



Newsletter Summer Issue 1

Hello everyone and welcome to our first ever Newsletter. We hope it's an enjoyable read and keeps you informed about what's been happening at Gorsey Clough.

It's a work in progress and we encourage Residents, Relatives, Staff and friends of the Home to get involved. Contributions can be in the form of news, short stories, events, poetry or recipes. In fact it can be anything of interest. So get writing!!!

First a message from Collette Conway (Home Manager):

Welcome to Gorsey Clough's first Newsletter. I hope it finds you all in comparatively good health. This year has been a busy year in so far as improving the environment of the Home and will be continued to be improved for the foreseeable future.

Some of the Residents have been on trips out to Blackpool and local centres and they have had several entertainers in house. Our activity organisers are Tracey and Tony who have lined up more events for our Residents.

A first for Gorsey Clough is our Summer Fair on Saturday 9th August 2008. So why not come and join us for a couple of hours. It starts at 1pm and finishes at approximately 4pm. Along with all the different stalls there is music from the Tottington Public Band at 2pm and a show at 3pm by our very own Clougher Bluffers. Please come along and support us and help make it a successful afternoon. I look forward to seeing you there.

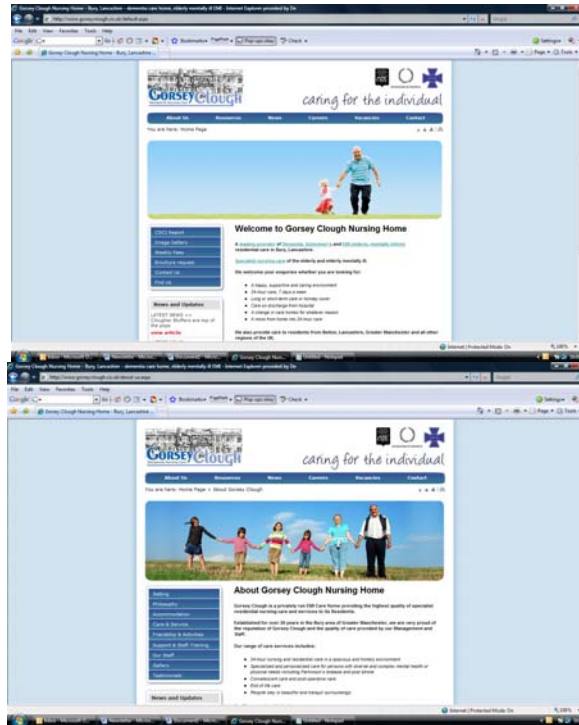
May I take this opportunity to thank all the staff for their continued support and the relatives for attending our functions.

Collette



News

Gorsey Clough's brand new website has gone live!



After many weeks of planning and development Gorsey Clough Nursing Home is proud to unveil its new look website. It's packed full of new features including an Image Gallery, News and Events Section, downloadable reports and documents relating to care of the elderly and much much more. There's even a route planner to find us!

With many thanks to Darren Ratcliffe at Red Star Creative for his help and patience, please familiarise yourself with the site and happy surfing! Our website address is www.gorseyclough.co.uk.

If you have any suggestions as to how we can make the website even better please don't hesitate to get in touch. You can email us on info@gorseyclough.co.uk.

Clougher Bluffers are top of the pops

burytimes.co.uk prestwickandthefieldguide.co.uk radcliffeetimes.co.uk Thursday, May 29, 2008 9

Bluffers are in big demand

STAFF at a Tottington nursing home are going on tour — with their own amateur dramatic group.

Five members of staff, who are all qualified nurses and carers at Gorsey Clough Nursing Home in Horwood Road, are staging their own original theatrical productions, but only for a mature audience.

They have been staging shows at Gorsey Clough for six years, delighting residents and their friends and relatives. But now the word has spread to other homes in the area and the Clougher Bluffers, as they have named themselves, are going on tour.

They have been booked to play at residential homes across the borough, bringing entertainment to a mature audience who would not normally get the chance to go to the theatre.

Manager Collette Conway said, who writes the scripts and makes the costumes and props for the group's plays, said: "It started as a bit of fun but it's grown into a big and a life of its own. None of us thought we had any great talent but we wanted to entertain our residents so we started putting on shows with different themes."

"The residents' friends and relatives started coming to the shows, which became more and more popular and people started saying it was a shame that we only performed each play once, when we put so much time and effort into the costumes and scenery. Now we're in quite high demand."

The Clougher Bluffers stage three shows a year at Gorsey Clough. They next retirement production to be has been *Through the Ages*, which has already gone down a storm at Kildale House in Broadbalkins Road and Moorfields — Residential Home in Tottington Road. Other recent productions have featured scenes from *Oliver* and *Underneath the Stars*.

The plays have become a regular treat for residents but members of staff have also discovered a love for entertainment. One nurse, Len Ward, has even joined the Carol Dooly Theatrical Workshop in Bury and headed off parts to Clougher a song opera *Hollipoden*.

"Some of us have discovered we do have a bit of a talent after all," Collette said. "I think I would have made a good Blue Peter presenter because I've developed a knack for making props out of nothing."

Anyone interested in joining the Clougher Bluffers to play at a residential or nursing home can call Collette on 8336 882 976.



● Theatre for the aged: the Clougher Bluffers at Gorsey Clough Nursing Home (02030614700)

Word has been spreading fast and Gorsey Clough's very own entertainment troupe is finally hitting the headlines with their themed shows. Featured in the Bury Times, the group are finally achieving the recognition they deserve for their very entertaining performances. Playing to a mostly mature audience, the group are in great demand and you're promised an unforgettable experience. Book early to avoid disappointment! Contact Collette at the Home for more information.

Pictured from left to right are: Paula Hardman, Carol Yates, Katie Fletcher, Janet Dawson, John MacGregor (seated), Sue Harland, Anthony Lee Ward, Collette Conway and Anne McKendrey.

A big woof for Ted

A Greyhound came to visit the Residents at Gorsey Clough for the first time in June. Ted, from charity Pets as Therapy (PAT) made a big impression with everyone at the Home and the Residents are missing him already. Nurse Anne McKendrey thought 'what a big softie he was' and Resident Mary Barlow said how much she enjoyed spending time with her new friend. We wish to thank his owner Marie Lilley for bringing him and taking time out from their busy schedule to come up to the Home. We can't wait to see him back!

Pets as Therapy (PAT) is a national charity that provides therapeutic visits to hospitals, hospices, nursing and care homes, special needs schools and a variety of other venues by volunteers with their own friendly, temperament tested and vaccinated dogs and cats.

The great escape!

Wartime evacuees who escaped to Tottington

'I'd never seen cows or sheep before,' says Ethel



Spending the war years on a Tottington farm where they became firm friends are (from left) Ethel (now Buxton), Sheila (now Asperwick) and Sylvia (now Farnworth)

INTERVIEW
reunited after nearly 50 years apart.

Sheila Elliot, Sylvia McHale and Ethel Walton were evacuated from the back streets of Manchester to a farmhouse here at Tottington when the Second World War broke out.

The women last met in 1962, but never forgot each other, and finally got back for a long overdue reunion.

Ethel, 70, of Farnworth, Westwood, said: "I'd wondered in one way another again. We started to get letters in the post but they were mostly letters from people who were not interested in us."

In September 1945, the outbreak of the Manchester was an industrial town, with a gas works and a large, as it was found that didn't would be an air raid target.

The trio were among eight children from Queen Street School sent to Anne Hawthorn's Cotswold Cottage Farm in Tottington to escape Hitler's bombs. Sheila was nine years old at the time and thought she was

going for a weekend camp. The great grandmother of the (7), who was born in Manchester, said: "We had no idea what war was and thought it was a holiday, but we ended up staying there for four years."

One of the Queen Street pupils sent west back to Bradford, as the first few months of the war were spent.

Sheila, Ethel, and Sylvia stayed at a Tottington until they had to return to their Manchester school.

After the war, the women drifted apart. But they were brought back together after news of their births. "I, a retired teacher from Chorley, wrote a book about the wartime experiences and received press coverage.

All their reasons, they shared photographs, newspaper headlines of how they were in Tottington, and they met in 1962.

Sheila said: "Over the years I had realised how well placed we were. We had our own little garden plot and we used to take produce home to our parents. We were well fed, and well looked after."

"We never knew for the school children and our mothers came to see us every Sunday afternoon.



• We'll meet again: wartime evacuees reunited after almost 50 years. (From left) Sheila Elliot, Sylvia McHale, and Ethel Walton.

It was our mothers who took the girls, because they received their children weekly.

Ethel, a former primary school teacher, laughed as she remembered how she had never seen cows or sheep before being evacuated. But she is really proud when she recalls her first experience in the destination she had escaped. She said: "In the garden at Cotswold Cottage Farm we had our own

plot with air conditioning. It was six feet deep. One day we were taken out to the garden and down where Manchester was burning.

"It's not to think that our families were there, she said. "I can still see the flames." Ethel also remembers how hard it was to adjust when they moved back to Manchester in 1945.

She said: "It was worse when we came back. Friends didn't want to have me because you had changed your way of thinking. I had not changed. My father had died, my brother had joined the forces, and the world had moved."

Walton managed to escape the bombing in World War Two, but eventually Tottington was struck months after the girls had gone back home. Some people thought a German pilot intended to drop a bomb on Cotswold Cottage Farm.

Gorsey Clough Nursing Home has found it's way into the local history books. And into the Bury Times. Again!

Three childhood friends were reunited for the first time in 50 years and reminisced of their time at Gorsey Clough Farm - now Gorsey Clough Nursing Home. Sheila Elliot, Sylvia McHale and Ethel Walton were evacuated from the back streets of Manchester to the farm at the start of Second World War. The trio were among eight children from the same school sent to the farm to escape Hitler's bombs. They ended up staying there for four years.

In the garden at Gorsey Clough, Ethel recalls there being "an air raid shelter with air conditioning that was six foot deep" and their own little garden plots where they'd grow vegetables and fruits. If only we were as self-sufficient at the Home now! And given the warm weather, an air conditioned room would be nice. Directors please!

Well done to our Staff



Denise Metcalfe on her Team Leading NVQ 2 award



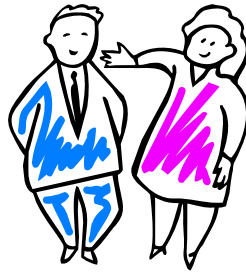
Erik Chappell on his NVQ 2 award in Painting and Decorating.

Housekeeping team clean up with NVQs



Many congratulations to Tracey and her team for their hard work which has finally paid off. They all now hold NVQ Level 2 qualifications in Housekeeping and Cleaning Services. Well done!

Pictured from Left to Right are Tracey Roughley, Angela Palk, Carol Smiley and Nural Hardman.



A big welcome to our new members of staff

- Sangeeth Joseph RGN (Staff Nurse – days)

Sangeeth or Joseph, as he likes to be called, is originally from Kerala in India and joins us from Priory High Bank Neuro-Rehabilitation Centre in Bury. His background is in Surgical and Intensive Care nursing. Joseph enjoys sports, music and travel.

- Sima Ghadiry (Care Assistant –days)

Sima joins us having worked as a RGN in Ghochan, Iran. Her background is in Coronary Care and surgical nursing. Sima's interests include books, photography and listening to music.

- Dr. Talhat Afzal (Care Assistant – nights)

Talhat is a qualified medical doctor and is from Pakistan. He speaks Russian having trained as a doctor in St. Petersburg and is working towards his professional exams to qualify as a doctor in the UK.

- Urszula Jaszczak (Care Assistant – days)

Ursula is a trained nurse specialising in health protection and medical care and is originally from Wroclaw in Poland. She joins us from Nazareth House. She likes gardening and going swimming.

- Beata Abramowicz (Domestic Assistant)

Beata is also from Wroclaw and joins us from Craig House where she worked as a kitchen assistant. Her interests include sport and reading.

- Natalie Tobin (Kitchen Assistant)

Natalie is from Bury and has recently completed her GCSE's. She likes to spend time with her friends and going to the cinema as well as using the computer. Natalie is looking forward to a future career in the care industry.



Staff Member profile

Joan Lawton (domestic)



How long have you been working at Gorsey Clough?

21 years this Christmas.

What made you decide to come and work here?

My husband and me lived in Wales for 13 years and we came back to Bury looking to retire. I came to Gorsey Clough for 6 months until retirement. I thought it was a worthwhile job to do. Initially, I worked as domestic in the evenings and then worked full time days during the week. I worked full time here until I was 70 years old.

Have you seen a lot of changes over the years at the Home?

Yes, a lot of changes! The Home has improved a lot over the years. Staff moral is better, the food is better and the Décor and surroundings. Also, the type of Residents has changed. They used to walk all round the Home, some of them 3 times a day.

What do you like most about working at Gorseley Clough?

The companionship. The nice atmosphere. Doing a good job and the money of course!

What do you dislike about working at Gorseley Clough?

Wiping the floors.

What is your most memorable experience of working at the Home?

The presentation made to me for 20 years service at the Home. That was really nice. The concerts as well.

What did you do before you worked at Gorseley Clough?

I was a shopkeeper for 20 years. The first time was 10 years running fruit and veg stalls and a warehouse on Bury Market in partnership with my brother-in-law 35 years ago. Then I ran a greeting card shop in Bury town centre for five years selling model Airfix kits and handicrafts. I then worked for the Electric Board in the accounts department for five years. From there, I moved with my husband to Dinasdinlle beach, Carnarvon in North Wales. We bought a house with 7 acres and we rented out three caravans in the grounds.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

Work for the animal charity RSPCA, cooking and reading.

How would you like to be remembered?

For what I've done for animals.

If you could change anything in the world, what would it be?

I'd like to change how animals are treated and bring in more legislation to prevent cruelty to animals.

If you were on a desert island what three essential items would you bring with you?

My cat Blackie, a radio and medicine.

Interesting facts about Joan.

She founded RSPCA Carnarvon in North Wales and is a Trustee of Bury RSPCA.

Her husband Brian husband also worked at Gorseley Clough as a cleaner 16 years ago.

Resident Profile

Elizabeth (Betty) Wildgoose



How long have you been a Resident at the Home?

Since December 2002.

Where did you grow up?

In a mining community in a little village in Durham called Seaham Harbour on the North East Coast. I remember it was always bitterly cold off the sea. But I loved it. My Father used to take me and my sisters out fishing in a Cobble boat which had oars. I had 4 sisters and 2 boys and I was the second youngest.

What did you do before you retired?

I was a Nurse. Then a shop assistant. And I did volunteer work.

What is your favourite book?

Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson

Who is your favourite actor?

Clark Gable

Did you have any pets when you were growing up?

We had lots of dogs. My favourite was a greyhound called Little Suey.

Most memorable experience?

My first day starting at the hospital as a nurse.

What type of music do you like?

Good music. Some pop music I like Tom Jones.

Games

How to play Dominoes



Instructions

Things You'll Need:

- Dominoes
- Pencils
- Scoring Pads

- 1.Count that there are 28 dominoes, from double blank to double six.
- 2.Place them facedown on the table and shuffle them until they're random.
- 3.Allow your opponent to take seven dominoes, and take seven for yourself.
- 4.Allow the player with the highest double to go first.
- 5.Lay a domino with like value next to the first domino (it doesn't matter which end). Make sure like values are always touching.
- 6.Pick from the pile if you don't have a domino that corresponds to the ones on the layout. Keep those dominoes concealed from your opponent(s).
- 7.Pass if no more dominoes are left in the pile.
- 8.Win the session if you're the first person to run out of dominoes.
- 9.End the session if everybody passes, in which case the winner is the person with the lowest score.
- 10.Count your score by the number of dots on the tiles remaining in your hand.
- 11.End the game if someone reaches 50 points in a game with two players or 100 points with three or more players. The lowest score wins.

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"BEEN HERE LONG?"



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