

BBCH Winter Newsletter

BBCH Christmas Fayre

What a wonderful morning for our Christmas Fayre. We had a fantastic turnout and Santa made an early appearance with one of his elves! The weather was so warm, some visitors even had their coffee and cake on the patio. Special thank you to Julia Gorringer for making the lovely reindeer headbands for all the helpers. Thank you to the Residents, staff, volunteers, friends, family and members of our local community for supporting our Christmas Fayre 2019. We raised a total of £1792.30 for the Residents' Welfare Fund.



Fireworks Night by Joan Barnes

On the last Saturday in October a dismal, wet and windy evening many Residents enjoyed a wonderful fireworks display on the croquet lawn. We sat in comfort and warmth, watching through the dining room windows as David and Luke braved the weather to put an excellent show for us.

There have been firework displays here before, but not within the memory of any present Resident. Delight in fireworks brought some to watch, curiosity brought more. None were disappointed. The Fireworks were carefully chosen, no bangers to startle us, no high flying rockets to cause a crooked neck. Instead, we had wonderful spinning Catherine Wheels and fountains of silver and gold lighting up the lawn. Throughout the well-organised display, there were many "oohs" and "aahs" behind the windows as each firework was lit. David & Luke deserve a sincere "thank-you."

I'm sure many of us were remembering the simple but exciting displays of our childhood as we sipped our hot chocolate. I wonder how many of us spared

a thought for Catherine of Alexandria for whom the Catherine Wheel was named. She lived in the third century, a wealthy, beautiful and learned woman who converted to Christianity.



During one of the periodic attacks on Christians by the Romans, she refused to worship the Roman Gods and was sentenced to be tortured to death on the break wheel, which was studded with metal spikes. When she touched the wheel, it shattered and so she was beheaded. Catherine died around 310AD but is still celebrated every year in firework displays around the world.

Bug Houses One of our Residents tells us about making the bug houses
At a garden group meeting, Paul suggested residents might be interested in making bug houses for benefiting insects such as ladybirds or solitary bees and lacewings to shelter. I had received two half bottles of wine in a wooden box which I felt would make a good bug house. So I went around the garden looking for suitable material. I gathered dead, dry leaves, some flower heads, cones and found some dry hollow sticks in a wheelbarrow, a piece of bamboo, much too tough for me to cut. The pampas grass at the bottom of the drive had just been cut down but some hollow stumps were reachable by me without falling over. Later I asked Janet and Tony to collect some more stumps and they also brought some very thin hollow stems from their garden. Then fitted the material into the box, stuffing dead leaves in to make it all tight.





Observing the Peace Garden

One of our Residents recently wrote this lovely piece about The Peace Garden.

Taking advantage of a clear, fresh sunny morning I went for a stroll around our grounds. How beautiful everywhere looked bathed in colour which was greatly enhanced by the bright sunlight. When I entered the Peace Garden it was truly that and I felt uplifted by all I saw and heard. Within the garden is a small area almost hidden by the graceful ferns and magical and soothing sound of trickling water. It seemed like a secret piece of garden overseen by our beautifully carved owl. How blessed we are to have this special area where we are close to nature in all it's beauty. I sat engulfed in silence and marvelled at the wonderful gifts our Heavenly Father has given us if we take time to be still, look and listen. Our grateful thanks to Paul and Alan for all their hard work and creativity.

Roedean Upcycled Fashion Show

Students from Roedean School recently visited the Homes to put on a fashion show for the Residents. All the clothes had been purchased from charity shops, they created new outfits from these garments. The students altered the garments by adding cuffs, decorative edges and embellishments to the clothing. They enjoyed describing their upcycling process to the Residents.



Getting Ready for Christmas

Residents, staff and volunteers have been very busy making sure the homes are 'Christmas' ready! Volunteer Nadine got together with some of the Residents to design some new decorations by gluing baubles together in to a pyramid. Pat and Erica made the dining room decorations in the small vases. Other Residents put together baskets and decorated the trees around the homes. Lovely gifts were wrapped for our Volunteers & Trustees.



Wishing you a
Merry Christmas
and a
Happy 2020!