



Coombe House

Rose Orchard



**Summer
Newsletter
2010**



Staff changes

Last month we told you that Anita Cant would retire from the post of Home Manager of Rose Orchard at the end of July; unfortunately she has become too ill to work through till then, so Emma and Ruth have taken over Managing both Rose Orchard and Coombe House immediately, earlier than originally planned.

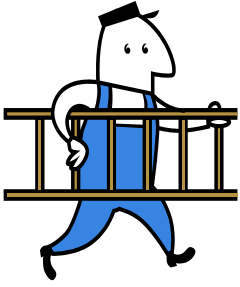
The new arrangements have been submitted to CQC for their approval, as part of the process Emma is to be interviewed by CQC on 29th July.

As previously planned - if the arrangements are approved by CQC additional qualified staff will be recruited.

Please contact Emma or Ruth if you would like to discuss the changes.

A new member of staff has started working at Coombe House - Margaret has taken up her post as domestic staff and is working through her induction process. Welcome Margaret.

At Rose Orchard Doreen, an enabler, retired in May, she will be missed.



Maintenance to Coombe House

The new Parker bath (with Jacuzzi) has had an extra water pump fitted, which means the shower attachment is now working properly.

Staff training in June / July :

Health & safety and Fire Safety

Epilepsy

Person Centre Planning

Moving & Handling

Adult Protection for Managers

Risk Assessment

Disciplinary Investigation

Recording Skills

Mentoring for Assessors

Mental Capacity Act

Support Planning

Also, all staff who drive the minibuses have successfully taken their 3 yearly re-test.

Sir Rowland Hill, founder of the modern postage system

Rowland Hill was born in Blackwell Street, Kidderminster, in 1795, an event commemorated by a stone laid in the building which now occupies the site.



The Penny Black - the world's first adhesive postage stamp, introduced in 1840

In the first years of the postal system, the fee was paid by the person receiving the letter, which caused great hardship, also much time was wasted in documentation & in returning refused items. Hill saw that a low pre-paid charge would work because it would increase both efficiency and usage.

Hill had the backing of many men of business and high standing & was given a position in the Treasury to supervise the introduction of the new system, but it was not all plain

sailing. Opposition to Hill's plans resulted in Sir Robert Peel's government sacking Hill after 3 years in post, but he later regained a position in the Post Office & continued his work for a further 18 years.

Rowland was knighted in 1860 and died in 1879.

Two years after his death a statue was erected outside Kidderminster Town Hall to honour his work.



Portrait of Sir Rowland Hill

News from Rose Orchard

Well it looks like summer is here at last, the weather has warmed up, and the garden is looking more colourful, with all the flowers that are coming through and the days are longer.

Alan celebrated his 60th birthday in April; he enjoyed a visit from former colleagues of the Police Station, and other friends and family.

Service users enjoyed a visit on a barge at Welshpool and another one is planned for October. Other service users enjoyed trips on the Severn Valley Railway and again we hope this can be repeated later in the year.

Thank you all to those who attended the Parent Liaison meeting which was held on 19th April.

Good News:- we successfully applied for a donation from the Monday Night Club , at a presentation on May 17th at Stourport Civic Hall we received £250 which will be spent on musical and sensory items.

Service users attended the "Open Stage" concert at the end of May.

Some staff from Rose Orchard went to Belfast on 21st May to the annual awards ceremony which was held at the Culloden Hotel in Hollywood.

Activities being planned for Coombe House and Rose Orchard

Day trips to seaside, travel on the Severn valley Railway

Visit the Arboretum at Bodenham, further day trips to Welshpool

Lunch out in local community, various shopping expeditions

and further planting of the sensory garden at Coombe House

Newsletters

As Emma & Ruth are now managing both Rose Orchard and Coombe House we will be producing joint newsletters in future.

Following on from this issue, the newsletters will be produced quarterly rather than monthly as at present, starting at the end of September.

So they will be published in March, June, September & December.

Sharing information

Would anybody like to contribute articles to the newsletter, or share news or information ? The families, friends and carers of the service users of Coombe House and Rose Orchard have a wealth of knowledge and experience that others could share and enjoy.

Please contact Emma or Ruth if you would like to contribute, or to say what you do/ don't want to see in the newsletters.

NB, Ability to spell not essential.