



JULIE BARNETT'S BIRTHDAY PARTY

Julie, who lives at Greensleeves, celebrated her 80th birthday on 30th January 2013. Her birthday party was held at the Hive on 2nd February, where her family and friends really enjoyed celebrating it with her.

The birthday girl arrived in style in a luxurious limousine and, together with her friends, posed for photographs. Julie said she felt like the Queen! Inside The Hive, with all her friends and family, Julie was presented with a wonderful bouquet of flowers. Magda arrived and had made Julie a beautiful cake. Everyone sang "Happy Birthday" and Julie had great joy in blowing out her candles.



The food was great too. Hazel, the cook from Greensleeves and the staff did a wonderful job and everything tasted delicious. The disco proved really popular, and all had a wonderful time.

Most importantly, Julie really enjoyed herself. She said it had been one of her best birthdays ever.



AGM News – 29 November 2012

1. Sedgemoor & Framley Redevelopment

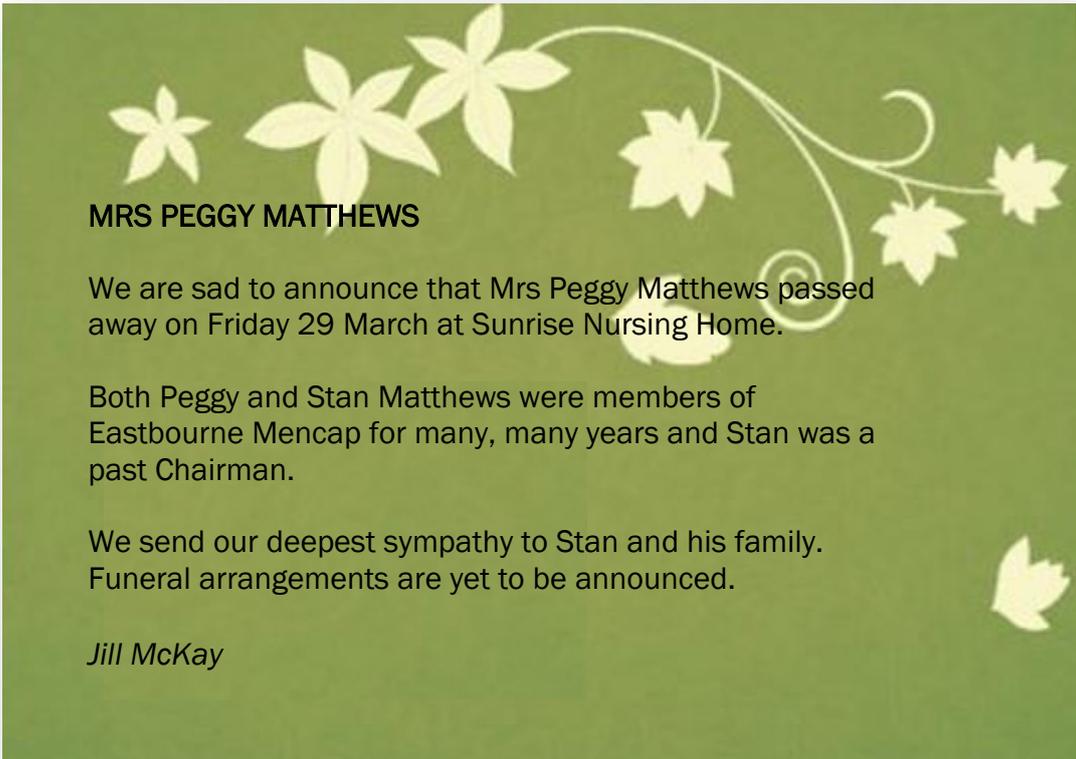
David Long reported that, to comply with the planning permission, work has to start on the development before March 2014. We have delayed because we were waiting for the Duke of Devonshire to become our Patron as of April 2012 to strengthen our position for raising funds. We hope to employ a fundraising manager to carry out this task. Peter and David will also meet with organisations to try and access the funds that we require. All our Homes will eventually need to be improved and modernised.

2. Relationship with Royal Mencap

David reported that Royal Mencap are proposing that all local societies sign up to a new agreement. If we do not sign the partnership agreement before 31 March 2013 then we must go our own way and forego using the name “Mencap”. We also have to join them in two initiatives during the year. Peter stated that he and David had met with other local groups and quite a few of them are going on their own.

We will consult with members, staff, residents and service users before we make a decision on whether to stay affiliated to Royal Mencap. The Board will put together a proposal with all the facts. After the consultation process, we will seek confirmation from an extra-ordinary AGM. If 60% of each category is in agreement, then we will proceed with the switch.

We have registered another name which has been suggested by Debbie Barton. The name is “Eastbourne GOLD” – greater opportunities for learning disabled. The consensus of opinion at the AGM was that it would be preferable not to sign the new agreement with Royal Mencap and the suggested name of Eastbourne GOLD was well received.



MRS PEGGY MATTHEWS

We are sad to announce that Mrs Peggy Matthews passed away on Friday 29 March at Sunrise Nursing Home.

Both Peggy and Stan Matthews were members of Eastbourne Mencap for many, many years and Stan was a past Chairman.

We send our deepest sympathy to Stan and his family. Funeral arrangements are yet to be announced.

Jill McKay

Donations!

Grand Hotel Donation

Residents at an Eastbourne Mencap care home will have their rooms refurbished after a large donation from staff at Eastbourne's Grand Hotel.

David Long, Chairman, was presented with the £3,000 cheque by Betty Jenson, Senior Receptionist at the hotel. The money was raised from the Great Britain charity dinner, where many staff worked free of charge on the night so they could donate their wages to Mencap.



The money will be put towards a major refurbishment of Sedgemoor and Framley. The home has 19 residents aged between 18 and 65 years old.

Mr Long said: "We are overwhelmed by the support that our residents have been given. It goes without saying how grateful we are. We are planning to divide some of our larger rooms so that each resident can have a room of their own – it will make a huge difference to their privacy and comfort."

The Hydro Hotel Donation



Ian Turnbull, the Manager of the Hydro, presented a cheque for £550 to David Long and Jill McKay. The money was raised through the Christmas raffle and bingo games.

NEWS FROM ARUNDEL ROAD

Welcome to our new resident, Carla Funnell

We welcome Carla Funnell, who is on respite at Arundel Road, to Eastbourne Mencap. She has been with us since 1 February and has settled in very well.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Extracts from National Mencap's Viewpoint Magazine

New Clinical commissioning groups will take control of the NHS budget in 34 areas of England, from April. They will commission hospital, community healthcare and mental health services for their communities.

People who receive support through the Independent Living Fund (ILF) will not have their care packages protected when funding is transferred to local authorities in England in 2015. ILF provides £300 million a year to help 20,000 disabled people to meet living costs. The government rejected calls to ring-fence the funding.

MENCAP SUPPORTS NEW NHS MANDATE.

Health secretary Jeremy Hunt, unveiled the NHS mandate – the first ever “contract” between the government and the NHS Commissioning Board, in November.

Setting out the ambitions for the health service for the next two years, it aims for an NHS that is available to all and able to meet patients' needs and expectations. Through the mandate, the NHS will be measured, for the first time, by how it achieves the things that really matter to people.

Two of its key objectives specifically mention people with a learning disability – to ensure people have a positive experience of care and to prevent people dying prematurely. Statistics show that people with a learning disability are 58 times more likely to die before they reach the age of 50. Plus, four times as many people with a learning disability die of preventable causes than the general population. Mencap says that “While much still remains to be done to improve health outcomes for people with a learning disability, we feel this is a big step forward”.

UKIP ABORTION CALL SPARKS OUTRAGE.

UK Independence Party (UKIP) candidate Geoffrey Clark proposed terminating all fetuses with Down's syndrome or spina bifida, in order to order to cut NHS costs, in December.

Mencap was “disgusted” and said “It is abhorrent that Geoffrey Clark sees disabled people as a burden – people with learning disability lead full lives, and make valuable contributions”. Mr. Clark later apologised but has since been suspended by UKIP.

Later, the BBC and Mensa apologised when a Mensa spokesperson called anyone with an IQ under 60 a “carrot” on BBC Breakfast.

World Down Syndrome Day - 21 March 2013

PULL ON YOUR FUN SOCKS FOR EASTBOURNE MENCAP

EASTBOURNE and District Mencap urged everyone to wear lots of socks and donate £1 to its fundraising efforts on March 21st, which was World Down Syndrome Day.



But not just any socks – they had to be as wild and wacky as you could find. They could be brightly coloured, mismatched, long socks, printed socks – just as long as they were on display and people asked you about them, and a donation was made to help those locally with the disability.

World Down Syndrome Day is in its eighth year and took place on March 21.

Eastbourne Mencap Chief Operating Officer, Paul Durrant, said: “More than 25% of our residents have Down Syndrome and we think that digging out a fun pair of socks and drawing attention to the fact there are many people in Eastbourne living with disability was a fabulous idea.

“We wanted to raise £1000.00 specifically from this date in the calendar to provide our residents and day centre users with an extra special activity – specialist creative workshops. We know for certain that they would adore this and also benefit from them hugely.”

We pleaded for local businesses, offices, teams, schools and clubs to get involved and support Eastbourne & District Mencap charity. The charity receives no funding from the national Mencap charity.

“People with Down Syndrome generally have a delay in cognitive ability and physical growth. This is caused by having an extra chromosome. However, with the help of Eastbourne Mencap they can live happy and rewarding lives,” said Paul Durrant.

Eastbourne and District Mencap has three residential homes in Eastbourne – Sedgemoor & Framley, Arundel Road in Upperton and Greensleeves in Langney. It also runs a day care centre, The Hive of Activity, on Pevensey Road, Eastbourne.

Eastbourne and District Mencap website

www.eastbournemencap.org.uk.

The staff at local company,
The Conference People joined in.....



Forthcoming Events



ROBIN CLUB

Dates: Saturday 20 April 2013
Saturday 18 May 2013

Time: 10.00 am – 3.00 pm

Venue: 113 Pevensey Road, Eastbourne

If you would like more information or to make a donation please visit our website www.eastbournemencap.org.uk



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Supporting Local People with Learning Disabilities

Eastbourne and District Mencap Limited
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Company Registration No: 6182982
(England and Wales).

Registered Charity No: 1125686
Reg. Office: 113 Pevensey Road,
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(Affiliated to Royal Mencap Society).
An East Sussex County Council Approved
Provider of Residential Care Services for
people with learning disabilities.

This is **YOUR** newsletter! If you have any news, or stories – or there is something you would like to see featured in future issues – get in touch and let us know!

info@eastbournemencap.org