Friends, family and staff, welcome to our newsletter. In this edition we would like to tell you about the events that took place between January and March 2015.

A very warm welcome to all of our new residents who have come to live at Edgehill during the past few months. We hope you will be very happy here.

Thursday 8th January

Well, what an afternoon. We were entertained by the lovely Sarah in her rock and roll outfit. Wow, what a voice. Elvis Presley, Connie Francis and many many more.

Residents joined in with musical instruments, staff sang along and shook their hips. Ted said he was having a fabulous time.

Sherry, wine and chocolate flowed and a fabulous afternoon was had by all.

Thursday 15th January

We were entertained by Lyrics on Screen. A variety of songs were sung and a great time spent with our friends and families.

Due to popular demand, Lyrics on Screen will now be visiting every Thursday afternoon from 2pm.
Reminiscence

Food on the Firing Line

When the war started in 1914 coal fired cooking ranges were more common than new gas cookers. The range would not only cook the food but also heat the house. You would often find the whole family in the kitchen, gathered around the warmth.

Conventional biscuits were also a new addition to the British diet. With Custard Cream’s arriving in 1908 and Bourbons in 1910.

The Weekly Menu

Breakfast would usually be porridge, or bread with jam or dripping with tea, largely the same. A main meal was eaten at midday, starting with a roast on Sunday with leftovers for bubble and squeak or a stew. By Thursday there was some welcome variation with meat pudding or tripe.

The most hated food supplied to the soldiers was canned soup called Maconochie. This was a thin watery broth containing thin slices of turnip and carrot.

Swindon Dog Dancing

Swindon Dog Dancing will continue to visit us on the third Monday of the month. If you have a talented dog and would like to join them or would like more information about what they do, their website address is swindondogdancing.co.uk

A Maconochie advertisement from World War 1.
A British Tommy, French Poilu, Russian Cossack.
Rationing

Britain was largely unprepared for the food shortage of the First World War. Rationing wasn’t introduced until 1918 for sugar, meat, butter, cheese and margarine. Ration Books were issued and everyone had to register with a butcher and a grocer.

Cooking in the Line of Fire

The Army Field Kitchen was a challenging place to cook. Soups were made from Soldiers rations of bully beef and local vegetables (occasionally weeds) but by 1916 the staple diet was Pea and Horsemeat Soup. Everything was cooked in a huge vat so the soldiers were used to horse and pea flavoured tea.

Getting food to the frontline trenches was difficult. The food was usually cold or stale so it was crumbled up and re-boiled in a sandbag.
As a reminder of the day and the reasons behind Dignity Day, Edgehill have purchased a lovely Dignity Tree. Our tree takes pride of place in the main entrance. It is well lit and many of us have written words of dignity on tags that hang proudly from the tree.

Some words from the tree…….

‘Even though im old, treat me with dignity’

‘Show me respect’

‘Let me still wear my lipstick even though I cant put it on myself’

‘To keep me warm at all times’

‘A nice hot cup of tea’

If you would like to leave a short message on our Dignity Tree please see a member of staff who will be happy to help.

Dignity Day
Sunday 1st February 2015

What a wonderful atmosphere. Bunting in place, sherry in hand and lots of smiling faces. Our theme for this day was...

Tea at Tiffanys

Beautiful cup cakes and pretty french fancies stood proud on cake stands. Tea was served from the very best fine bone china tea set.

Staff sang, danced and played musical instruments. Some of the residents took to the dance floor to show off their dance moves from 50 or more years ago.

A raffle was held on the day with a basket of fruit, bottle of wine and other prizes to be won. We raised £75 towards our Amenity Fund.

A big thank you to Pat Smith for taking the time to sell the raffle tickets for us.

We would also like to thank staff and families for joining us and helping out, on what turned out to be a very enjoyable afternoon attended by over 50 friends.
**Staff News**

We would like to welcome the following staff who have recently joined us at Edgehill.

- Tamara McCaffrey
- Sharon Boyes
- Donna Wells
- Charlotte Harding
- Marion Pullen
- Megan Harkin
- Chelsea Nicholls

**Welcome to the team**

**Don’t Stop Me Now**

Mobile Art Therapy

Jackie and Jeanette visit us regularly to provide activities for us all to enjoy.

On Monday 9th February a visit was welcomed and we took those paint brushes and enjoyed an afternoon of painting on fabrics.

We also painted and decorated beautiful easter boxes that sit proudly in our rooms. A lovely get together as friends enjoyed a chat and also a great activity.

**Mothers Day**

A day to remember and show how much all those Mums are loved and respected. Flowers were placed on the tables and we had a regular stream of visitors.
Easter Day

Easter bonnets were worn and decorations were placed around the room. Each resident was given a little chocolate easter bunny and we all enjoyed our Easter Sunday roast dinner with a glass of sherry or wine.

We had an Easter raffle with Easter eggs donated by Jean. Thank you to all the staff, relatives and especially Jean for helping us to raise £131.00 for the Amenity Fund.

And finally

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff, relatives and wonderful volunteers. District Nurses, GP’s and Social Workers for all their support and the commitment they show to us at Edgehill. It is very much appreciated.