

Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain – Psalm 127

House refurb progresses – hydro pool is next

REFURBISHMENT work on the original parts of Martha House is well underway with more than £153,000 already raised to pay for it.

The work should be complete in time for Christmas but fundraising is still going on to find the remaining £100,000 needed.

Refurbishment follows successful completion of the house's extension earlier this year, effectively creating two smaller self contained homes.

New flooring has been laid in the house, while walls have been repainted and papered. The bathrooms have also been given a thorough makeover and four new ones created.

Completion though won't quite mean a final goodbye to the builders who have been with us for the better



Fun in the hydrotherapy pool which will be given a makeover next year.

part of three years working on either Martha or Frances Houses as they will be turning their attention to the hydrotherapy pool early in 2003.

Around £20,000 is to be spent upgrading the 10 year old pool and its environs. Among the improvements planned will be fitting of a waterside hi-lo lift which enables residents to be raised and lowered from the water while lying down.

Trust earns preferred status

MARTHA Trust has been named a preferred provider by Kent County Council's social services.

Around a year ago, KCC invited residential homes to apply for the status. A very detailed form was eventually completed and a series of visits followed in a rigorous vetting process.

Some 40 areas were assessed and Martha passed on 39 of them, said Director Graham Simmons – the remaining one has since been addressed.

"This is a real feather in our cap," he said, "and recognises the very high standard achieved by the team."

Charity asks Martha for help

IN a move which reflects well on Martha Trust as a centre of excellence, Director Graham Simmons has been seconded, part time to the Agape Trust in Hastings.

The Trust is currently building a new home there and while that happens Graham is helping two days a week to keep the project on course.

Graham explained: "Agape Trust is building for a total of eight residents, along similar lines to us.

"The trustees were pleased to respond to a request for practical help and they see this as a great opportunity to share mutual expertise."

Golfers, drivers, bank and helpers boost funds

MANY thanks to all the organisations which have lent assistance or made donations to Martha Trust over the last few months.

They include the teams who took part in a golf day organised by construction company Bovis, held at the splendid Brocket Hall near Welwyn Garden City. Teams were fielded by the company's customers and suppliers and at the close of play Trust Director Graham Simmons was presented with a cheque for £11,700!

A few weeks ago members of the Ramsgate Old Motor & Motor Cycle Club came to see us during one of their Sunday drives to present a



cheque for £480 to trust fundraiser Jackie Flynn.

A bright pink Volkswagen Beetle, an early Ford Consul Capri, an 'Inspector Morse style' Jaguar and a Morris Minor convertible, all lovingly cared for, gleamed in the Martha car park. Members raised the money from holding a classic rally in the summer.

Lloyds TSB bank has kindly given us £3,036 to equip a new sensory room in Martha House. This will be completed

Jackie receives a king sized cheque from the car club's Graham Helling.

while refurbishment is underway. This means there will eventually be sensory rooms in both Martha and Frances Houses as well as the day centre.

And finally, thanks to all the helpers who turned out one September morning to run a Saturday street sale at Deal Town Hall – we raised £264 as a result!

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Perchance to dream on comfy new beds



THE first five specialist beds which enable residents to be raised, lowered or angled in comfort have been installed in Martha House.

Eventually, all 13 residents will be resting or sleeping on a Hi-Lo bed. These offer superior comfort because they can be adjusted for overall height and angled at both head and feet ends

to suit individual needs.

Each bed costs £1,400 and fundraising for this project has been running since the beginning of the year.

Pictured: April relaxes on her Hi-Lo bed while support worker Christine Holmes adjusts it to a comfortable angle.

Ten take on training courses

NO less than 10 members of staff working for Martha Trust have started or are about to start NVQ training courses.

They include mother and daughter Jenny and Sam Bushell, both support workers in Martha House, who have embarked upon NVQ courses in promoting independence which run until next April.

Lesley Critcher and Maria Hobbs, who work in Martha House, and four from Frances House, Debra Lagden, Nikki Bartlett, Sue Gibbens and Debbie Hayward, have also just started their NVQ courses.

Debbie Langley, a nurse in Martha, is starting her NVQ4 in home



Mother and daughter Jenny and Sam Bushell.

management in the new year as is Daycentre manager Tracy Davison.

We wish them every success with their courses.

Meanwhile, congratulations are in order for

Judy Heath, who looks after the Trust's

finances, following her success qualifying as an accounting technician at intermediate level. She now moves on to the final stages.

Pats on back also to Jackie Flynn, our trust fundraiser, for her success in achieving the certificate in fundraising management.

We're certain their qualifications will be a great benefit to Martha in the course of their work.



Nouf, left, gets ready for some abseiling with encouragement from support worker Paul Raven.

Activity centre hosts Martha group

NORTH Devon's Calvert Trust near Barnstaple has recently played host to a seven strong group of residents and carers.

The week long activity holiday saw April, Nouf and Robin and their carers Faye, Joan, Paul and Nicole enjoy sports such as canoeing, abseiling, yachting and horse riding to name but a few, under the trained eyes of the centre's qualified instructors.

More holidays are being planned for next year and we'll update you when the time comes.

BARCLAYS

Our grateful thanks to Barclays Bank for sponsoring the production of this issue of Martha News

Warm welcomes for new residents

Pictured, left, Raisa, and Sue.



WE extend warm welcomes to Raisa who has joined us at Frances House, and to Sue who has become a resident in Martha House. Previously she stayed with us for respite care but has now become a full time resident.

We also bade a fond farewell to Alex of Frances House with a party in October before moving to live with foster parents.