

Jubilee Centre Update

Like most businesses in the High Street we have been advertising for staff. After months functioning under-staffed we have finally been able to appoint a Deputy Manager. Now we need to build up our numbers which are still not yet up to the level they were pre-pandemic.

We are still fulfilling our core purpose to provide a Day Care Centre for the Elderly of Marlborough and surrounding villages. Our members enjoy meeting together and despite increased frailties they have enjoyed outings. On the strength of their requests, they enjoyed a great day on an adapted canal boat even taking the tiller in a wheelchair. Another day we had a picnic and trip to the Cinema (the Parade) to enjoy The Railway Children. We pride ourselves on treating our members as individuals so, when one member was adamant he wanted to have a game of darts, we set out to find the nearest pub. He fancied a pint with it too. He hadn't played for twenty years since suffering a stroke. For your information not one pub in Marlborough has a dart board but our intrepid volunteers found a venue in the High Street and three men enjoyed each others' company.

However, the high light event was being Mayor Lisa Farrell's Platinum Guests at the Queen's Jubilee. They felt really special. Theirs were the only tables in the High Street with white tablecloths and plush chairs not to mention three tier cake stands. Marlborough College, Waitrose, Rick Stein and Polly Tea Rooms produced a wonderful spread for them.

Drop in lunch on Thursdays has a lovely atmosphere with several mobility scooters parked outside. The cook aged 80 has moved from York Place to Ramsbury which highlights the problems with public transport in and out of Marlborough. The bus in the mornings is full of St John's schoolchildren half asleep but the return journey after lunchtime service and after school is another matter. We are now making alternative arrangements for his return home.

The Kennet Community Transport that we are dependent on is restructuring, yet another thing to keep us on our toes. This is definitely no time for complacency.

We have a new venture to ensure good use of our premises- a board game afternoon. If you fancy a game of Mah Jong, cribbage or chess (other games are available) come along on a Wednesday at 2pm.

The Carers' Cafe meets monthly in the Jubilee for support and they enjoy Anne's sponge cakes. Wiltshire Sight use the Jubilee to support those who could benefit from practical things.

We are grateful to Jill Turner for organising the Health and Wellbeing event on the 7th October. I'm counting on networking and learning from it to improve our members' experience. With Winter fast approaching, risks of cold weather, flu and covid on the increase our members need all the help we can provide for them in the Jubilee.

With energetic and enthusiastic staff and volunteers we will endeavour to reach out and support more elderly in and around Marlborough.

If you feel you have any spare time, we would also welcome volunteers as we look to increase our teams to deliver Meals on Wheels, a service that seems to be growing again. At the moment that is a cheaper option than coming in for day care. Should the need for warm spaces increase that may change again. We are adaptable.

You are all very welcome to our AGM on 26th October at 6pm in the Jubilee Centre.