

Swings and Roundabouts

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Dear Carers,

Hello again, we hope that you are all well, and getting along with life as it is. We would like to cheer you up with talk about the summer weather just around the corner, but as it's teeming down rain outside, we'll skip it. Since our last letter the office E-mail address has changed as highlighted above.

Rebecca's Ramblings



As you can see from the Picture I've been to New Zealand. There are so many sheep over there. They have joined in the attraction now sweeping the land. "Bungee Jumping"

They leap head down off a high bridge into the water below; you could say it is a new sheep dipping method. Ha! Ha! I chickened out of it myself.

The holiday itself was great, we toured all over the south and North Islands; it is a spectacular part of the world.

My daughter Sheena got married in February and now lives near Wellington her husband Cameron is a Kiwi of Scots decent. The New Zealand Alzheimer's Society was very much in evidence. An elderly relative who has the disease receives their support she lives in Gisborne. She loves singing and she sang happily while we were there. Her family were quite distressed about the degree of her dementia. However two days following our visit her husband collapsed, she reacted spontaneously and rang the emergency services. Great relief all round.

Rebecca

Christmas Cards.

After last years success in selling Christmas cards, the originals painted by Freda Purcell, a Committee Member, we are delighted that she has painted four new designs for this year.

Our thanks to St. Giles Masonic Lodge for funding the printing of the cards which will be on sale from 1st August 2008 from the branch office.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

July 17 th at Abbey Hill Golf Club, Coffee & Chat	10.30-12.30
July 19 th at Abbey Hill Golf Club, Charity Night,	8pm to late
August 14 th at Abbey Hill Golf Club, Coffee & Chat	10.30-12.30
September 25 th at Abbey Hill Golf Club, Coffee & Chat	10.30-12.30

Memory Walk.

The branch will be holding a memory walk in September (date to be arranged) and invites everyone to join in this event. For more details please contact the branch office.

Drop in.

Each Friday there is a drop in at the branch office to allow anyone to call and see a member of staff or just have a coffee. From the 1st August we will be having painting and crafts, and everyone is welcome to bring along their projects and gain help from volunteers. Freda Purcell will be here for advice on painting most Fridays, so if painting or crafts is your hobby and you think you would enjoy a group setting or you think you would enjoy having a go, come along any Friday from 1st August 10am to 12noon.

IMPACT ON GIFT AID POST APRIL 2008

The Chancellor has reduced the basic rate of income tax from 22% to 20%. This reduction will have a direct impact on fundraising because it will reduce the gift aid that charities can claim from 28p to 25p on every pound donated.

Higher rate taxpayers will benefit by being able to reclaim 25pounds for 100 pound gift. Our Society wishes to highlight the effect of these changes to our supporters and would like to encourage higher rate taxpayers in particular to increase the amount of their donation; this would compensate somewhat for the reduction reclaimed from the lower rate contributions.

The government does plan to launch a campaign to increase awareness of the gift aid scheme, which may help the sector to reduce the impact of the tax change on the value of the gift.

HAVE YOU RECEIVED ANY UNWANTED GIFTS RECENTLY?

Birthdays; Anniversaries: Christmas; Valentine's Day; Fathers and Mother's days - gifts galore, hooray! But are they all useful? If you have any to spare, the Society can use them for fund raising purposes. The next occasion when a stall will be manned is at Great Linford on July 7th. There will also be a fund raising event at Abbey Hill golf Club on 19th July. So, look out those bottles of spirits and wine, cosmetic or other items that you do not want, and let us have them for raffle or sale.

Postage costs, like everything else, are increasing all the time. The cost of posting this Newsletter alone puts a strain on resources. One way to help is to donate postage stamps. Every time you attend an event run by the Branch, dig into your purse or pockets and present your stamps to a member of the staff.

"WE MUST STOP MEETING LIKE THIS!" SAYS PATRICK

In this issue we are delighted to present a personal profile of Frank Wagstaff. Frank is a popular and very active member of the Branch.

Imagine my surprise meeting up with Frank after an interval of some forty years. We were both members of the local hockey club during the 1960's and 70's We actually very nearly won a trophy in July '79 losing only by one goal to the winners from Tring. It goes without saying " It's a small world



Golden Wedding Anniversary February 2002.

Frank Wagstaff.

I was born in Bedford in 1925 and moved to Haversham in 1938, where I was educated at Wolverton Grammar School and first met my future wife Joan Clarke.

After service in Burma, I returned home and started work in a chemical factory at Fenny Stratford, and remained there until retiring in 1989.

I joined the Old Pupils Association and re-met Joan. We married in 1952 and two years later moved to Bletchley, where our three sons were born.

In 1966, with three young children to look after, Joan studied at Bletchley Teachers Training College for two years, and then went on to teach in local schools for 18 years.

After my retirement we had twelve very good years before in 2001 Joan was diagnosed with Alzheimer's.

We joined the local branch of the Society and together spent many happy hours at the Stables helping Lynne. I am interested in computers, and in 2005 I was lucky enough to win the £1000 Willen lottery prize, wishing to pass on this good fortune I was able to update the equipment at the Stables. My son Michael made frequent trips from his home in Surrey to help install the present systems. We then went on to create the web site.

My proudest achievement for the branch however was to be part of the three person selection panel who picked Dee Cope out of over thirty very capable applicants.

In November 2007 I was forced to admit that I was no longer capable of looking after Joan at home, and since then she has been a resident of St. Giles, where she is very happy and extremely well cared for.