



Elizabeth Court



Spring 2011

NEWSLETTER



Spring has sprung everybody! And what lovely sights to behold, all the flowers are blooming and there's more wildlife visiting the garden. We've had the driest March for 50 years!!! The garden, like the rest of us, needs a good ole' drink! The fish have resurfaced and the birds are feeding their young.

Derrick's been out planting vegetables to grow over the coming weeks.

He's planted **carrots** which have sprouted and will soon be transferred into the ground to grow big and healthy.

There are 4 rows of **spring onions** in the greenhouse, expected to be ready for our salads in 4 or 5 weeks.

Derrick's also recycled some **spuds** that went bad, by planting 20 rows (and counting) which are now just starting to flower, so fresh potatoes ready in a few weeks time.

We had a lovely Easter but struggled to keep the Easter eggs from melting in the hot, hot weather we've had! Everyone kept cool by enjoying ice creams and ice lollies. The garden has had quite a lot of activity over the Easter season. We hope you all enjoyed the extra Bank Holidays!



We've recently received a 5 star Food Hygiene Rating, proudly displayed on our front door!

You may or may not be aware that we are part of the Cinnamon Trust. The trust looks to keep elderly people with their pets when moving into residential settings, and as a pet friendly care home we have been ranked in the top 6 in the country. This means we will have a short film made of the home and our animals which will be judged to determine the winner!



This news has sparked us to improve our animal friendliness ethos. We have decided to set up a rabbit and guinea pig hutch in the garden which will enable us to take in rescued animals. We hope this will be as good for the residents of Elizabeth Court as it will be for the rabbits and guinea pigs!

Looking back again at the last newsletter I outlined a few events we had lined up. Here's your quarterly review...

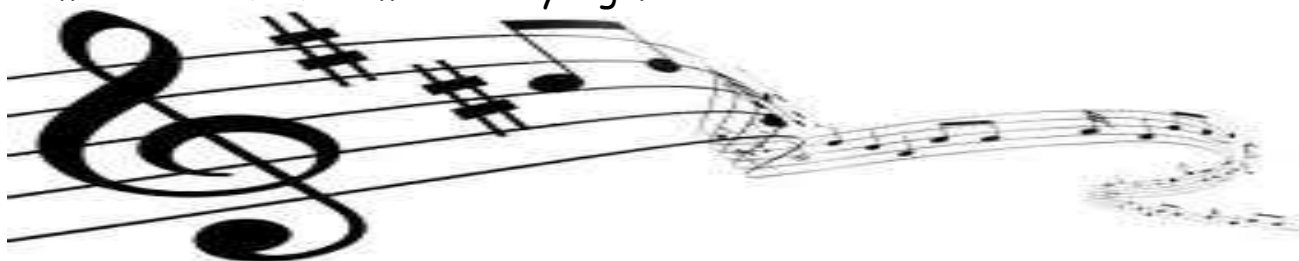
We had our **Songs and Prayers** Service on the 14th February. This took place in the lounge and gave those who attended time to reflect on loved ones and give thanks.



Aim's production came in the following day and, well, what a performance! They did their own rendition of "a Budding Time", a show full of the joys of spring. There was plenty of interaction by all, and those who watched thoroughly enjoyed it.

I wonder what they'll do for us next time...

Our **musical entertainers** have been and entertained the masses with their musical stylings.



We've had **Trevor** on the guitar and banjo singing some old classics that really get us going!

We've also had **Andy** on his piano with some more relaxing tunes.



Also, 'Magic **Mike**' came once again and positively surprised those who watched.

Not forgetting **Red Nose Day**, where we raised around **£75** for the charity and enjoyed getting our noses dotted with red paint, thanks to Charlie Case! He gave his always entertaining performance of witty one-liners, and brow-raising anecdotes. We had a sweepstake which Carol won, but she did the good thing and donated her winnings to the good cause too.



Prince William got married after the Easter Weekend, and apart from given everybody another bank holiday weekend, we celebrated in good old fashioned style! The lounge and dining room was decorated accordingly, with union jack bunting and balloons up marking the occasion. We held an indoor street party, where everybody had proper fish and chips (sponsored by Minnie Bertha's, Bexhill). We all watched the wedding procession and ceremony, and ended the afternoon with line-dancing led by Jim (who teaches Line-dancing on Monday nights if anyone's interested!). Everybody had a good time, enjoying the music and dancing.





The Film

group has so far screened classics such as Huckleberry Finn, the Family Swiss Robinson, and Titanic; accompanied by popcorn, drinks and snacks. Some enjoy cosying up with a blanket while they watch the film.



The **Baking group** has been making iced fairy cakes, biscuits, and chocolate covered flapjacks which have been enjoyed after supper in the evenings.



The **Art group** has made several creations, including still life drawings using different mediums, free hand and

imaginative drawings, and we've explored portraits which included a visit to the De La Warr Pavilion art



gallery (which was showing 'moving portraits') and we followed this by our creating our own cubism portrait collage studies.

So far the agenda for the up and coming weeks is a bit sparse; however it normally fills itself up. Apart from continuing with the **activity groups**, and **Jan's weekly motivation classes**, **Simon's weekly exercise classes**, and **Penny's therapeutic activities sessions...**

We have another **song and prayers** service on 23rd May.

We also have plans for a **Mad Hatter's Tea Party** at some point over the summer.



Jadene and I (Reece) want to incorporate this theme into the activity groups and host an event whereby we will aim to raise money for the rescued animals' hutch, as previously mentioned.

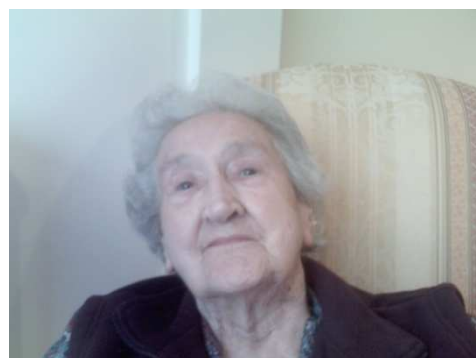


We will start the week by showing *Alice in Wonderland* in the film group. The art group will make appropriate props (i.e. large playing cards, silly hats, decorations etc) and the baking group will make cupcakes and other snacks and sandwiches. We hope to have this all out in garden (weather permitting) and we want to invite as many friends and relatives as possible to attend the mad hatter's tea party. All donations will go towards the rescue hutch.

More details in the summer newsletter. We will aim to host this July-September time.



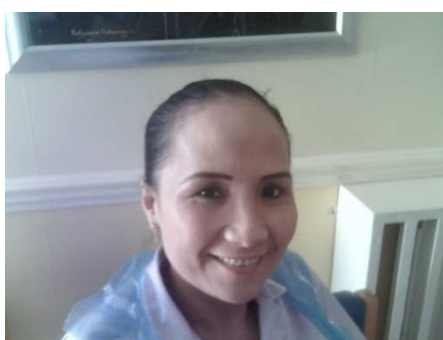
We have recently welcomed **Ivy** (Right) to Elizabeth Court, and also Evelyn (Left) who has brought in her cat, Tibbs. (below)



Sadly, Doris's dog Trixie passed away. However Doris has now adopted Barney (below) and Misty and gets a lot of joy from their company and looks after them very well.



We have also recently welcomed **Margie** and **Chris** to the care team.



Margie comes from a caring background, amongst other things, and has settled in well.

Chris also once cared for the elderly but spent a long time caring for adults with



learning disabilities before returning to caring for the elderly. Chris has also settled in well.



You may remember that Hayley left us to work in the community? Well, she's returned! She had a taste of something different and decided she missed us all too much! Welcome back Hayley!!

Kevin has decided to depart from Elizabeth Court. Goodbye Kevin, good luck in whatever you do! Thanks for all your hard work.

Bridie also left us to work in the community. We were sorry to see her go, but she is getting on well and is enjoying her new job. Thanks to you also for your hard work with us.

Goodbye and Good Luck!!

Last time I mentioned our progress with our NVQ studies.

Well, **Jadene** has now successfully completed her NVQ4 - WELL DONE JADENE!

I (**Reece**) have also now completed my NVQ3.

Jim has now been enrolled on his NVQ2 and is still very keen to learn and develop his skills. Good luck Jim, enjoy the ride!

Birthday mentions approaching...

...We celebrated Bill and Charlie's birthdays in March, and in April we celebrated Joan's birthday,

Many happy returns to you all!

We look forward to Brian M's birthday in June.



Unfortunately we said goodbye to Mr. Jim Whitton, who passed away recently in Hospital. He had been with us at Elizabeth Court for a year and we very much enjoyed his company. Jim will be very sadly missed. Our condolences go out to his loved ones, rest in peace Jim.

That brings us to the end of this edition of the
Newsletter,

Thanks once again for reading, I hope you enjoyed it!

Next issue out July,

See you then!