

Welcome to our Autumn Newsletter. By the time you read this a lot will have happened at the Centre.

OUTING TO SOUTHEND.

On the 13th May members visited Southend for the day. Everyone had a great time and the weather was kind to them. There are some more outings to look forward to including Ramsgate/Margate, Brighton in July, Oxford in August, Winchester in September and St. Albans in October

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PLANT SALES

The first of several plant sales to be held on the front of the Centre raised over £280!

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BAZAAR 11th May.

This event raised £700 on the day and £800 from donations, to purchase our new cooker. This was really well attended and lots of volunteers helped on the stalls and in the kitchen. Well done everyone!

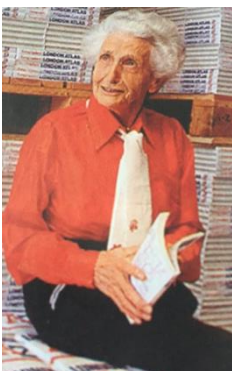
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OUTING TO MARGATE 18th June.

The people who went on this trip were very lucky because they had good weather but in London it rained most of the day. Margate has a beautiful sandy beach which unfortunately was completely empty! However, everyone enjoyed their day and looking forward to going to Brighton, which is the next "away day".

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LONDON A – Z ATLAS.

A photograph of Phyllis Pearsall, an elderly woman with short white hair, wearing a red shirt and a white tie, sitting and holding a book. She is surrounded by shelves of books.

Exploring London on foot is one of the rewarding ways of seeing the capital. Since 1936 one map above all others has been renowned for directing generations along the right route. Copies of the A – Z have been a familiar sight on bookshelves for nearly 80 years. The amazing woman behind the publication of this book was Phyllis Pearsall. She was an artist, writer and publisher and was born in East Dulwich on the 25th September 1906. After many family difficulties she eventually went to France where she eked out a living painting portraits and writing articles. In 1926 she returned to London and married the artist, Richard Pearsall. They lived in Europe for a few years but the marriage didn't last and by 1935 she returned to London to pursue her painting career. Tracing the precise origin of the A – Z leads you down various routes. The more realistic story is that she was working for her father, who had a cartographic company in America, on a mapping project, and the idea came from that. Phyllis always credited her father's encouragement and admits that she wouldn't have become a map publisher if it wasn't for him.

While never claiming that she created the A – Z single handily, it was unquestionably Phyllis's dedication and sheer hard work which gave us the most popular map of London. She established the Geographers' Map Company Ltd. to produce the brilliantly designed and detailed street index.

To compile the map, Phyllis checked 23,000 street names, house numbers, etc., pounding the streets and visiting 31 Borough Surveyor's Departments. This is only a brief story about Phyllis and I have had to leave out many interesting stories relating to this wonderful lady and her dedication in producing this map that we must have all used at some time in our life.

TRIP TO BRIGHTON

This was another successful day out on the 15th July. There were lots to do and see and good food, so what more could you want? Everyone again had a great time, thanks to Gil who organised it.

“Vee” and “Win”.

Vivian Avery and Winnie Cox have been members of our Centre for 35 years, joining at the same time, and known affectionately as “Vee” and “Win”. One would almost take them to be sisters as they are always seen together joining in various activities. They first ran a Blind Club in the Centre when it was known as The Old Peoples Welfare Centre, also taking part in the other activities going on at that time. When the Centre became the Ruth Winston Centre, they joined the Dancing Group still helping in any way they could. They still love dancing and go to the Social Group on a Tuesday. They also enjoy the Sing a Long, run by Chris and Barbara on the third Thursday of the month. “Win” and “Vee” are always to be seen helping at our Bazaars, “Win” on the cake stall and “Vee” in the Edith Simpson Room. They have been friends for over 35 years and love the Centre and how it has developed over the years they have been members.



“Vee” is married to Dennis who celebrated his 90th birthday at the Centre on the 21st June. (see below).

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BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION:

Dennis Avery celebrated his 90th birthday at the Centre, with all his friends on the 21st June. He became a member in 1985 and got involved with the Arnos Group for the Blind, taking over responsibility for members transport and assisting them in numerous ways. He also started the Genealogy group, now fondly known as the “Genies” which continues to flourish today.

Dennis has many interests including a love of railways, which was his career. Also, he is amazingly adept with crafts, building accurate ships/buildings etc. He is also very good at mending watches, over the years, too many to count, they often end up in our bazaars for sale!

Dennis became Chairman of the Trustees in 1998, serving for four years. He has also written a detailed history of the Ruth Winston Centre. An amazing man!!!!

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ANOTHER MEMBER FROM SOUTH AFRICA:



You may remember in the last newsletter I told you about Ramsay who came from South Africa, well, we have another member from there. Her name is Aderne Erlich . She was kind enough to write me an account of her life, which I am sure you will find quite fascinating.....

“I was that horrible precocious child – started school early, and was a qualified primary school teacher at 18. I subsequently got my BA (Honours) and then taught at High School and lectured at Varsity. I had my own school, both in Lesotho (a Kingdom in South Africa) and in Spain. I got married in 1963 and my British Citizenship in 1965. My husband and I travelled extensively. I worked in Saudi Arabia as an Office Administrator, and taught in Pakistan, Spain and Italy. I also worked for Sabena Airlines. I love reading with a passion. When I retired from teaching in 1998, I became an Estate Agent. Also acted in repertory plays. Played the violin in a Symphony Orchestra. Did ballroom dancing and Latin American and won a couple of competitions. Also won a national speech contest. I love reading, writing, sudoku, crosswords, philosophy, art and architecture. I have two children, a son in South Africa and my daughter here in London, with whom I now live.”

Aderne was born in Wolmaransstad, Transval, South Africa. She has been a member of our Centre for three years and attends the Spanish class, plays bridge and whist and comes to the Lunch Club every Thursday.

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DRAMA PRODUCTION:

On the 5th July, The Ruth Winston Playhouse put on two one act comedies. One was called Jolly Jack Tar and the other A Day In Our Office both written by me, Iris Macer, and produced and directed by Yvonne Laws. There was a full house and a £180 was made for the Centre. It was a very successful afternoon and they are looking forward to putting on a show at Christmas. So, thank you for all your support and also to Gill who made two lovely cakes which everyone enjoyed with a cup of tea.

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The Drama Group will be meeting in the Davies room at 2.15pm on the 6th September, being the first Friday.



TANNERS AND BOBS

A LITTLE NOSTALGIA FROM CHRISTOPHER FIRTH



Back in the days of tanners and bobs
When mothers had patience and fathers had jobs
When football team families wore hand me down shoes
And TV gave only two channels to choose

Back in the days of threepenny bits
When schools employed nurses to search for your nits
When snowballs were harmless; ice slides were permitted
And all of your jumpers were warm and hand knitted

Back in the days of hot ginger beers
When children remained so for more than six years
When children respected what older folks said
And pot was a thing you kept under the bed

Back in the days of Listen with Mother
When neighbours were friendly and talked to each other
When cars were so rare you could play in the street

When doctors made house calls, Police walked the beat

Back in the days of Milligan's Goons
When butter was butter and songs all had tunes
It was dumplings for dinner and trifle for tea
And your annual break was a day by the sea

Back in the days of Dixon's Dock Green
Crackerjack pens and Lyons ice cream
When children could freely wear National Health glasses
And teachers all stood at the FRONT of their classes

Back in the days of rocking and reeling
When mobiles were things that you hung from the ceiling
When woodwork and pottery got taught in schools
And everyone dreamed of a win on the pools

Back in the days when I was a lad
I can't help but smile for the fun that I had
Hopscotch and roller skates, snowballs to lob
Back in the days of tanners and bobs

In Memoriam REMEMBERING JANETTE RUBY CODY. 1934-2019 (information kindly given to me by her friend Daphne Shire)



Janette was a dedicated Volunteer at the Centre for many years going back to when Meals on Wheels were delivered from here. She worked in the Office and helped at events. She also volunteered for the Dowsett Club. She worked at the Metal Box Co, in Palmers Green and after she retired, took on running the Pensioners Club, where she organised trips and a yearly reunion dinner. Janette leaves four children and a large extended family. She will be sadly missed.

Our New film Club: There will be a trial run, on Tuesday 27th August, (whilst the Tea Dance is closed for Summer Holidays) in the Davies Room showing **The King & I**. Providing it is popular, it will be continued but on a different day of the week.



We owe an **enormous debt of gratitude**, to all those **Volunteers**, who stepped up and went the extra mile, to keep the Centre going, when we were one member of staff down. Your loyalty was so much appreciated by the Staff and Trustees but please never think your efforts are taken for granted because we cannot manage without you.

Are you struggling to use a new computer, iPad, mobile phone or similar device?
Then join one of our IT classes. Suggestions for help on a similar item, welcome.



Welcome Janet Hicks – New Centre Coordinator

We would like to introduce our newest member to the staff, Janet Hicks, who has taken on the role of Centre Coordinator, which involves managing the front office and coordinating and preparing our classes and activities. If you haven't already, please pop into the office to introduce yourself and welcome her.

Membership Renewal – 1st September

It is that time of year again for you all to renew your membership. We only have one type of membership this year which is £19.50 for an Annual Membership. There is no need to complete a new form this year, just let us know if there are any changes to your information from last year. Please go into the front office to pay your fees (preferably by card), if you haven't already done so.

Important Calendar Dates:

Open Day – To showcase our Centre - Tuesday 24th September 2019

Annual Meeting – Wednesday 23rd October 2019. Commencing 3.00pm

Our Quiz evening 2nd November. with our favourite Quizmaster, Peter Bayman & Joan.

Christmas Bazaar 30th November

PRS Most of you are probably not aware that as a Centre, we have to pay an annual licensing fee for any music (even live) that is played in the Centre, either in classes or events. This is usually in the region of approximately £3,000 pa. I am very happy to inform you that we think that we have managed to negotiate a different tariff and it looks like the new fee may be approximately £1,300, which will really help our outgoings



Sunday Afternoon Teas

We have started to hold afternoon teas to encourage those that are alone at the weekends to come out for some company & entertainment. If these prove popular, we can look at increasing them to fortnightly ones. We started them off on Sunday 28th July with entertainment from Mystic Mark and the Lavender Belles. This was an excellent event and was enjoyed by a full house.



We will do some low-key teas and then do a bigger one every couple of months. Come along and join in the fun. We hope the next will be late September.

Kitchen

We have replaced the Fridge but not the big cooker in the kitchen, which recently starting giving up on us. The reason for delay, is because we believed that it may have been possible to repair, as it is such a good, substantial piece of equipment, however, the parts required are now obsolete, so it will have to be a new one asap. Luckily, we were able to raise most of the money from donations and proceeds from the Spring Bazaar with thanks to our wonderful volunteers and members.

We are now raising money, for either the replacement or the overhaul of the Woodall Unit, which is out the back of the centre. This unit is used as a meeting room and for the Chiropody service as well as other things. Unfortunately, it is very tired and in need of desperate attention. This will not be an instant fix and we will place a fund-raising thermometer in the reception area so that you can follow our progress. Over the next 12 months we are planning on making our way through the centre decorating each room. We would ask for your patience while this work is being carried out.

Thought for the Day. Have you seen our new Notice Boards to add your “Thought for the Day”?

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