

## **P.A.T. DOGS PETS AS THERAPY**

In 1983 the late Mrs Lesley Scott-Ordish founded the charity P.A.T. Dogs, a national home and hospital visiting scheme, through which carefully screened dog owners and their dogs visit the sick and elderly on a regular basis. Very many elderly people have had to part with a much loved pet when they have had to go into Residential Care and this often causes much sadness and trauma.

In 1990 we were privileged to be chosen as suitable owners with suitable dogs to become members of P.A.T. Dogs charity and ever since then we have visited Langston House Residential Home for the elderly in Milton under Wychwood every Saturday afternoon.

We have found it very rewarding and have many times been so pleased to see the smile, the outstretched hand and the turning of the head when the dogs come into the room. We answer endless questions such as, "What are their names?" "How old are they?" and "Are they good friends? with comments like "She's just like my old Judy" or "We had one like that at home" often lead to more conversation and happy memories are relived. The dogs love it too and will often stand on hind legs to whisper in an elderly ear or plant a wet kiss on a cheek.

P.A.T. Dogs are everywhere, in fact there are now about 10,000 such dogs up and down the country, visiting the elderly in homes, hospitals and day centres. For further information please contact 01295 780247.

Jane Lewis.

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## **The Gardeners Royal Benevolent Society**

A Coffee Morning will be held at the Tiddy Hall, Ascott under Wychwood on 13th August 1998 from 10.00 am - 12.30 pm.

There will be a Raffle and a Sales Table full of interesting things to buy from Gardeners' Hand Cream to Special Offers on your early Christmas Cards.

We are also having a Bring and Buy Table, the proceeds of which will be donated to the Ascott New Pavilion Fund.

The G.R.B.S. has been helping retired gardeners and their partners for nearly 160 years and today assists more than 500 beneficiaries with sheltered accommodation, special needs grants, holidays, support and advice.

For full time gardeners who devote their lives to caring for the nation's parks and gardens, life can be tough, especially when they reach retirement.

Please come along and give your support to this very worthy charity and help make it an enjoyable and successful event.

Kathy Pearce.