabeth Court celebrated Christmas morning with a social get together in the Silver Jubilee Lounge. (Photo 6)

(continued on page 3)



Residents' Christmas cheer

(continued from page 2)

At Shannon Court, residents enjoyed the inaugural Christmas party hosted by the Friends of Shannon Court.

Residents feasted on mulled wine and a sumptuous buffet, and were entertained by carollers, a harpist and an illusionist. 'Kaleidoscope', Gillian and Kay, took everyone off on a wonderful Christmas journey back through to the 50s.

To finish the evening Father Christmas paid a visit along with his trolley full of presents! (Photo 8)



Zetland Court held an enjoyable and successful Christmas Bazaar and resident, Mrs Morton, knitted all summer to help raise funds. (Photo 9)

It looks like everyone in the RMBI Homes thoroughly enjoyed the festive season!



Friendship Dancers visit Cornwallis Court

Cornwallis Court residents had a lovely time when the Friendship Dancers came to entertain them. Residents are looking forward to having the group back soon.



The Friendship Dancers with residents and Ron Harvey, Activities Co-ordinator (front left)

A musical treat for Shannon Court

Residents, family and friends of Shannon Court assembled one evening in October to listen to the National Cadet Music Band.

The salute on the evening was taken by RW Bro Eric Stuart Bamford, PGM of Surrey who was joined by RW Bro Brian Belling, PGM of Hampshire & Isle of White, Dr John Reuther, RMBI Trustee and various executives of the Province.

Thanks go to Capt Steve Croney who conducted the Hampshire Army Cadet Band and Lt Bob Rutherford the director in charge of the Drum Majors.



The National Cadet Music Band play

Connaught Court's centenarians

November marked the 100th birthday of Connaught Court resident Mrs Simmons. Mrs Simmons celebrated with residents and family, pictured below.



Mrs Simmons celebrates her birthday with family

Mrs Simmons' birthday brings the total number of centenarians at Connaught Court to four! Pictured below with the RMBI's Chief Executive, David Innes, they are Mr Waylett, 102; Miss Elam, 101; Mrs Newstead, 100; and Mrs Simmons, 100.



Connaught Court's centenarians with David Innes

Thank you

Thank you for all the responses to the RMBI news survey from the last issue. Your feedback will help us to plan for future issues of the RMBI news and other RMBI communications.

If you didn't receive a survey you can download one from our website, www.rmbi.org.uk/news.php. Alternatively please call us on 020 7596 2400.

James Terry Court's new car

James Terry Court was recently presented with a new car for residents' use. Many thanks go to the Friends of James Terry Court for raising the funds for the car.



(L-R) Frank Lee and Eric Stuart Bamford, James Terry Court Association of Friends; Di Collins, Home Manager; and Chris Caine, RMBI Chairman

Poetry corner

This poem was written by Mr George Manley, a resident at Prince Edward Duke of Kent Court, aged 101, about fellow resident Charles Mills!

*Oh, Charlie is our darling, he fills us with delight,
With trowel and hoe he's on the go,
Morning noon and night
But he don't grow no cabbages
Or humble stuff like that,
And if you say he should for the "common good"
You'd be talking through your hat.
For he spends hours, growing flowers
Exotic and really quite rare and he has a "Ball"
Tending them all and giving his loving care.
But when it comes to watering
As everybody knows,
He's not allowed to "carry the can"
But has to use the hose!
And some say "Good old Charlie"
So why say otherwise?
For what could this old boy achieve,
If he only had good eyes.*

If you have a poem you would like to share, please do send it to us for publication in the RMBI news. Email us at marketing@rmbi.org.uk, or post to: RMBI news, 60 Great Queen Street, London WC2B 5AZ.

A tribute to WWI veteran William Stone

Mr William Stone
23 September 1900 – 10 January 2009

Lord Harris Court resident and World War I veteran, Mr William Stone, passed away peacefully on Saturday 10 January. Mr Stone, known to staff, residents and friends as Bill, was the RMBI's oldest resident at 108.

Mr Stone served in the Royal Navy in WWI and WWII and was the last British person to serve in both wars.

During WWII he was chief stoker on HMS Salamander and took part in the evacuation of Dunkirk. He later took part in the Sicily landings of 1943, where his ship, HMS Newfoundland, was damaged by a torpedo attack after which he was "mentioned in despatches" for his part in saving her.



Mr William Stone, 2008



William Stone (left), Malta, 1926

Last year, Mr Stone was thrilled to be presented with a certificate in recognition of his 75 years in Freemasonry.

Mr Stone moved to Lord Harris Court two years ago. Home Manager, Sue Burton said of Mr Stone, "Bill had a great sense of fun, always joining in with singing and other entertainment in the Home."

Mr Stone's daughter, Anne, said, "[He] was very happy at [Lord Harris Court] and enjoyed the company of the staff and fellow residents."

It has been both a privilege and a pleasure for the RMBI to care for William Stone and he will be sadly missed by us all.

Songs of Praise at Queen Elizabeth Court

Residents at Queen Elizabeth Court were recently treated to entertainment by singer Margaret Ferguson, accompanied by pianist Jonathan Ellis.

Debbie Lewis, Home Manager, said, "Residents enjoy her entertainment immensely and Margaret has great interaction with the residents singing individually to them."

Margaret has appeared on Songs of Praise, performs in many concerts around the country and also sings for Music in Hospitals.



Margaret Ferguson entertaining residents

Remembrance Day

Gus and Elspeth Wilkinson, residents at The Tithebarn, attended the Remembrance Parade in Five Lamps, Crosby. Gus is 87 years of age and joined the Border Regiment 1st and 2nd Battalion at 15.

He served twice in the Burma campaign and then transferred to the Royal Corps Signals Band, performing in over 100 broadcasts and travelling the world.



Gus and Elspeth Wilkinson on Remembrance Sunday

RMBI pocket watches

Flambard Lodge, No.6874, in the Province of Durham, has produced a pocket watch to raise funds for the 2010 Durham Festival for the RMBI.

The watch is stainless steel with Japanese quartz movement and a 15-inch long chain. Each pocket watch comes in a nice gift box as illustrated. At a £15 donation to the RMBI + £2 P&P this is a quality exclusive gift for any Freemason.



To order, please post your cheque for £17.00, made payable to "Flambard Lodge No.6874", to:

Mr Stewart K Bell
 20 Folly Terrace
 Pity Me
 Durham DH1 5DS

Email: flambardlodge@hotmail.com

London Appeal reaches £4 million mark

As at 31 December 2008, the total raised by the London Appeal was **£4,348,104**.

This is an outstanding effort and the RMBI would like to thank the Metropolitan Grand Lodge for their huge generosity. The funds raised from London Freemasons will make a real difference to the lives of a great many older Brethren and their dependants.



RMBI President, VW Bro Willie Shackell, CBE and Deputy Metropolitan Grand Master, RW Bro Russell Race, DL

Raising funds for Ecclesholme



WBro Wilkinson receives the cheque from Bro Rowe

Before officially opening Ecclesholme's Christmas Fair WBro Wilkinson received a cheque from WBro Gordon Rowe PProvJGD, Chairman of the Association of Friends and a member of the East Lancashire Province, who had recently organised a joint Gala Dinner with the Province of West Lancashire. The proceeds of the event raised the wonderful sum of £1,349.

Ecclesholme was also presented with four portable televisions and a 32" free standing television by the Stretford with Trafford Lodge No. 4379. It is great to see such support for the RMBI Homes.

CONTACT DETAILS

Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution
 60 Great Queen Street
 London
 WC2B 5AZ

Phone. 020 7596 2400
 Fax. 020 7404 0724
 Email. enquiries@rmbi.org.uk
 Web. rmbi.org.uk