



Mariners' Park News Summer 2017

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A few words from Mick Howarth

Dear Resident

Welcome to the Summer Newsletter, and an especially warm welcome to the many new residents to Mariners' Park this quarter.

It has been a particularly busy summer so far. The completion of the splendid Seafarers UK Centenary Wing has significantly extended the Trinity House Hub to now provide 40 apartments. We were, of course, delighted to welcome HRH, The Earl of Wessex, to officially open the new Wing, and you can see a selection of photographs from the special day inside the Newsletter.

The completion of the building also triggered the start of residents moving out from Ismay and Cliff Drive, and Wester Avenue - with some residents moving to the new Wing and others to properties across the Park. For a five week period we had someone moving into a property about every day, including new residents moving to the Park.

The Estate Team staff have worked wonders preparing properties ready for occupation, and a big "Thank You" is also due to Amy, Greg and the Domiciliary Team for their part in organising the moves and helping residents move in.

Of course, we are not resting on our laurels and work will soon commence on the new 12 place apartment scheme in Ismay Drive, and the two new bungalows to be built in Webster Avenue. The Demolition Surveys have been completed and Tysons, who built the Centenary Wing, have been appointed to undertake the work. Work will start in earnest in mid September and will last 12 months.

The new developments are costing some £1.8 million, and are being funded from the Charity's investments, plus a grant of £580,000 from the Aged Veterans Fund. This Fund has been formed from the so-called LIBOR fines, fines banks were ordered to pay for manipulating the interbank lending rate. The £580,000 will fund the 2 new bungalows in Webster Avenue and two of the 12 apartments. We believe this will be the first accommodation to be built specifically for Merchant Mariner veterans - something we are very proud to support.

You will find plenty of information about an array of summer activities in this edition including information about our Summer Fayre on the 19 August.

Let's hope for some good summer weather. The new landscaped gardens at the back of the Hub are a lovely spot on a summers afternoon. Do go and see the new pond and seating area there if you haven't already discovered it.

My best wishes for the summer.
Mick Howarth, Welfare Services Manager



Anne Kelly—Volunteering Work



Anne Kelly has been a resident of Mariners' Park for the past nine years. She runs a charity shop one week a year and holds a weekly car boot sale to help raise funds for Child Death Helpline.

Anne is also a volunteer on the helpline, which gives help to anyone affected by the death of a child of any age.

Anne said "I would love to hire the shop three times a year, but my bungalow resembles Steptoe's back yard." Anne thoroughly enjoys the weekly car boot, there is no outlay, everything is donated, HINT HINT!!

Anne said "I do the fundraising in honour of our son, we are not able to celebrate any birthdays, or help him out on holidays, and the general things parents do for their child. So each time I walk into the Centre or get up early to do a car boot sale, I feel I am giving to James and all of our children. If any of you feel you could do this type of fund raising the rewards far out-weigh the early mornings, cold and wet weather.

From more information on the child death helpline visit the website:
www.childdeathhelpline.org

If you have any items that could be sold in either the shop or one of the car boot sales please let Sharon, Annette or Julia know in the Hub reception and they will pass your details on to Mrs Kelly.



Summer Fair



Summer Fair

**Saturday 19th August
10.00am till 2.00pm**

**Raffle, Sweets, Bric- a-brac
and a Tombola and much
much more...**

Mavis Edwards—Celebrates Memorable 90th Birthday

The irrepressible Mavis had the party atmosphere buzzing in the Mersey View lounge when family, friends and associates gathered together to celebrate her 90th birthday. Indeed such were the numbers of well wishers, that extra chairs had to be drafted in as the afternoon progressed.

Allow me to set the scene with just a little background. Mavis Lillian Grayson Edwards bowed into the world on Friday July 29th 1927, the youngest child of mother Josie and father Joseph Thompson. Mavis survives her 4 brothers Victor, Bill, Percy and Jim. At the tender age of 6 Mavis moved to Poole Road where her family set up home.

In 1949 Mavis married and took over the family home. Mavis's late husband, the late Captain Earnest Edwards, was a master mariner who joined Mersey Ferry Company after leaving the Royal Navy at the end of WW2. The couple raised two children, daughter Pauline followed by son Allan.

Some 74 years after arriving in Poole Road, Mavis made the half mile journey to Mariners' Park in 2007. Settling in 25a Webster Avenue Mavis adjusted well to life on Mariners' Park, where her kind and generous personality together with a girlish sense of mischief made her popular with Nautilus staff. Her adventures of feeding the Park fox and songbirds rapidly established Mavis as a popular, respected and well liked resident.

When work commenced on Phase One Trinity House Hub, Mavis was initially reluctant to leave her apartment. Her relocation to Mauritania, a lovely double-fronted bungalow in King George Drive, Mavis soon settled in finding she could entertain visitors in sumptuous comfort and further indulge her fox, songbirds and other wildlife in her rear garden.

In 2014, Mavis was again reluctant to relocate, this time into the newly completed Trinity House Hub. She soon adapted to life in the state of the art accommodation designed for residents, some of whom require that little extra domiciliary care and support. Mavis's adventures continued on hot summer days when she lowered ice cold cans of drinks from her first floor balcony, on a length of string to Dave and his team of gardeners



Mavis Edwards—Celebrates Memorable 90th Birthday

Mavis deep love of animals stems back to her days in Poole Road, where a succession of Giant Chows were her pride and joy. In later life Mavis fostered a Dalmatian called Dave. Mavis and Dave's walks down the Green Hill and along the Merseyside Magazines Promenade meeting and greeting other dog walkers became a daily feature that you could set your watch on.

Winston, the imposing China Bulldog who watches proudly over the Jubilee Room is alas, all that remains of Mavis's life with dogs. Winston was a gift from her grandsons and has been with her for over 30 years. Mavis love of animals continues, as Care Home residents know well, with the chirping budgerigars that have been an ever present part of her life. She was also famed for 'Polly' the African Green Parrot that was part of her life for.... Mmm 60+ years but nobody is really sure as parrots seem to live forever.



Mavis was born into a very different world to the one we know today. In 1927 Helen Moody beat Lili Alvaruis to become Wimbledon Ladies champion and Henri Cochet defeated Jean Bortra to lift the mens crown. British Broadcasting was granted a Royal Charter and the BBC was born. The first telephone call was made between New York and London and the BBC made its live sports broadcast covering the Rugby union international between England and Wales.

Mavis grew up during the Great Depression of the 30's and lived through the terrors of WW2. Her father refused to allow his daughter to be evacuated. Her recollections of the Luftwaffe bombing raids of the Port of Mersey are sobering, graphic and vividly detailed. Indeed such was the fear in the household during those dark war years that a special knife was kept on hand to dispatch the family if a Nazi invasion succeeded.

Mavis was a gifted seamstress, needleworker and knitter. She was especially proud to gain a City and Guild seamstress qualification. Her life blossomed through the 1950s and 60s as she went on to build a very successful career with the company we now know as BT.



Mavis Edwards—Celebrates Memorable 90th Birthday

Mavis was the inspiration that ran the BT Staff Tontine for many years. Her retirement was marked by a great celebration party in BT's Old Hall Street premises. It was a memorable and emotional occasion full of flowers, gifts and goodwill a plenty. Loved and respected by all those fortunate enough to know her, Mavis is indeed quite a woman.

She defies the impact of advancing years and continues to show the aspiration, stoicism and determination that defines her generation. Her 90th Birthday Celebration was a wonderful day that is only befitting such a great lady.

Grandson Christopher and his partner Faye travelled from Devon together with daughter Pauline and son in law Colin. Grandson Jim and his daughter Bridget completed four generations of Mavis's family. A galaxy of friends and associates, too many to list, gathered with other residents and staff to make this a special occasion. Special thanks go to the ubiquitous Michelle who single handed served as an excellent stewardess throughout the afternoon.



Hearing of the celebration Mavis nephew Tony Edwards and his sister (Mavis's niece) Barbara Johnston, who Mavis has not seen for over a quarter of a century turned up to reminisce of happy family gatherings shared with Mavis in their youth.

The afternoon was topped by a short, emotional and inspirational speech from Mavis who thanked all for helping to make this such a special day.

Ninety one next and then the Big 100 still very much in Mavis's sight.



Face of Nautilus Welfare Fund - Julia Murphy

Hello, I am Julia Murphy and I'm working as an administrator in The Trinity House Hub for six months.

Since qualifying with a Russian degree, I have worked as an administrator and PA for twenty years in a variety of settings, including the Civil Service, museums, business travel, IT and even in a meditation retreat centre. I've lived in many different places in the UK and recently re-settled in the North after six years in the Channel Islands.

In my spare time, I enjoy practising holistic therapies, I am a qualified Reiki practitioner, aromatherapist and crystal therapist. I have recently started running and I also enjoy photography and studying something new, recently attaining a counselling skills qualification.



Staff News

Welcome to ...

Nautilus Care

Shirley Bull
Holly Seeley
Janet Howson
Gilly Downie
Julia Murphy



Estate Team

Congratulations to Dave Clark who has become a father for the first time.
Baby Lucas born on 11 July weighing 9lb 6oz.



Mariners' Park Care Home

Chick Watch 2017!!

Easter was an “Eggciting” time for us in the care home. As many of you know, and may have seen, we had hatching eggs which arrived just before Easter. We're very proud to say they all hatched out and we had 11 baby chicks that stayed with us for just over a week. We met their new Mum and Dad who picked them up and took them to their new life at a free range farm in Oswestry.



Mariners' Park Care Home

On Thursday 27th of April, we celebrated the Queen's birthday a little late with a best of British lunch. Alan made us a delicious homemade chicken pie.



Mariners' Park Care Home

We decided in May we fancied a trip out and enjoyed afternoon tea and live entertainment at the Floral Pavilion in New Brighton.



Mariners' Park Care Home

As Pa Larkin would say, we enjoyed “a bit of a do” after Prince Edward opened the Hub.....A meal fit for a King (or a Queen), washed down with plenty of gin and tonics and Pimm’s and lemonade!



Mavis had a prime spec from the Mersey View as did Stan from the Pacific Lounge!



Lunch is served



Mariners' Park Care Home



Our fabulous bar tenders ...

Let the good times roll!!



Mariners' Park Care Home



We enjoyed a lovely afternoon on 22nd July when 30 members of the brilliant “Sing Me Merseyside” choir came to the care home. They made a huge impact on all and sang all of our favourite tunes.



Social Zone

WEEKLY EVENTS

Monday

Coffee morning
10.30am
Jubilee Lounge, Care Home

Tuesday

Sit Fit
10.00am
Function Room, Hub

Bridge Club
2.00pm,
Hobbies Room, Hub

Thursday

Craft Club
10.00am
Hobbies Room, Hub

Friday

Home Visits
from 9.30am
Audrey will call you directly to make an appointment

Social Zone

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 15th August

VJ Day Service

gathering at the Atlantic Memorial Stone at 10.45am, followed by light refreshments in the Function Room, Hub

Saturday 19th August

Summer Fair

Starting 10.00am till 2.00pm

All donations appreciated

Monday 4th September

Merchant Navy Day Service

gathering at the Atlantic Memorial Stone at 10.45am, followed by light refreshments in the Function Room, Hub

Thursday 7th September

Activities Meeting

to discuss the next few months of activities and to see if there are any new ideas, starting at 2.00pm Hobbies Room, Hub

Tuesday 19th September

BBQ afternoon

starting at 1.00pm

Function Room, Hub

Friday 29th September

Macmillan Coffee Afternoon

starting at 2.30pm

Function Room, Hub

please contact Audrey Stocker, Activities Co-ordinator
at the Hub on 0151 346 8840

Official opening of the SeafarersUK Centenary Wing



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Men's Activities Co-ordinator



Rose Ann Derby



John James Derby

Unsung Heroes

How many of us have unsung heroes in our family?

Men and women that worked hard for their family, did their very best, but it didn't always work out for the best.

Joan Smethurst, one of our residents, here at Mariners' Park, has kindly supplied me with details of her grandfather, a Mariner named John James Derby and his wife, Rose Ann Derby. Although John had seven grandsons only Joan, one of his granddaughters, followed him and her father into the Merchant Navy. Joan served on the Empress of Canada, Empress of England, then went to Heysham and served on the Duke of Argyll, and finally finished her maritime career on the Ulster Queen.

John James Derby (nicknamed Jack), was born in Prescot in 1879, the youngest of six children of parents from Belfast, and at the age of nineteen married Rose Ann Ahearn in Liverpool in 1898. It was a sad life for both John and Rosie as they had 14 children, but 11 died before they reached adulthood.

John survived fighting in the Southern Cape as a private in the 5th Battalion, South African regiment, sending home an ostrich feather for his wife, which the family still has in its original tissue paper packaging.

When he came home from the Boer War he was working in a quarry as a labourer.

Men's Activities Co-ordinator



John James Derby

Rank

Fireman and Trimmer

Unit

S.S. "Baldersby" (West Hartlepool)

Regiment

Mercantile Marine

Died

08-09-1918, age 39

Cause of death

Killed, as a result of an attack by an enemy submarine

Notes

Son of the late Thomas and Ann Derby; husband of Rose Ann Derby (nee Ahern), of 58, Arlington Street, Liverpool.

John then joined up as a merchant navy seaman, and when World War I broke out he joined the S.S Baldersby (3613 grt, built 1913), as a fireman and trimmer. Ropner Line ships were seconded by the Royal Navy and became know as 'Ropner's little navy'. Jack wrote to wife Rose about the terrible living conditions on board the ships ploughing their way across the North Atlantic

Unfortunately for John, Ropner was not a lucky shipping line. When the first world war broke out they had a fleet of 57 steamers sailing out of West, at the end of the war, when the armistice was signed, there were only 21 left.

It was on one of those voyages that John's luck finally ran out. On September 28, 1918 the Baldersby was sailing from Canada to England with 5,912 tons of oats and wheat, when she was torpedoed without warning by German submarine UB 91, sinking her with the loss of two lives - John and a crewmate, who was also a fireman and trimmer.

How Rose coped without any form of pension we will never know, and though it's fair to say that both her and John are unsung heroes, its nice to think that their descendants live on, and as we remember Rose here, and all the women who suffered the hardship and struggle after losing their husbands. John is remembered on the Tower Hill Memorial in London, which commemorates men and women of the Merchant Navy and fishing fleets who died in both world wars and have no known grave.

Men's Activities Co-ordinator

H.M.S Thetis M.N.A Memorial Service RNA Club Birkenhead



Representatives from Mariners' Park accepted a kind invitation, from the M.N.A , to attend a dignified and touching service for all those lost in the H.M.S Thetis disaster.

Survey



“Our Forgotten War Heroes” Veterans from the Merchant Navy, Fishing Fleet and RFA

Why take part?

The Institute of Public Care at Oxford Brookes University is carrying out research funded by the Aged Veterans Fund on behalf of Seafarers UK and Nautilus Welfare Fund. The study is looking at the health and social care needs of all who served on a civilian vessel whilst it was supporting HM Armed Forces and who are now recognised as Veterans. Improving our understanding will help us plan support services better in the future.



Who should complete the survey?

We are particularly interested in people born before 1st January 1950, however we would also like to hear from younger veterans who were members of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary, the Merchant Navy or the fishing fleet and served on a civilian vessel whilst it was supporting HM Armed Forces.

How to complete the survey?



The survey will take no longer than 10 minutes to complete and your details will remain confidential and will not be used for anything apart from the purposes of this research.

Either you, your spouse, partner or case worker can complete the survey.

You can complete the survey online at

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ZFSQHGD>

or complete and return a hard copy (from the Hub reception) using the self-addressed envelope.

The survey closes on 31st August 2017

For more information contact Dr Miguel Sharpe at
msharpe@brookes.ac.uk

Office Closed

Nautilus House and Hub Reception
will be closed on:
Bank Holiday
Monday 28 August



Welcome

We would like to welcome some new residents to Mariners' Park:

Mr Egan
Mr and Mrs Milligan
Captain and Mrs Roberts
Mr and Mrs Brannon



Up To Date Information

Have you changed your contact details or has your next of kin moved? If so, or you think we may hold the wrong details for you or any family members/friends /doctors etc, please telephone Sharon on 346 8840 and ask for a Residents' Contact Sheet. All information is kept confidential.

