

Events and Activities



- I managed to get a grant for £200 from Age UK as part of their Festive Cheer Programme, despite it being heavily over – subscribed. Age UK are aware that elderly people can feel extra lonely or isolated during the festive period. Successful grant applicants had to show how they would overcome this at a minimal cost per head to include entertainment, food and transport. I managed to negotiate a substantial discount with a local magician and we were able to hold two Christmas lunches with all the trimmings, followed by a Magic show. Approximately 50 elderly people were able to attend and help with the magic tricks (with a real rabbit). They also enjoyed some balloon modelling and festive songs.

- Santa managed to spare some time from his busy schedule to visit the Day centre in December to distribute the fantastic Gifts that John Lewis donated through the Giving Tree.



- Two local choirs from Crown Wood and Harmanswater schools also visited the Day Centre to sing a selection of carols to the Day Centre Clients. It is so emotional when music triggers memories and reactions in clients with dementia- there wasn't a dry eye in the house! The children also enjoyed the experience so much after their initial trepidation that they have asked to come back again at Easter!



Members Meeting – 27th February 2013 - Chief Officer's Report

- We distributed 50 Christmas Hampers in partnership with the Kerith Food Bank. Each hamper consisted of three large carrier bags containing two two course meals, a selection of sweets and biscuits and a selection of savoury items (pickles, crisps etc.). This was no mean feat as a lot of bag content juggling was required in order to accommodate the great number of diabetics that we were donating to.

Other Grants and Donations

- Winkfield Parish Council has kindly approved a grant of £505. This has paid for a much needed tumble dryer and some canvases of Bracknell scenes back in the 50's and 60's which are a great reminiscence tool for the Day Centre clients as well as looking great.
- Sadly a couple of clients and former clients have passed away recently. Instead of sending flowers friends and relatives kindly donated to Age Concern in fond memory of the times they had spent at the Day centre. ACBF have benefited from a few hundred pounds in this way.
- £800 awarded by Bracknell Town Council for replacement tables in the day centre.
- £150 awarded by Warfield Parish Council towards minibus expenditure.

News

- In my last report I highlighted that there may be problems with the grant for the Toe Nail Clinic. After some negotiation the NHS has paid us the full grant for the Toe Nail Clinic for this financial year. However in view of the change from the PTC to GP Commissioning there is uncertainty over grant funding for 2013/14. We are currently reviewing the Toe Nail Cutting Service to see if it is possible to run the service at an acceptable cost without a grant from April 2013.
- We are considering taking on an apprentice at the day centre. There are grants available to help with the costs and after initial training there would be a resulting decrease in our overtime costs. We have someone in mind that currently volunteers at the Day centre and is due to leave school in May 2013.
- I attended Bids and Tendering training arranged by Age UK on 4th February. This should prove very useful in the changing economic environment.
- Spring Walk scheduled for 27th April 2013.

Day centre

Unfortunately, the recent snow meant that we had to completely close the Day centre for two days and only offer a reduced service on two others, but we are now back to normal. The closure did allow us to carry out a full Spring Clean of the Day centre. We are in the enviable position to have a waiting list for every day now and have seen an increase in the demand for our "drop in" service too.

We have noticed that a number of clients become agitated or restless on occasion particularly towards the end of the day. To combat this we have invested in a small number of hand held distraction materials – twist and lock blocks, tangle creations, a selection of textured soft balls and a mega sketcher. These have been very successful with a variety of clients. We have also asked a volunteer to make us some "fidget aprons".

