

RMBI news



A Christmas affair

All RMBI Homes held a variety of activities over the Christmas period for residents and their families. Below are some of the highlights.

Fancy dress and costumes were high on the agenda at many of our Homes. To spread some Christmas cheer, staff at Cadogan Court, Exeter dressed in fancy dress on Christmas Day. Staff at Prince Edward Duke of Kent Court, Essex held a 'Tea at the Ritz' afternoon and dressed up as 'Nippies' serving a selection of sandwiches and cakes with tea whilst pianist Henry Webster entertained the residents. Shannon Court, Surrey residents got into the festive spirit and wore costumes to take part in Patricia Court's (entertainer) version of Jack & The Beanstalk.

Christmas time always involves a lot of cooking, so residents at Albert Edward Prince of Wales Court, Mid Glamorgan took part in 'Making Christmas puddings'. This activity enabled residents to share recipe ideas and stories whilst cooking. Residents added ingredients, gave the pudding a stir and made a wish. James Terry Court, Croydon residents held a similar activity which was enjoyed by all who participated.

Connaught Court, York had their very own Father Christmas, aka Activity Co-ordinator Ken Hawlor.

Scarborough Court, Northumberland was entertained by various organisations from their local community including local choirs, dancers and a guitarist. Youth brass bands and a local project for adults with learning difficulties also visited residents in the Home.

Many other activities took place in the Homes, ranging from carol singing and services, to making Christmas crackers, parties and lunches.

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Staff spreading Christmas cheer at Cadogan Court.



Residents are the stars of the play at Shannon Court.



Resident Mr Firm with Santa (aka Ken Hawlor).

Residents from the Nursing Unit at Prince George Duke of Kent Court, Kent participated in a Christmas Reminiscence session, where they shared their memories of the festive period and captured it in a poem. The results are below.

Families all together.

I got a dolls pram.

*Dressing the tree on
Christmas Eve.*

I got a china doll.

Freshly baked mince pies.

*I got a doll with wooden legs.
Everyone had a go.*

*Stocking hanging with an
apple and an orange in the
toe.*

*We loved to sing carols all
stood around the Joanna
At last my family are
altogether!*

*Smell of Christmas cooking.
Chicken or a bit of beef.*

*All those favourite presents
that mother made for me.*



Poem by residents: Jane Johnson, Kate Wright, Kay Waghorn, Marie Ives, and Gay Stewart.

Together with local nursery children the residents at The Tithebarn, Liverpool sang Christmas carols and subsequently Harry McLeish distributed sweets. Home Manager Linda Johnson and W.Bro. Laurie Scott, Chairman of the Association of Friends gave out Christmas presents to residents.



Harry McLeish at The Tithebarn.

RMBI Homes, as always, received lots of support from the Masonic groups during the festive period. At Prince Edward Duke of Kent Court, Essex a party was held for residents and families with the help of a group of Masons and their wives known as 'The Potter St. Players' and a Masonic Widows Christmas party was held at Cadogan Court, Exeter. This continued support, dedication and enthusiasm is greatly appreciated by all at the RMBI.

A message from the Chief Executive

I would like to thank all staff for going above and beyond the call of duty during the heavy snow we all experienced last month.



Snowman made at Cadogan Court, Exeter.

At our Homes we saw staff making every effort to travel to their place of work and even staying overnight at the Homes as they were unable to get to their own homes; staff covered each others shifts and most of all staff ensured that the residents were well looked after over the very cold spell.

My grateful thanks and appreciation to you all.
David Innes

Platinum Wedding Anniversary

Jim and Kathleen Beaumont, aged 91 and 93 respectively, celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary at Cornwallis Court, Suffolk. A party was held with a singer where they danced to old-time music and received a presentation of a cake and flowers.



Jim and Kathleen Beaumont celebrate 70 years of marriage.

The couple met before World War Two whilst out dancing and were married in a small ceremony in Clapham, London.

The secret to their long and happy marriage is to say 'I love you' before going to bed each night.

'Rub the magic lamp' - A resident's story

A care home can combine freedom from the stresses of keeping up a home, with the security of knowing that your needs will be met. For some people it not only provides better care, but brings a new lease of life - free from the worries of trying to cope alone. Here John Sherborne shares his story as to how he became a resident at RMBI care home Lord Harris Court, Berkshire.

"It was in January 2008 that I had the stroke which deprived me the use of my left hand and left leg, causing me to spend the remainder of that year in hospital. Whilst there I was told that I would never walk again.

"By the end of 2008 it became clear that my needs had become 'social', rather than 'medical.' Of course I could manage on my own; all I needed was a bit of determination and the odd carer from time to time.

"Despite considerable opposition from many who knew a lot better than me, I was returned to my home where it soon became apparent that I had bitten off a lot more than I could chew. It was not too bad during the day-time when there was a chance of seeing a carer, but at night, once I had been put to bed, I was completely on my own. Three times within three nights, I had to phone for an ambulance to help me out.

"I was back in hospital to have an artery repaired that had been cut when I fell out of bed onto a broken glass. I was still stubbornly adamant that nobody was going to get me in to a home. The authorities were equally adamant that I was not fit to be let loose on my own.

"Fortunately for me one of the Brothers in my Lodge had some experience of RMBI Homes and as they say 'the rest is history'. Since moving into Lord Harris Court I have never looked back. I am well cared for, well fed and if I need help in the middle of the night, all I have to do is rub the magic lamp. Aladdin never had it so good!"

John Sherborne

If you would like some information on RMBI Care Homes, please call 020 7596 2400 or visit our website at rmbi.org.uk



John Sherborne, resident at Lord Harris Court.

Celebrating 108 Years

Mr Walter 'Reggie' Taylor, resident at James Terry Court, Croydon, recently celebrated his 108th birthday at the Home with a glass of champagne and his eighth birthday card from the Queen.

Mr Taylor, believed to be the oldest man in Croydon, credits his long life to having a positive attitude; "Optimism and keeping everything in moderation has kept me going" says Mr Taylor.

By keeping this principle Mr Taylor said "I enjoyed a nice beer when I was younger but have never been drunk and I certainly didn't have champagne on my 21st birthday." Mr Taylor stayed in shape by playing football, rugby and squash which he says has also helped him live longer.

A former Oxford University history student, Mr Taylor spent 50 years teaching in Kenya. He remained healthy and was still living alone, doing his own cooking and cleaning until last September. It was only after a fall that he moved from his home in Wales to South Croydon to be closer to his family.



Mr Taylor celebrates his 108th birthday.

Movement to Music

One of the chief aims of Activity Co-ordinators is to help residents retain and improve their mobility as well as hosting many recreational activities and events at our Homes.

Many RMBI Homes provide Movement to Music classes which have proved to be very popular; the workouts have huge benefits, such as keeping the residents fit, supple and motivated. Exercise can help with arthritic pain, keep residents active for longer and is a great way to socialise with other residents and their families.

At Devonshire Court, Leicester the Movement to Music Group meet every Tuesday and Thursday with 10-20 residents and sometimes some family members taking part. Vicky, the Instructor, divides the time between the Dementia Support Unit and the Main Home and also carries out one-to-one sessions on Wednesdays for residents who are unable to leave their rooms for the main classes.

All the exercises are done to music and residents do as much as they feel they can. Most importantly of all everyone enjoys it.

Devonshire Court resident Mr Edwards said "It's so enjoyable because Vicky the instructor is such good fun, she always involves everyone in the group."



Mr Pope and Vicky working out together.



Mr and Mrs Edwards enjoy a session of Movement to Music.

Pamper Day Out

Residents from Prince George Duke of Kent Court, Kent were invited to Mid Kent College for a pamper session and were greeted upon arrival by students who assisted residents into the college.

Here they were offered options of hairdressing or manicures and then escorted to different rooms where students were waiting to "pamper" everyone.



Lillian Holmes and Elsie Tunnell are welcomed to the college.

Once the pampering sessions were over, residents enjoyed a two course roast dinner, cooked and served by the students at the college.

To end the visit, drama students enacted a cleverly devised short play based on the reminiscence chats they had with the residents on arrival.

Residents had a wonderful day and thoroughly enjoyed the pampering sessions.



Mrs Charlotte Speck enjoys a manicure.

Up close and personal at Woburn Safari Park

Residents from Geoffrey Dicker House of Cornwallis Court, Suffolk had a trip to Woburn Safari Park on a Jumbulance; a vehicle that allows for severely disabled and sick adults and dependent elderly people to travel on outings.

The residents enjoyed a two course lunch after which a Park Ranger guided them around the wild animal park on the bus which was able to get very close to the animals.

The generosity of the Friends of Cornwallis Court made this outing possible; it was a truly splendid day that is still talked about in the Home.



Residents from Cornwallis Court get ready for their lunch at the Safari Park.

The London Appeal raises over £6m for the RMBI

A glittering Gala Ball on 12 November 2009 was held at The Grange City Hotel, St. Pauls, London where the Metropolitan Grand Master RW Bro. Russell Race announced the grand total of £6,333,848.72p raised by London Freemasons for the RMBI.

The London Appeal was launched in December 2004 to promote the raising of funds from Lodges and Chapters within the Metropolitan Grand Lodge. With the outstanding support of the Metropolitan Grand Lodge Executive, Lodge and Chapter Charity Stewards, the RMBI, and generous donations from Lodge and Chapter Relief Chests the Appeal proved to be a great success. Many contributions benefited from the addition of Gift Aid.

Participating Lodges and Chapters achieved various levels of award from the Metropolitan Grand Master/ Metropolitan Grand Superintendent, with 19 obtaining the highest level of award, the Silver Trowel for donations exceeding £25,000. In total 788 Lodges obtained an award and all these also qualify as Grand Patrons of the RMBI. 131 Royal Arch Chapters also obtained awards.



L-R: W.Bro. Suresh Gathani; R.W.Bro. Russell Race, Metropolitan Grand Master; W.Bro. PR Patel; and V.W.Bro Willie Shackell, President of the RMBI.

A very considerable number of Lodges and Chapters organised a variety of events in support of the Appeal. One group of Lodges within the Inspectorate of W Bro Bob Hancock arranged a dinner at the Royal Overseas League on 10 March 2009 which raised more than £71,298.70 and particular thanks should go to the members of Uprightness, Urban, Polaris, Arcturus, Equator, Thornhill and Mahajan Lodges

The RMBI is very grateful for the huge funds raised and thanks all who participated for their generosity.

Online Fundraising – making it easier for you to donate!

The RMBI has registered with the online fundraising website MissionFish.org.uk. In essence, anyone that sells on eBay.co.uk can donate a percentage or all of their profit to the RMBI.

Several hundreds of pounds have been donated in this manner, so if you enjoy using eBay then please consider the RMBI the next time you sell online.

When completing the description of your sale item you will see a field asking if you wish to donate a percentage of your profit to a charity. The RMBI are registered and will be an option to select.

Once the item is sold, MissionFish collects the donation from the seller and distributes the proceeds to the RMBI.

New RMBI Lapel Badge

The RMBI has designed a new 'slim line' version lapel badge. At 18.5mm width by 20mm length this badge will complement any attire whilst showing your support for the RMBI.



New lapel badge

The badges are available for a minimum donation of £2 per badge. Please contact the Fundraising and Donations Team on 020 7596 2400 to order yours.

The Province of East Lancashire launch 2015 Festival for the RMBI

The Province of East Lancashire launched their 2015 Festival for the RMBI with a banquet in November 2009.

The President of the Festival Appeal Committee, RW Bro. Jack Price, PGM, met for pre-dinner cocktails with members of the RMBI.

RMBI attendees and Provincial Leaders greeted the 300 guests who included Masters and Principals from many East Lancashire Lodges and Chapters and many other Brethren and their ladies. During the evening a raffle was held which raised almost £2,500 for the Festival.

The launch of the Festival was celebrated in great style thanks to Brian Durkin and his team who organised the event.

The evening saw RMBI Chief Executive, David Innes, explain the history and the work of the RMBI and his hope that the Festival would be enjoyed by all.

RW Bro. Jack Price thanked everyone for attending and for making the evening such a wonderful success.



PGM Jack Price with RMBI Chief Executive David Innes.

With a tremendous launch, the Brethren and ladies of East Lancashire can look forward to making the Festival a great success.

Please also visit the RMBI website, www.rmbi.org.uk, for more fundraising news.

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