

Heritage House Summer Newsletter



July 2019

Diary dates

Tuesday 16th July

GARDEN VISIT & CREAM TEA
Holkham Walled Garden
1.00pm - 3.00pm

Saturday 27th July

HH CAKE & PRODUCE STALL
Burnham Market 9.00 - 1.00pm

Sunday 28th July

HH BOTTLE STALL, WELLS
CARNIVAL FETE DAY
The Buttlands 11.00 - 5.00pm

Thursday 1st August

THE HERITAGE HOUSE
CARNIVAL QUIZ
The Carnival Marquee,
Clubbs Lane, Wells 7.30pm

Saturday 17th August

HH SPONSORED WALK
Details from Heritage House

Sumer Is Icumen In

After a couple of false starts summer has finally 'come in' and, if you know the second line of this old summer canon, the cuckoos have been singing loudly since early spring. We too have something to sing about. As you'll read in the pages that follow we ran some very successful fund raising events in the spring and early summer, and there are more to come. We've also held the first of what will be a regular series of 'cream tea' outings for our day visitors (the next of which will be next Tuesday). And Heritage House itself is looking very spick and span thanks to the efforts of Audrey Wooller, our one woman decorating team, and the green fingers of the HH gardening team led by Moira Wright.

You'll probably have noticed that Wells is celebrating the 150th anniversary of its lifeboat service. There are special events in the town and boathouse all week, and a special exhibition upstairs in The Maltings. And we're celebrating it too. As you'll see below, the Bradbury Room is bedecked with RNLI flags and banners and at 11.00 am this Friday we're holding a ceremony to remember those lost at sea and our gallant lifeboat men and women. It will be conducted by the RNLI Pastor and current and former members of the Wells lifeboat crew will be here. Then, after lunch, we're in for a treat, a performance by the Nelson Shantymen. Do come if you can, all are welcome.



Douglas Liquorish

We were very sad to learn that Douglas, our longest serving volunteer car driver, is no longer with us. Before he 'retired' last year Douglas had driven day visitors to and from Heritage House for longer than anyone can remember. He was also one of our most loyal supporters, always ready to support events and provide raffle prizes.

Most of us will remember Douglas as the smartly dressed man with a ready smile and the gleaming Volvo but how many knew that he'd been a wartime fighter pilot? Douglas joined the RAF in 1942, aged just 17¼, and after pilot training in Southern Rhodesia, it wasn't long before he was flying Spitfires.

Perhaps the most dramatic event in his RAF career occurred during the first Arab-Israeli war in 1949, when he was serving with 6 Squadron RAF flying Tempests in Egypt. At the time the Israeli, Egyptian and British air forces were all equipped with Spitfires so, when Douglas was attacked by what he took to be an RAF Spitfire he was more than a little surprised. In fact it was an Israeli aircraft and, as he discovered many years later, it was flown by Ezer Weizman, who went on to become President of Israel in 1993. That Douglas survived the encounter is nothing short of a miracle; his aircraft (see below) was very badly damaged and a cannon shell hit the armour plating behind his head. Thankfully it didn't explode.

Douglas's funeral will be held at St Martin's Church, Hindringham this Saturday at 12 noon and we're hoping that Heritage House will be represented. So too will 6 Squadron (RAF) Association. There's even talk of a flypast, which would be a fine and fitting tribute to a remarkable man.



*Douglas in his Hawker Tempest Mk VI - January 1949
(Illustration courtesy of 6 Squadron (RAF) Association)*

Fundraising & Events

We were lucky enough to have a warm sunny day for the first of our 'cream tea' outings in early June. The venue was the walled garden at Holkham and we were there at the kind invitation of our Patron, Lady Leicester.

Twelve day visitors, most of the staff, several volunteers and all the makings of a tea party piled into three minibuses and headed off to Holkham, where we were met by Nicky Milner and Lady Leicester. The day visitors were then taken on a tour of the gardens before enjoying what turned out to be a birthday tea for two of our Wells day visitors, Mary, who was 99 that day and Herbie, who had turned 85 just the day before.

Mary and Herbie were presented with gifts by Lady Leicester and Mary was given a lovely bouquet of 'Walled Garden' flowers, picked and presented by Kirsty Gwilliam, one of Holkham's gardeners. And there was cake - a delicious cream concoction made by Juli Cushion. It was a lovely occasion, much enjoyed by all.



(l to r: Nicky, Ken, Herbie, Lady Leicester & Mary)

Other recent events include another very successful staff Bingo evening on Good Friday that raised £1,170 - enough to fund the remainder of the work on our new medical room; a very enjoyable gin tasting evening - complete with a John Tookey BBQ - which raised over £430; and Sally's latest cake and produce stall which took £560. We're very grateful to all the kind people who support these events and to those that organise them.

What's on next door

As usual the Norfolk Deaf Association (NDA) will be holding clinics in Wells Hospital between 1.00pm and 3.00pm on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, and they're where to go for your free hearing aid batteries.

These are the dates of the next few: July 16; August 6 & 20; September 3 & 17; and October 1 & 15.

Coming next ...

Not content to rest on their laurels following the success of their Easter bingo, the staff have come up with yet another idea for a fundraiser - a sponsored walk on Saturday the 17th of August. The 5 mile circular route will include Wells quayside, the coast path and Holkham park, and a visit to at least one local hostelry! For more details please ring Heritage House.

200 Club

Any time is a good time to join our very successful and - for six lucky people each month - lucrative 200 Club. It costs only £12 a year and, as we keep saying, the odds of winning are much better than Premium Bonds or the Lottery. Just give give Helen or Rachel a call on 01328 711333 and they'll tell you what to do.

And this month's lucky winners are:

£50	Maggie Ward	No. 53
£20	Peter Forbes	No. 330
£10	Gordon Jones	No. 128
£5	Kate Worsley	No. 274
£5	Ned Coke	No. 168
£5	Bea Webster	No. 210

AGM

Our Annual General Meeting on June 22 attracted quite a large attendance and we were lucky with the weather - the skies cleared shortly beforehand and we were able to use the garden for the volunteers' hog roast lunch that followed.

In her Chair's report Nicky Milner highlighted the successes of the past year and the changes that had been introduced since Steve Cheshire was appointed as Centre Manager last September. Tributes were paid to Trevor Wright and Janet MacNab who were standing down as Trustees and as Chair of the Management Committee and Treasurer respectively. Both were presented with leaving gifts and, in Janet's case, a lovely bouquet (see photo below). Bouquets too for Moira Wright, for all she has done for HH, and for Audrey Wooller for all her redecorating work.

Steve closed the meeting with a very interesting and informative presentation on the improvements and innovations that have been introduced over the past nine months. He stressed that we need to attract new clients and more volunteers, and publicise HH more widely and more visibly. The business over, we then set about the Pimms and the delicious hog roast - and even more delicious puddings - that Juli and her team of helpers had laid on. It was scrummy!



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