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## Hello again and welcome to our newsletter for April and May 2015.



**General News:** We hope you all had a good Easter break? With the warmer weather our roof panels really have been working well, last month we were able to generate more than £90 worth of electricity, which goes a long way to helping us to reduce our utility costs.

The front door to the centre has been fixed and now provides secure access to the building. After some weeks of struggling with the door, a clever locksmith found the problem in seconds. So when you do visit us, please ring the bell before you try to open it, trying to force it open, causes damage to the door and won't open it.

We now have a gazebo and benches with cushions as well as extra chairs in our garden, which has been laid with an Astro turf lawn. The shrubs and roses are in flower - this is a lovely place for members to relax in- especially as we don't have to cut the lawn.



**Drivers:** This is a regular feature! We are still on the lookout for volunteer drivers, more so now as a lot of people have been on holiday recently. We can't blame them of course – we all get tempted to visit a warmer place! If we had more drivers as reserves, it would ease the burden as we could spread the load a bit. If you think you can help, please give us a call **on 0118 934 4040**.

**Volunteers:** Many people do not appreciate the value our volunteers provide for the members of our Day Centre. We have about 60 volunteers who help us from time to time, these people help in the kitchen, in the hall with activities and with driving! If we didn't have this group of people who offer up their time to help us, we wouldn't be able to offer the service we provide our members. I would like to thank all the volunteers on behalf of the members and our trustees for your ongoing support, it is greatly appreciated.



**Member News:** During April we had the Frantic Theatre (an independent theatre company) in to do a show and he had all the members in fits of laughter in no time at all. After that we had to cool them down with some good dance music from Jim Allgrove. Mandy also put in an appearance during April and Harry Goff and the Reading Accordion Group during May. We also had a play called "Girl with a Torch", which was put on by some young ladies who are currently doing their drama studies at Uni – it was brilliant. In addition to that we had a day out at Milestones, a reminiscence museum in Basingstoke.

We hired a coach, loaded everybody on board and spent the day looking at things from years gone by, we had a lunch and came back in time to get everybody home at a reasonable hour. Here are some of the happy members at the museum.



**Outreach Programme.** We want to reach out to all the people in our area who may be socially isolated, people who may not be able to go about doing their shopping, or people who may just want somebody to chat to occasionally. They don't have to be a member of the Day Centre - we want to help the elderly community to maintain a decent standard of living. A lot of people struggle with filling in forms for Blue badges, Attendance Allowances etc. or may not know where to go for advice and assistance - we can help them. If you know of anybody like this, please let us know – call us at the Day Centre.

**Sunday Club.** We have two more Sunday club sessions before the August summer break. These are on the 21<sup>st</sup> June and the 19<sup>th</sup> July. The 21<sup>st</sup> June is a special day with an outing to Wyevale Garden centre for afternoon tea. **If you want to join us on the 21<sup>st</sup> please ring us and book your place, but you must do this by the 11<sup>th</sup> June** as we have to let them know how many to cater for.



**Carer's Coffee Mornings.** Come along and join in with some of the informal and informative conversations we have with other carers. If you are caring for somebody, and don't want to leave them alone, bring them along – we will take care of them. The next Carer's Coffee mornings will be on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> June and 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> July. We are currently involved in a survey being conducted by Wokingham Healthwatch about the new Care Act – the findings should be rather interesting. Please join us, it is informal and relaxed – you don't need to be formally introduced.



If you don't want to receive this newsletter, please let us know and we can simply take you off the mailing list. But we really don't want to lose touch with you, so please stay with us!