

Heritage House Spring Newsletter



June 2017

Diary dates

Saturday 17th June

THE HERITAGE HOUSE AGM
AND SUPPORTERS' LUNCH

Heritage House 12.00 noon

Saturday 24th June

HERITAGE HOUSE CAKE
AND PRODUCE STALL

Burnham Market 9.00 - 1.00

Saturday 2nd July

HERITAGE HOUSE STALL AT
NORFOLK FREEMASONS'
'FUN DAY' IN WYMONDHAM

Wymondham Rugby Club,
Tuttles Lane East, NR18 0EN
11.00 - 5.00

Saturday 22nd July

HERITAGE HOUSE CAKE
AND PRODUCE STALL

Burnham Market 9.00 - 1.00

All change at Heritage House

A lot seems to have happened in the last month or so, some of it quite suddenly and - for most of us - quite unexpectedly. The big news, of course, is that very soon now we will be saying goodbye to two very special people.

As most of you will already know, Mary Britton, who has been Care Manager at Heritage House for the past 13 years, will be leaving us in a few weeks time. Mary has led the work of Heritage House outstandingly during those years and we'll miss her greatly - and her famous hugs! We can't thank her enough for all she has done and we wish her and her family all the very best for the future.

Next week, at the Heritage House AGM, we will also be saying farewell to three of our Trustees, one of whom is Pamela Underwood, our current Chairman. Pam first became involved with Heritage House in 2007 when she and husband Adrian were 'recruited' as an ambulance crew. Later that year she joined the Management Committee and in 2012 was appointed a Trustee and elected Chairman. During her five years as chairman Pam has raised over £350,000, which has funded new baths, two extensions and two 'nearly new' ambulances.

Between them these two remarkable women have done an enormous amount for Heritage House and we owe them both a huge vote of thanks.

The Heritage House Trustees had recently appointed a new Day Care Manager to succeed Mary. However, due to a change in the circumstances of the appointee's family, she has had to resign before taking up the position. The post has therefore been re-advertised and Mary, who was due to leave at the end of this month, has very kindly agreed to stay on until the end of July.

Since Heritage House provides such a vital service for the elderly and infirm in North Norfolk, any suggestions of avenues that we might explore to find Mary's successor would be very gratefully received by the Trustees.



We sent our intrepid reporter out earlier this week to ask Mary and Pam some searching questions (eat your heart out Jeremy Paxman!) and this is what he came back with:



Mary Britton

What has been your proudest achievement?

Every single day at Heritage House is my proudest achievement. Seeing the day visitors happy and animated in the dayrooms, increasing our day visitor numbers and extending our boundaries. When I first came to Heritage House we opened four days a week and had around 20 day visitors each day. We now open five days a week, we have 30 day visitors from across North Norfolk and still more would like to come. And we do outreach work.

What will you miss most?

The people - the day visitors, staff and volunteers - and the atmosphere. Heritage House has a real buzz about it. I shall also miss the challenge of doing what needs to be done as well it possibly can be.

What will you miss least?

The paperwork, the bureaucracy and reasons for it all being necessary.
(You'll notice a certain similarity between this answer and the one to the right of it. Great minds obviously think alike!
Ed./Intrepid Reporter



Pam Underwood

What has been your proudest achievement?

The Bradbury Room. I inherited plans that retained the original two levels of the patio between the two wings to the south of the building. These would be linked by stairs or a slope which would take up much of the floor area. Although building on one level made the project more expensive it seemed the more practical solution. Over 20 trusts and charities donated money to fund the project and the room was opened by the late Lord Leicester in May 2015

What will you miss most?

Although I am retiring as Chairman, I shall still be supporting HH as a volunteer. I will miss being one of those who have a vision for the future and who strive to continue to make HH a caring, friendly day care centre.

What will you miss least?

Filling in forms to obtain grants or donations, especially those which ask the same question, albeit in different wording, several times. Trying to answer the same question in a different way led to much use of the "synonym" function on my computer!

And what next?

Another question our reporter asked Pam and Mary was “Now what; how will you fill all those empty hours?”. Pam said “I might manage to keep the weeds down on the allotment, finish off a few of the embroidery and textile projects that are lingering, and get to the beach more often! And I will still be secretary of the WI and a volunteer with 'Wells in Bloom'.

Mary's reply was more enigmatic. She's planning to take the summer off and enjoy being a granny, but she will be taking people she knows, who would otherwise be unable to get out, on occasional day trips. And after the summer she says she's going to become housekeeper to an extended family in South Creake. Lucky them!

Happy Birthday Annie

There was cake, a very special cake, in evidence last Thursday afternoon when Anne Baklan (below) celebrated her 100th birthday. Mary presented Annie with a bouquet of flowers while everyone present - friends, family and staff - sang 'Happy Birthday'.



Don't forget the AGM ...

Our 2017 Annual General Meeting will be held in Heritage House at 12 noon on Saturday the 17th of June. It will include presentations to those staff and Trustees who are retiring so it would be really good if as many of you as possible could be there.

Chairing this year's AGM will be Pamela Underwood's last duty as Chairman of Trustees. Also retiring at the AGM will be two other long-serving Trustees, Scilla Landale and Richard Worsley. Succeeding Pam as Chairman will be Adrian Underwood who has agreed to serve for one year, possibly two, after which he will be succeeded by David Horton-Fawkes. Four new Trustees will also be elected on 17th June.

... and the Supporters' Lunch

Immediately following the AGM, to thank you for your support of Heritage House during the past year, the Trustees invite you to join them for a Hog Roast lunch with wine and soft drinks, followed by some of Juli's famous desserts. How can you resist?

Thank you, thank you, thank you

Thanks to the efforts and kindness of an great many people we have had a fantastic start to our 2017 fundraising season. It started with the first of our Cake & Produce stalls in Burnham Market on Easter Saturday, which took over £440. The following weekend we held our Spring Fair in Wells, which raised just short of £450 and just after that we ran a two day bucket collection outside Morrisons, which resulted in donations of nearly £575.

After a few weeks rest - to draw breath and gather momentum - we were back in action over the late May Bank Holiday weekend when the Burnham Cake & Produce stall took £610 and the teas and cakes we provided at the Stody Lodge Open Gardens raised an amazing £1,282. What an achievement.

Of course none of this would have been possible without the hard work and generosity of Sally Whitworth and her team, the cake bakers, jam makers, produce growers, washers up, car park attendants and other volunteers who made these things happen - and of course all the people who came along and supported each event. We can't thank you all enough.

What's on next door

Just a reminder about some of the things that are on offer next door in the Wells Community Hospital. The National Deaf Association (NDA) will be holding clinics on the following Tuesday afternoons between 1.00 and 3.00 pm. Remember to take your Norfolk & Norwich Audiology card with you if you'd like to receive extra hearing aid batteries:

June 20th; July 4th & 18th; August 1st & 15th; September 5th & 19th.

Also on Tuesday afternoons - from 12.30 to 2.30 - the Hospital is running 'Our Day Out', a musical workshop for older people that is stimulating and fun. It's also an opportunity to make new friends. For details go to www.wellshospital.org.uk/events or ring Lea on 01328 713390.

200 Club

It's not too late to join the 200 Club or renew your membership for 2017-2018; just give Helen or Joy a ring and they'll tell you what to do. As we keep saying, it's not expensive (only £1 a month), the odds are good and the cash prizes well worth having.

Ambulance driver/assistant Clare Lewis won last month's top prize but the Howell clan were close behind. Here are May's lucky winners in full:

£50	Clare Lewis	No. 23
£20	Ron Howell	No. 218
£10	David Howell	No. 227
£5	Pat Terrington	No. 160
£5	Frances Purchas	No. 191
£5	Peter Cook	No. 182

Mary's Mardle

And so here they are, my final words of wisdom! Yes, it is true, I am leaving Heritage House to move on to pastures new. I can tell you that it was the most difficult 'leaving' decision that I have ever made (and I have made a few!) This has been my most favourite job ever and I would like to say that I have enjoyed every minute of it - but that would not be exactly true. It is true however that I have enjoyed nearly every minute of it!

Heritage House will always have a very special place in my heart and with that comes all the staff, past and present; volunteers, past and present; the day visitors, past and well you can guess the rest! Thank you to the chairs of the Management Committee and the Trustees who have supported me for the last 13 years and supported all my hair brained schemes - some more successful than others! But we haven't done so badly together. We have the most amazing, successful, lively, non-politically correct and yet so right day centre in the county and by god it works!

I wish my successor well and ask that everybody supports whoever it may be in the same way that you have supported me, so that Heritage House will continue to thrive. And I'm not giving up on you all; I promise to continue to help, when able, with fund raising and events. So here I go, off into the sunset, singing a happy song and wishing everyone well.

Extension work starts soon!

A sub-committee of the Trustees (together with two advisers) recently met with the representatives of three contractors. After assessing the qualities of each tender it has been decided to award the East Extension contract to Mode Construction. Work will start soon with completion by September. The partners of Mode Construction are very aware of the special nature of Heritage House and will work with the staff and Trustees to ensure as little disruption to the daily life of the centre as possible. *(A good example of Mode Construction's work is the new Brancaster Staithe Sailing Club building - Ed.)*

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