

## This months news

We hope that you all enjoyed Easter, in spite of the terrible weather, hopefully Spring is just around the corner and we will soon be able to sit out in the garden.

Thank you for returning the questionnaires, they really do help us, when we are planning the activities. If you have not completed yours, it is not too late to hand it in.

A number of residents would like to have something in the evenings, so we will be trying this out, watch the diary for date.

### Birthdays in April

Edith Chessum-3rd  
Eleanor Jones-5th  
Freda Kerr-18th  
Mavis Cannell-22nd

**Happy Birthday**

### New Residents



No new residents this month

### Birthstone for this month Diamond

The healing properties of the April birthstone are reputed to be effective for health problems relating to brain diseases & pituitary glands. The Diamond is also used to draw out toxins and therefore was used as a remedy for poison.



### Staff News

We are pleased to welcome Mona back after the birth of Alexander

## Poem

### April Rain

The wild sweet rain of April spills  
On golden - throated daffodils,  
On garden wall and new green bough,  
On earth fresh - turned before the plough.  
It scrubs the pansy's small shy face  
And shines each blade of grass in place  
To leave the springtime world aglow,  
And lift my heart to walk tiptoe.



### Museum Talk by Mr. Brian Adams

This talk by a director of The St. Albans museum was well attended and proved very interesting.

The talk was competently delivered and was illustrated by 2 large boxes of items from the museum, of the Victorian era, which were explained and passed around, during which the speaker gave facts and descriptions of how St. Albans looked at that time. The exhibits included hats (made in Luton), many items of clothing of the time, together with heavy boots and shoes, and household items, all of which were used in those days.

It proved a very pleasant and worthwhile activity.

*Written by Edmund Barnes*

### John Wheeler

John Wheeler, who is an old friend of Freda Kerr, came to play and sing for us.

In this photograph we can see Alf joining in with the singing. It was a most enjoyable morning.



# Cooking



Monday the 10th we enjoyed a cake making session, although only a small number of residents came we made a variety of cakes. Chocolate chip, lemon, raisin and walnut and my favourite pineapple upside down cake.

While we were waiting for the cakes to be cooked we reminisced over the days when we made our own cakes for fairs or families, and decided that we should put a scrap book together of the cakes we were famous for. Dorothy Miller was famous for her apple scones and Gwyneth Collins for her bread. So if any one has a favourite recipe they would like to share we can compile a book of secret recipes.



## Annette's Message

### Meals

A new comment sheet is to be introduced with reference to our food service. We do offer a very good food service with both choices and quality of food, which compares favourably with some of the other homes in the area, who charge considerably more for the services they offer. Please use the forms for positive comments as well as issues, although we would request that if you have a problem with your meal that you bring this to the attention of the staff at the time to be dealt with then.

# Word Search

## Flowering Plants



ASTER	DODDER	ORCHID
AZALIA	GARDENIA	PEONY
BLADDERWORT	GERANIUM	POPPY
BLUEBONNET	GOLDENROD	RAGWEED
CAMELLIA	HIBISCUS	ROSE
CHICKWEED	HONEYSUCKLE	SAGE
CLEMATIS	IRIS	SUNFLOWER
COCOA	IXIA	TANSY
COLUMBINE	KAVA	TULIP
CROCUS	KUDZU	VETCH
DAFFODIL	LARKSPUR	VIOLET
DAHLIA	LILAC	YUCCA
DAISY	LOCUST	ZINNIA



STUART'S GARDEN CORNER

## MARCH/APRIL

What a dreadful start to spring! Rain (lots), sleet, snow and very blustery winds. That reminds me of a short poem.

A kite, a sky, and a good firm breeze,  
And acres of ground away from the trees,  
And one hundred yards of clean, strong string –  
O boy, O boy! I call that Spring!

Anyway back to the garden, not a lot doing at the moment with the adverse weather, but it is a good time for a tidy up and to give roses a top dressing of fertiliser having already pruned them in November to stop wind-rock. The vegetable garden, as requested, is in place at the side of the shed and given a bit of fair weather, will hopefully be put to good use soon, any tips would come in handy as this will be a learning curve for me having concentrated on ornamental gardening only. It has been a good season for Daffodils and Tulips and the Magnolia along the west wing, given a bit of sun looks stunning.

On the subject of Tulips, did you know that they were originally from Persia and introduced in the Netherlands in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Hybrids were a scarcity and a symbol of high status and soon became very popular as a trading product. In 1636/37 'Tulipmania' exploded on the scene with a bed of Tulips worth the value of a small house in Amsterdam! The bulbs became currency and were quoted on the stock market.

The meanings of a Tulip are: Perfect lover and fame.

## Diary dates For this month

Flossy PAT Dog - Tuesday 1st  
Church service - Friday 4th  
Residents Meeting - Wednesday 16th  
Age Concern Advocacy - Wednesday 16th

Every other Monday - Chiropodist  
Weekly - Hairdresser  
Every Thursday Morning – Shop

We hope you enjoyed reading this newsletter.

If you would like to contribute an article for the next addition, have any ideas or have any questions regarding the residents newsletters please speak to Stephanie Horsford or Siouxsie Liddle

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