

# Heritage House Winter Newsletter

December 2017



## Diary dates

All next week

**CHRISTMAS LUNCHEAS AND  
SEASONAL ENTERTAINMENT**

Heritage House 10.00 - 3.00

Tuesday 19th December

**QUIZ NIGHT IN AID OF HH**

Wells Beach Cafe 7.00 pm

Friday 22nd December

**HERITAGE HOUSE CLOSSES FOR  
CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR**

Saturday 23rd December

**CHRISTMAS CAKE & PRODUCE  
STALL (THE LAST THIS SEASON)**

Burnham Market 9.00 - 1.00

Tuesday 2nd January 2018

**HERITAGE HOUSE RE-OPENS**



## A season of giving and sharing ...

Thankfully that's what a good many people still think Christmas is all about; not for them the commercialism that begins earlier and earlier each year. That's how we try to see it too - and not just in December; it's part of Heritage House's ethos and something that we aspire to all year round.

This year in particular we have a great many people to thank - for their generosity, for their support and for their time - and we'll be doing that elsewhere in this newsletter. Also in this edition some of our day visitors will be sharing their wartime memories with us.

These are uncertain times but in the midst of them we hope that Heritage House can provide something of a weekday haven; a place of calm, warmth and friendship that we can all benefit from in some way, be we day visitors, care staff, volunteers or supporters. The spirit of Christmas *is* alive at this end of Mill Road!



Goodbye Joy, hello Rachel. More on this on page 4

## So many people to thank ....

As 2017 comes to a close we have a great many people to thank for what they have done to keep Heritage House not just functioning but functioning extremely well. In no particular order we'd like to say a big Heritage House thank you to:

The Freemasons, who generously donated a total of £659 during the course of 2017, £360 from the local Earl of Leicester Lodge, the remainder from the Norfolk Province.

Wells Carnival Committee, who kindly gave us £225 towards new blinds for the day room.

A certain nameless doctor - based not a million miles from Heritage House - who very generously donates some of his precious time to carry out driving medicals for some of our more senior ambulance drivers.

The anonymous donor who kindly paid for our stall at Wells Christmastide - which raised £409 (see photo below. You'll notice that some people entered into the spirit of this more enthusiastically than others!).



The Black Lion Hotel in Walsingham, who have given us several contributions during the year, money raised during their quiz nights.

Aviva for a donation of £200 from their 2017 Community Fund - and thanks too to Derek Lynch, who applied for the grant.

The anonymous donors who very thoughtfully offered up to £500 to equip the ambulances and the WAC with satnav (no more getting lost in the wilds of North Norfolk - hooray!).

## Our Superheroes!

As your new Chairman of Trustees, I wish to share some good news with you about 2018. It has been confirmed that the Norfolk Superhero Challenge has selected Heritage House as their sole charity for 2018.

Full details of the Challenge can be found at [www.norfolksuperhero.co.uk](http://www.norfolksuperhero.co.uk) but, in a nutshell, it's a quadrathlon event that is held each summer at Burnham Overy Staithe. It's named after the local pub, The Hero, and it consists of four stages: a one mile swim, a four mile kayak course, a 45 mile bike ride and an eight mile run.

The 2018 Challenge will take place on Saturday the 16th of June and the charity the organisers have chosen to support will be Heritage House. Understandably, any donations to Heritage House from the event have to be earmarked for special projects. These will be decided by the Trustees in due course. The donations cannot be used for "running costs" so we have to keep active in raising the £50,000.00 we need each year to continue the work of the Centre.

It is worth explaining why we have to raise this money. The number of Day Visitors on a full daily grant supported by local authorities has dropped to only 25% of our Day Visitors, due to cuts to Social Services' budgets. The daily cost per person for all the facilities Heritage House offers is £38.00 per day. Each day there is a shortfall of expenditure over income meaning that we have to raise about £50,000 per year, which is why Heritage House is constantly seeking to raise funds and donations.

We are highly delighted that Heritage House will benefit from donations from the Norfolk Superhero event in 2018 and warmly thank the Superhero Trustees for choosing Heritage House as their sole charity for 2018.

However, we still need to raise funds on a regular basis to ensure we meet our annual shortfall of running costs of £50,000.00 and can continue to support our Day Visitors.

Adrian Underwood

## 1939 - 1945 remembered

For a number of years Heritage House - with other local organisations - has remembered those that died in the two world wars and subsequent conflicts by laying a wreath at Wells War Memorial. This year Karen Beck represented Heritage House and laid a poppy cross on our behalf. Before taking our cross to the Remembrance Day parade, Karen took photographs of two of our regular day visitors holding it, Myrtle Snell (bottom left) and Herbie Seaman (top right). Karen also asked them - and some of our other day visitors - what they remembered of the Second World War. With their permission, we'd like to share some of those memories with you.

Mary Lansley joined the ATS in Kent in 1939. She was a cook at the Shorncliffe Army Camp near Folkestone for 18 months and clearly remembers hearing bombs dropping on the docks and the noise of the ack-ack guns. In January 1940 some of the people the by then Corporal Mary was catering for would have been members of the British Expeditionary Force on their way to France. During Mary's time at Shorncliffe another Mary visited the camp - Queen Mary! Did our Mary make that Mary a cup of tea we wonder?

Joyce Cliff was also in the ATS. She joined up in Harrogate in 1943 and trained as an aircraft plotter. She then moved to Exeter, where she was attached to an Army anti-aircraft unit - and where she met her future husband. She served there until 1946 when she was demobbed. She too remembers the bombing and gunfire - but also the good times - and to this day she proudly carries a photo of herself in uniform in her handbag.



Myrtle Snell grew up in Burnham Market, where she still lives, and as a child she remembers a German aircraft trying to bomb Burnham Station - what is now the Railway House Hotel in Creake Road. It seems they missed!

Herbie Seaman was at school in Wells during the war. He remembers the Army being based in the pinewoods and the beach being mined - with fatal results for at least two of our servicemen.

He also remembers the big Canadian howitzers on what became North Creake Airfield firing over Wells and out to sea - breaking a good many windows as they did so, they were so noisy.



Other memories include seeing the Stirling bombers from RAF North Creake taking off at night and watching the ack-ack gunners at Stiffkey shooting at towed targets and the pilotless Queen Bee aircraft that were based at Weybourne (that's where the word 'drone', meaning pilotless aircraft, comes from by the way; a drone being a male bee).

Doris Smith was 16 when war broke out. She worked at the Fakenham grocery of Powell & Butler's, where she handled the ration books. She remembers the many servicemen there were in the town, the bomb shelter in the garden, taking flasks of tea and coffee to the troops guarding the railway .... and the dances. She also remembers being able to tell the difference between 'our' aircraft and 'theirs' by the different engine noises. After the war Doris worked at St Dunstan's Hospital in London where she says she saw "some horrible sights but also extreme bravery".

Mel McCullum-Deighton trained as a nurse at the Middlesex Hospital in London during the Blitz and remembers having to take shelter in the cellars during the bombing. And going home at the weekends wasn't much better: her parents lived near Biggin Hill airfield, which was regularly bombed, so it was a matter of 'out of the frying pan and into the fire'. Mel worked at the Middlesex for 40 years. She specialised in midwifery and ended up as a senior Ward Sister in charge of several of the hospital's maternity wards.

## What's on next door

Just a reminder that the National Deaf Association (NDA) will be holding their usual clinics in Wells Hospital on the following Tuesdays between 1.00 and 3.00 pm:

December 19th only; January 16th only; February 6th & 20th; and March 6th & 20th.

## More people to thank ...

Our special thanks to the staff and all the volunteers; to Michelle; to Moira for her sterling efforts during what was a very tough week for her in the run up to Christmastide; and to Sally & Co. who so far this year have raised a record breaking £4,356 on their Cake & Produce Stall. Bravissimo!

## 200 Club

It's never too late to join the 200 Club - just give Rachel or John a ring and they'll tell you what to do (you may have heard John talking about it on Radio Norfolk earlier this week).

We've talked about the luck of the Lewises before; well they've done it again, scooping two of the top prizes in the November draw.

Here are the the full results:

£50	Georgia Lewis	No. 124
£20	Sue Scoles	No. 54
£10	Daisy Lewis	No. 36
£5	Kate Clodd	No. 18
£5	Isaac Scott	No. 204
£5	Douglas Liquorish	No. 104

## Hello and goodbye

It's been a year of significant changes at Heritage House, the latest of which have been in the front office. After six years in the Thursday/Friday hot seat Joy Burt left us in late October. Joy was a much valued member of the Heritage House team and we were very sorry to see her go. We wish her all the very best and we extend a very warm HH welcome to her replacement, Rachel Wilson.

Also gone - but only temporarily - is our Monday to Wednesday Administrator, Helen Andrews, who is on maternity leave. Standing in for Helen is John Tookey - one smiling face replacing another!

## Give as you Live

We've mentioned Give as you Live before. Well, thanks to you and your thoughtful online shopping, Heritage House has now received £400 from them.

Just to remind you, Give as you Live is a shopping and price comparison site. Using their website you can shop at over 4,000 online stores and for every purchase you make a percentage of what you pay will be donated to the charity of your choice.

Heritage House is one such charity so, if you wanted to buy a mobile phone from Amazon for example, go to [www.giveasyoulive.com](http://www.giveasyoulive.com), sign up - if you haven't already (it's free) - and select Heritage House as your charity. Next click on 'Stores', select Amazon and then look for your phone. From then on you shop as normal - and that includes earning points or cashback if that applies. The big difference is that by shopping this way, you - or rather the online store - will be donating 1.5% of what you spend to Heritage House. It won't cost you a penny!



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all

Heritage House, Mill Road, Wells-next-the-Sea, Norfolk NR23 1RF  
Phone: 01328 711333 Fax: 01328 711633 E-mail: [heritagedaycare@btinternet.com](mailto:heritagedaycare@btinternet.com)  
[www.heritagedaycare.co.uk](http://www.heritagedaycare.co.uk)

*"For Those in Need"*