





## Meet the Volunteer & Events Managers team...

Photo from left to right: Sian Dewhurst, Karen Johnson, Stephanie Hall, Anita Rudd (volunteering ourselves and working hard on a garden!)

**Sian Dewhurst, Gloucestershire**

I joined The Orders of St John Care Trust just over a year ago and my feet haven't touched the ground since.

Everyday is different, I get to meet some of the most amazing people and when I get the chance to spend some time with residents and volunteers, it makes my day!

I am also a Dementia Friends champion and I have created over 100 new Dementia Friends over the last year which is something I am proud of. The other part of my role is organising events for our residents to come together socially and although its exhausting, it is also probably one of the most rewarding things I have done.

**Anita Rudd, Lincolnshire**

I have worked for the Trust for 15 years, my journey started with coordinating a patient visiting and home from hospital scheme in Lincolnshire's hospitals, which was run by volunteers. I then left the trust for a few years and set up a scheme promoting better mental health for older people in the community for St John Ambulance. After 4 years away from the Trust I came back to manage the volunteers in our care homes, it felt like coming home.

My role allows me to spend lots of time in our homes with our residents which is extremely rewarding, I feel very privileged to have the opportunity to enhance our residents lives through activities and events. I coordinate several events each year for our residents; I value their thoughts and ideas for future events and involve them wherever possible. I work closely with the activity coordinators in the homes and support them with recruiting volunteers to enhance the activities that are offered to our residents. Over the last 4 years I have arranged and supported holidays for some of our residents in Lincolnshire, they have been truly wonderful experiences that have been so rewarding for both our residents and the colleagues that attended. I love my job and seeing the difference we make to our residents every day

## Meet the Volunteer & Events Managers Team

Stephanie Hall, Oxfordshire

From never even stepping foot in a care home to working for OSJCT, it has been a real eye opener working for the Trust. It is a busy pace of life with always something to do, but I have so far really enjoyed spending time in the homes, chatting with residents, employees and our volunteers.

Volunteers always make a difference – whatever they do because they are giving their time freely and want to volunteer. Since working at OSJCT, I have noticed just how much of a difference our volunteers do make though. Whether it be a 16 year old visiting to play a game of scrabble with a resident, a group of corporate volunteers coming in to paint some garden benches, or some regular volunteers who run knitting clubs, or assist the Activity Coordinators with activities, everything our volunteers do really make a huge difference to both our residents and our homes, so a big thank you from me personally.

I especially enjoy organising and delivering our annual events for our residents. There is large scope as to what we can do and a lot of hard work, but when it all comes together and you are there on the day watching the residents dancing and singing and having a good time, then hear from homes that they are still talking about the event three days later, all that hard work seems irrelevant.

Karen Johnson, Wiltshire

I've worked for the Orders of St John Care Trust for 21 years now (wow, where has the time gone!), the first fifteen years I spent as a home's administrator and the last six years in my current post. The role of Volunteers & Events Manager is a fabulous one; firstly I get to meet so many wonderful individuals, such as our volunteers who selflessly give up some of their precious time in order to support our homes, please don't under estimate the fantastic difference you make in our homes. Getting out and about around the homes I also get to opportunity to meet our amazing residents and my home-based colleagues. I also have the privilege of organising regional activities and events for our residents, volunteers and the care teams to enjoy, these include the annual Tea Dance, which has a different theme each year, this year's was a 1940's vintage themed occasion, which was great fun. Another popular event is the annual Flower, Vegetable & Craft show, which provides an opportunity for our residents to showcase their gardening produce as well as their makes and bakes. Other events include the Christmas party and the inter-homes quiz competitions.

I also work closely with the homes Activities Coordinators, in recruiting and supporting our volunteers, as well as supporting them in their role. It's so rewarding to know that I have a job that can really make a difference, and can see the tangible evidence of this on a daily basis.



We just love a good party!

Events are just one way in which our Volunteers help and following on from the success of our Vintage Tea Party in March, we are very much looking forward to our Harvest Festival Event on 7th September. The Vintage Tea Party was supported by residents, colleagues, Volunteers and even The Mayor of Gloucester and a fun time was had by all. Daisy Chain Productions put on a fantastic singing performance and were in the thick of it dancing and singing with some of our residents. We were also very lucky to have the support of The Companions (from the Sovereign Order of Malta) who very kindly paid for the amazing food - I don't think people have stopped talking about the food yet! We also had some fun competitions so there is always a prize to be won - if you would like to get involved like Zaynab (see photo) just let your Activity Coordinator know. The more hands, the merrier.

## What's going on in Gloucestershire...

### Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Windsor Street resident Vera Williams was escorted by The Companions of Malta on a pilgrimage to Lourdes along with Esther & Grace, residents from Oxfordshire. Vera, Esther & Grace flew out of Stansted Airport and stayed near the Pyrenees.

Vera particularly enjoyed the candle lit procession that she took part in and was thankful to The Companions for the opportunity to go on the pilgrimage. The care and organisation for the whole trip was superb and should not be underestimated.





## All about Lincolnshire

### Volunteer Long Service

Kim Woodfield has been a volunteer at Beckside for over thirty years which is truly amazing. Kim's main role in the home is to assist in the dining room, she sets the tables for lunch, helps serve the drinks and then clears up after lunch.

Kim also loves helping out on outings with the residents, she is always happy to help and gives her time freely, Kim is a wonderful asset for the home.

Kim loves to sing and can often be heard singing as she carry's out her tasks in the home.

We are very lucky to have volunteers like Kim and truly appreciate their commitment.



### NCS Community Project

Gregory House has recently benefited from a two week garden project run by a group of young people from the National Citizen Service. Zenda Dempster, the homes Activities Coordinator, supported the project sharing with the youngsters ideas that the residents had for their garden.

The theme chosen was a seaside beach theme, and with this in mind the NCS youngsters had to barter, using clothes pegs, with local shops and business's to secure the resources they would needed. Their efforts paid off and they have created a lovely seaside themed sensory boat as well as transforming a dull wall with a sunset mural which has been named the reflective corner. The group also raised funds by cycling on static exercise bikes in a sponsored 'ride to France' which raised £250 for the home. The home and the Trust would like to thank the National Citizen Service youngsters and their coordinator, Robert, for all their hard work and efforts. Our residents love their seaside garden.





## NCS Supporting Homes in Oxfordshire

This summer we welcomed some NCS students in to our homes.

The students were part of the National Citizens Service carrying out their Summer Projects, and one group chose to base their project at The Meadows Care Home in Didcot.

They wanted to do something which would last in the home and also wanted to get to know the residents.

The students painted the outdoor benches in lovely seaside colours and enjoyed chatting with the residents. Jan (Activity Coordinator) at The Meadows said; "They were very courteous, helpful and went the extra mile. They transformed all our benches for us, sanding and painting them. They also designed our logo on the hill. This is the second year we have had them and last years was just as good as well" We would definitely welcome the group back to the home again"

Oxfordshire Summer Fun Day - 21 July 2016  
This year our theme saw us celebrating "The 90 Glorious Years of her majesty The Queen". The venue was decorated with an abundance of union jack bunting, along with flags, life sized cut outs of the queen and posters of pictures from the various decades.

Homes came dressed in all kinds of outfits from the decades including Hippies from the 60's, Freddie Mercury as well as members of the royal family.

I want to say a huge thank you to our lovely volunteers Eric Cashman and Peter Humphrey who volunteered on the day. They were truly amazing and spent almost the whole event making teas and coffees for all of our residents.





## Wiltshire Gardening Volunteers making all the difference!

Each of our homes gardens is unique in terms of space and layout, and maintaining the gardens, especially those with large areas can be a challenge for them. That's why we are really grateful to our gardening volunteers who give up their valuable time to help with gardening.

At Seymour House in Chippenham Simon & Marilyn Adams have volunteered their time and have transformed a raised bed, which was looking very tired, and messy, into a lovely sensory garden. Marilyn's mum May lives at the home and has also helped out with the transformation.



Seymour House also has help with their garden from a group of clients from the Riverbank Day Services who visit the home weekly. Supported by Community Resource Worker Jason Glover, the team do a brilliant job carrying out a number of gardening tasks including planting and weeding.

At Ashwood Care Centre in Warminster volunteers Robin & Anne Hawkins have created a series of borders around the perimeter fencing which they have planted with a selection of shrubs and perennials that will give year round colour and interest. Robin & Ann come in regularly to maintain the raised flower beds and other areas of the garden.

At Brookside in Melksham Margaret Thomas, a family member volunteer, has contributed to their winning garden by planting up the numerous hanging baskets. They are filled with a variety of colourful plants and are absolutely beautiful.

Well done and thank you to all our gardening volunteers, your hard work and efforts are greatly appreciated.



## Our Trust Values



You may have seen our new 'Values' logo recently within the homes...it's something we are passionate about and keen to ensure that we are all demonstrating the behaviours in our day to day actions. There are some useful booklets around the home which detail what each of the values mean and the behaviours you should see all of us demonstrate to support these values. Please take the time to ask for one to read.

**We'd love to hear from you...share your experiences with us!**



With over 700 volunteers in the Trust now its hard for us to keep up with you all! We'd love to hear what you have been doing within our homes, with our residents and with our employees...

- \* Been on any good trips lately? We'd love to hear from you.
- \* Are you a Pets As Therapy visitor with you pet? How do the residents react?
- \* Are you a Duke of Edinburgh volunteer? How was your experience?
- \* Have you volunteered to do your work experience with us? Did you learn some new skills?
- \* Is your loved one a resident with us? Do you find yourself getting involved in activities and enjoy it?



## Official Photographs to mark the Queens 90th Birthday

The Queen surrounded by her two youngest grandchildren and her five great-grandchildren was the iconic Birthday photograph to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday, in this year of 2016.



This was the first in a series of official photographs released mark The Queen's 90th birthday. They were taken at Windsor Castle just after Easter by renowned portrait photographer Annie Leibovitz.

In the first photo, from left to right you can see: James, Viscount Severn, Lady Louise, Mia Tindell, Queen Elizabeth, Princess Charlotte, Savannah Phillips, Prince George and Isla Phillips.



The second photo is a very warm photograph, showing the Queen with the her daughter Princess Royal, followed by a photograph with her beloved Corgis.

The Queen celebrates two birthdays each year: her actual birthday on 21 April and her official birthday on (usually) the second Saturday in June.

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

06-Sep-2016

**Wiltshire Flower, Vegetable & Craft Show**  
*The Melksham Assembly Hall*  
**12.30 to 4.30 p.m.**

07-Sep-2016

**Gloucestershire Harvest Festival**  
*Churchdown Community Centre, Parton Road, Gloucester*  
**11.30 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.**

08-Sep-2016

**Lincolnshire Volunteer Appreciation Event**  
*The Petwood Hotel Stixwould Road,  
Woodhall Spa*  
**From 2.00 p.m.**

09-Sep-2016

**Oxfordshire Flower, Vegetable & Craft Show**  
*Didcot Civic Hall, Britwell Road*  
**12.30 to 3.30 p.m.**

22-Sep-2016

**Gloucestershire Volunteer Appreciation Event**  
*Bishops Cleeve Tithe Barn*  
**1.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.**

05-Oct-2016

**Wiltshire Volunteer Appreciation Event**  
*The Beechfield Hotel, Beanacre, Near Melksham*  
**1.00 to 4.00 p.m.**

06-Oct-2016

**Oxfordshire Volunteer Appreciation Event**  
*Didcot Civic Hall, Britwell Road*  
**2.00 to 4.30 p.m.**

20-Dec-2016

**Wiltshire Christmas Party**  
*The Corn Exchange, Devizes*  
**1.30 to 4.30 p.m.**

## Don't forget...

Don't forget to let us know if you move house, change your phone number or if you have changed your mind about volunteering. We can then ensure we update our records accordingly.



### NAME THE... Dog Breed

- A. Dogue De Bordeaux
- B. Golden Retriever
- C. Yorkshire Terrier
- D. Havanese
- E. Sheltie
- F. Papillion
- G. Boxer
- H. Pug



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