

Wychwood Day Centre Celebrates

Imagine an organisation where people give their time voluntarily to make life better for older folk in the community. An organisation where there are sixty of these caring people: drivers ferrying people to and fro, cooks preparing wonderful lunches and helpers making sure the members are safe, well cared for and, yes - loved.



The Day Centre opened in the spring of 1998, and we had a couple of extra special guests at our party. David Baxter was one of the original Day Centre

committee and we were also delighted to welcome Marie Moss, one of our founder members.

You do not have to imagine it. That is the Wychwoods Day Centre.

A Lot to Celebrate

So what do we do? We hold a regular weekly meeting for up to 22 elderly people, where they enjoy company, friendship, stimulating activities and a hot home-made meal in happy and secure surroundings. Recently we have started a monthly luncheon club for a larger more diverse group called The Good Companions.

In the middle of all this activity is our wonderful Day Centre Manager, Katherine Gidman who makes it all run smoothly week after week. In fact she has been doing all this for ten years now. We thought it was time to celebrate! As well as celebrating Katherine's enormous contribution we also wanted to celebrate the contribution of all of the volunteers who make it possible, our members who make it so worthwhile and rewarding and, not least - the fifteenth birthday of the Day Centre itself.

The Good Companions

It has been an eventful year for us. We started the Good Companions. We upgraded the cooker in the Beaconsfield Hall, with a very generous grant from the Co-op. In a time of spending cuts in local government, Oxfordshire County Council actually increased our funding. This important grant now covers about half of our costs, the rest we raise through events and donations. We had well over 60 members and volunteers at our joint birthday party. The excellent food was provided by Sandra Woodward and Kay Shortland. With good food and good company we all had a fine time. It was a fitting tribute to everyone who makes the Day Centre the truly excellent facility that it is. The Wychwood Day Centre meets at the New Beaconsfield Hall in Shipton. We have members and volunteers from all of the Wychwood villages and Bruern and Leafield too.

If you would like to help or you know someone who would benefit from Day Centre membership please call Lee on: 01993 832216 or email klgidman@gmail.com

Paul Young