

- Letter from Lindsay
- We've Got Skills
- Changing Perceptions
- Spot Light On...Fundraising & Communications
- Around the Houses
- Fundraising News
- Dates for your Diary & Meath 100
- Thank You

Joyful and Triumphant!



Once again the Meath held their spectacular annual Christmas Carol Service at St Clement Danes Church, London. The magnificent church was a becoming venue for the rousing service which delighted the congregation with the talents of the Band of the Honourable Artillery Company, together with the beauty of St Clement Danes Choir, internationally acclaimed bass singer Brindley Sherratt, professional tenor, Stephen Petch and the Meath's own choir who, with support from members of the Godalming & Guildford Jazz Choir gave an effervescent and joyous performance. The commanding music filled the vast church but its power was rivalled by the poignancy and vigour of the spoken word. Cllr. Dan Adams, Mayor of Surrey Heath, Jim Glover, High Sherriff of Surrey, HM Lord-Lieutenant Surrey, Michael More-Molyneux and Chair of Trustees Mark Dumas each gave a moving speech which eloquently explained their own personal reasons for supporting the Meath Epilepsy Charity.

Feature Continued on page 9.



A Letter from Lindsay

Dear Reader

Welcome to our December Meath Matters edition, I very much hope that you enjoy hearing about the fabulously festive month we've all experienced at the Meath. The anticipation of Christmas is always a very exciting time for many Meath residents and I've been delighted to see so many well enjoyed celebrations and special outings taking place. As always we are extremely grateful for the support we receive from the local community throughout the year, however this month we have been overwhelmed by the generosity of local organisations and individuals who have enabled us to provide the very best Christmas possible for residents. We all know that Christmas Cheer fuel's Santa's sleigh but we hope that a glance through the following pages clearly illustrates how the Community spirit funds Meath merriment! It was my pleasure to welcome Cllr. Dan Adams, Mayor of Surrey Heath and Mayoress Sarah Adams to the Meath on Christmas Day, Dan is supporting the Meath as one of his chosen charities during his mayoral year.

Our annual Carol Service at St Clement Danes Church, London provided supporters with the perfect introduction to the festive season while raising much needed funding for the charity. We are extremely grateful to those who took part in the Carol Service and made it such a wonderful and memorable evening. This year residents enjoyed their first dedicated Meath Carol Service at their local parish Church, St Peter & St Paul's, it was wonderful to see the church packed out with residents all enjoying the specially selected hymns and service led by Jane Vlack, Vicar and keen Meath supporter.

As 2018 draws to a close I can't help but reflect upon the past year and feel extremely proud of all that the Meath has achieved. I am extremely grateful to our skilled and dedicated team of staff, trustees and volunteers and the tenacity of our wonderful residents who we are proud to support and encourage each and every day of the year, no matter what that day may bring.

With best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Lindsay

CEO, The Meath Epilepsy Charity





We've Got Skills!

During December the many talents of the Skills Centre Staff are put to good use with seasonal craft activities, baking, and a wonderful programme of special yuletide events. Residents not only enjoyed firm favourites such as the Skills Centre Impro Panto, a visit from the Salvation Army Band and a visit from Father Christmas himself but also their first dedicated Meath Carol Service at their local parish church, St Peter and St Paul's.



Santa Stop Here!

Meath residents were delighted to see Santa and his Elf Helper whizzing around the Meath on their sleigh and handing out gifts. The jolly fellow was so popular that many residents also visited the grotto that had been created at Backstage. Thanks to the resourceful, creative and caring elves at the Skills Centre and the generosity of customers who donated gifts to the Meath at Harris + Hoole, Guildford, Meath residents enjoyed a magical visit to Santa's grotto and received a lovely additional gift.



Pantomime Antics

This year Skills Centre Staff entertained residents with their highly original improvised production of 'Jacki & The Bean Stalk'. This high energy and superbly silly home produced skit was enjoyed by all! The bad puns, funny costumes and Meath twist given to a classic story caused much laughter and prompted many smiles.



Residents created the set during Skills Centre sessions and in time honoured tradition the pantomime included lots of opportunities for audience participation which was well received!



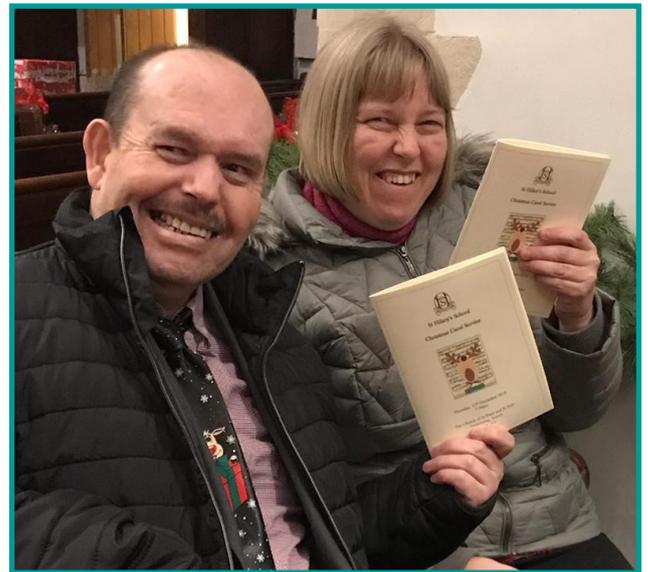
Carols at St Peter & St Paul's Church Godalming



Meath residents, family members, trustees, staff and volunteers all enjoyed our first Meath Carol Service held at St Peter & St Paul's Church, Godalming. Despite the heating having broken down in the church the service was wonderfully warming as the Meath community came together for this very special service. Thank you to Erica Moulton for coordinating the event and Jane Vlack, Vicar for kindly providing a perfectly pitched Carol Service for Meath residents. Once again, Sue Green's expert baking skills were put into practice as delicious home made mince pies and hot drinks were enjoyed by all after the service.

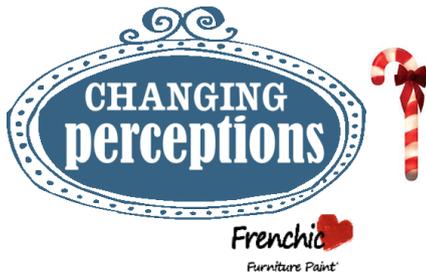
An Invitation to St Hilary's School Carol Service

Our friends and supporters at St Hilary's School, Godalming kindly invited two Meath residents to their Carol Service which was also held at St Peter & St Paul's Church. Peter and Lucy who live at Little Meath were delighted to attend the event and they joined in with the singing and chatted to staff and pupils after the service. Lucy commented that the 'angels were very pretty', no costumes were worn by the pupils but her support worker explained that she meant the children who had put a big smile on her face.



December has been an especially busy month in the workshop for the team at Changing Perceptions, orders for Christmas Gifts have been flooding in and the café has been packed out with customers in need of sustenance and relaxation from the hustle and bustle of Christmas shopping. Just like the elves at the North Pole, the CP team ensured that everyone has lots of fun while 'Visual Perceptions' photography group were busy capturing the spirit of Christmas at their favourite social enterprise!





Around the Houses



Cedar View residents had great fun baking individual Christmas Cakes at home. Support Worker Lisa is an especially keen baker and since joining the team at Cedar View a few months ago, having come from Little Meath, Lisa has enjoyed lots of cooking and baking with the group. As well as enjoying special events and trips out on the run up to Christmas, Cedar View residents really enjoyed their festive home baking too.



Above: Residents Maria, Molly and Louise proudly presenting their festive cakes.

Have Yourself a Merry Little Meath Christmas!

Residents at Little Meath have enjoyed some lovely trips out and activities on the run up to Christmas. Activities enjoyed include a trip to see 'Snow White on Ice' at Guildford Spectrum, a theatre visit to see 'Betty Blue Eyes at GSA, Christmas shopping in Brighton, a trip to Winter Wonderland and a celebratory Christmas pub lunch.

West End Musicals appeal to many residents but the cost, journey and challenges that a Victorian theatre presents can take the fun out of the experience. However 'Betty Blue Eyes' at Guildford School of Acting was the perfect opportunity for residents to enjoy a high quality production without these concerns. "The fully accessible building, helpful staff before and during this 'relaxed performance' really made this an enjoyable experience for all. The cast even allowed residents to go on set at the end and meet the star of the show that they'd all fallen in love with...Betty the pig!" **Carl, Little Meath Manager.**



Residents at Snow White on Ice.



Peter and Adam at Brighton Pier.

Another great local venue is Guildford Spectrum Leisure centre, in December they have an annual 'Panto on Ice'. The show was visually stunning, the lights and movement on ice set to music kept the attention of residents, who were clapping along and smiling lots!



Little Meath enjoyed a lovely Christmas Lunch at the Mill at Elstead. The staff were very helpful, the food was great and they had their own room.

"The Brighton Christmas Shopping trip has become a yearly tradition for Little Meath Residents, we love taking them to new places but it's also lovely to enjoy some tried and tested trips too. We generally stay overnight in central Brighton.

Peter said he had a great time and he and Adam managed to have a successful Christmas shopping trip. They also loved playing at the Arcade on the Pier. We then went to the cinema to watch Bohemian Rhapsody as Peter is a huge Queen fan. He said it was one of the best films he has ever seen. I call that a success! "

Carl, Little Meath Manager.



A Magical Day for Jeffrey Court

Jeffrey Court residents and staff had a much anticipated trip to the Harry Potter Studios. Having made their own magic wands at home before the trip, residents were ready for a day of wizardry fun. Tracy had a smile on her face the entire day and there was so much for everyone to enjoy, a firm favourite was the Hogwarts Express.



Getting Crafty at Christmas



Jo Galkanat, Jeffrey Court Manager held two Christmas Craft sessions for residents from across the Meath. The group enjoyed creating FIMO decorations and gifts such as earrings. Residents were very proud of their festive FIMO creations and couldn't wait to give them to someone special on Christmas day.



Christmas Day at the Meath!

Meath staff and volunteers work hard to ensure that everyone at the Meath has a very special Christmas day. Huge thanks to all those who came in to contribute to a magical Meath Christmas this year. Maxine, a one to one Support Worker for Dom at Bradbury Wing explained that helping Dom to open his presents and see the excitement on his face really made her Christmas Day. The importance of this dedication at Christmas is something that Meath Supporter, Cllr. Dan Adams, Mayor of Surrey Health understands and residents were delighted to see him and Mayoress Sarah Adams with Lindsay on Christmas day.



Spot Light On...Fundraising & Communications

While the Meath is committed to providing the outstanding level of care and support that residents and day clients receive, the variety of opportunities, combined with specialist care and support, do not come cheaply. Each resident or day client receives funding from their own local authority for a basic care package but, with a successful fundraising department, the Meath finds ways to augment the allowance for all the extra things that mean so much to those in their care. From enjoyable trips out to new furniture, vital refurbishment to a year of singing classes, fundraising at the Meath means the difference between simply living and living a fulfilled life where residents are able to experience, enjoy, challenge themselves and to be engaged and active members of their community. Over the past year the Fundraising & Communications Team have expanded and are now better placed than ever to continue to enable the Meath to go from strength to strength. [Continued on next page.](#)



Tania Cantoni, Head of Fundraising & Communications joined the Meath in August 2017 and brought with her many years of experience from both corporate and charity sector. Eighteen months later Tania says “I am really grateful that the CEO and Trustees had the vision to allow me the opportunity to develop what is proving to be a very successful Fundraising and Marketing team. By carefully capitalising on all the different skills and strengths of the individual team members both the Meath and the department are delighted that all the hard work is paying off for the benefit of residents”.

Q: To what do you attribute the team’s success?

A: “We always ensure that we’re transparent about what we will use the money for and the difference it will make. It’s essential to be clear on how much of the funds you raise are directly used for the beneficiaries.”

Key achievements over the past year include:

- **Introduction of the Enrichment Fund:** Raised £13k to date and 5 applications for funding have been approved since it launched in the spring .
- **Wish List:** We had so much that residents needed that we just couldn’t cover so we launched our first Wish List in April. We’ve been overwhelmed by the generous response by family members, supporters and local organisations. Wish List donors have provided a new powered wheelchair for CP, a digital camera, key items of furniture for residents, a TV, an ipad for Occupational Health and more!
- **Funding for Changing Perceptions:** £45K raised for core costs and new equipment including a much needed wheelchair stair lift for the café-workshop.
- **New Mini Bus & Kia Car**
- **New Standing Frame**
- **New Physio Hoist**
- **Bathroom in Little Meath**
- **IT Suite**
- **Pottery Room**
- **All Terrain Wheelchair**
- **Garden Benches**
- **Treadmill**



Above: Jamie Elson, Digital Marketing, Gemma West, Events, Tania Cantoni, Head of Fundraising & Communications, Sarah Steele, Fundraising Support and Helen Jackson, Marketing.



Smaller projects have also enhanced the lives of residents. Smaller funding allocations have funded brand new T-Shirts and kit bags for the Meath swimming group, Films for Meath Movie Nights and a new table for the Skills Centre Cookery Room. The team are also extremely grateful for the friendship and support that comes in many other forms from local community organisations.



St Clement Danes Carol Service Continued...



Meath Patron the Right Honourable Jeremy Hunt, MP and Foreign Secretary of State was unable to attend the service as planned due to official duties but his speech was kindly given most eloquently by Mark Dumas in his absence. In his message Mr Hunt gave thanks to the dedicated support workers and volunteers who work hard all year round to ensure that the Meath is the warm, caring and supportive home that residents need. The triumphant evening was a treat for all, after the service as guests enjoyed mince pies and a glass of prosecco the sense of community and support for the Meath was evident. Such a wonderful service was only made possible by the generosity, hard work and sheer talent of so many people. The Meath are truly grateful to all those who were a part of the service and who together provided a spectacular and memorable gateway to Christmas.



Wreath Making Workshops



The Meath Fundraising Department teamed up with friendly Godalming florists Marna and Holly from 'The Greenhouse' to deliver two evenings of Wreath Making at Changing Perceptions. CP made a fabulously festive setting which was soon filled with the scent of foliage, mulled wine and the sound of laughter as guests had fun chatting and catching up while creating their stunning Christmas Wreaths. Many thanks to Holly and Marna for sharing their talent, giving Meath supporters a fantastic evening and enabling the Meath to raise over £600.



It's a Wrap!



Once again the Meath was lucky enough to be supported by Waitrose Godalming for the third year running to offer Christmas Gift Wrapping for donations to the Meath. Waitrose kindly provided the gift wrap and the amazing Meath Volunteers provided the rest! Christmas Wrapping and Collection raised over £1,000 for residents. While the money will make a terrific difference to the lives of residents at the Meath, it was also fantastic to once again be given the opportunity to tell local shoppers about how they can support the Meath and to raise awareness of epilepsy.

Above: Happy customer Tim with volunteers Francesca & Penny. Tim drove all the way from Farnham to get his gifts wrapped after a word of mouth recommendation from a friend! Right: Collection Volunteers Matilda, Duncan, Pip and Imogen were taking donations while telling customers about the Meath, and Changing Perceptions and handing out stickers.



Waitrose



Gifts Galore from the Giving Tree!



HARRIS+HOOLE



Many thanks to customers at Harris & Hoole, Guildford who kindly left a small gift for Meath residents under the Café's 'Giving Tree'. Customers are also continuing to support the Meath by making donations at the till. Skills Centre Staff spread lots of Christmas Cheer around the Meath by handing out the gifts and residents were thrilled to receive an unexpected gift! The Meath are extremely grateful to Harris & Hoole and their customers who kindly supported the Meath with this heart-warming Christmas initiative.



Scouts Christmas Market Stall Success!

Following a recent talk about the Meath and Epilepsy, St Peter & St Paul's Scout Group, Godalming felt inspired to run a fundraising activity for the Meath. Meath Matters visited the stall and were impressed to find that the children were using elements from their talk to help raise awareness of epilepsy. Group leader Jacqui explained that the children had to pitch their ideas to the leaders and when they had done so they were very impressed with just how much the children had taken onboard



from their talk. Their Name the Bear Competition and newly created 'Purple Pong' game raised over £250 while also providing some great experience for the Scouts. Many thanks to the group and well done! The Meath Fundraising Department love working with community groups and it's always extra special to see young people learning new things in the process of supporting a great local charity.



Dates for Your Diary

Saturday 16th February	Ladies Night, The Guildford Rugby Club, 7pm-12.30am
Saturday 23rd February	Occam Singers Concert, St Nicolas Church, Guildford, 7.30pm-9.30pm
Tuesday 2nd April	Bridge Tea Afternoon at The Meath, 2pm - 5pm
Saturday 27th April	AAT Events The Fox Ultra, Godalming, 7am
Wednesday 24th July	Meath Charity Golf Day, Worplesdon Golf Club, 8am— NEW!

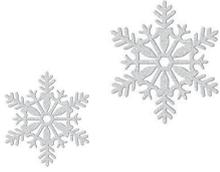


This month's winners are Debbie Tregallas who won £150, Anna Coss and Mrs Inchbald who both won £50.
Congratulations!

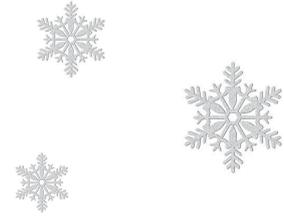


The Meath 100 is our very own lottery! It's super easy to join, you'll be in with a good chance of winning monthly cash prizes and it's a great way to #SupportMeath. You can either choose to pay your £5 Meath 100 Membership monthly via BACS or cheque or you can pay a one-off annual fee of £60 via PayPal.

For more information or to join the Meath 100 visit www.meath.org.uk

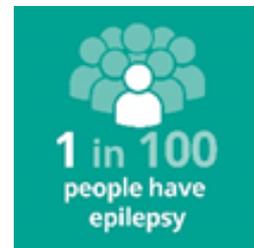


Thank you



We are very grateful to have been supported by the following organisations and many individuals during December, thank you to you all...

- Andy Kerr
- Angela Wadsworth
- Brian Parry
- Brindley Sherratt
- Charity Walk for Peace
- Cranleigh Lions
- Christmas Wrapping Volunteers
- Deb Herbert
- Don Ostle
- Godalming Round Table
- Guildford Rugby Club
- HM Lord-Lieutenant Surrey, Michael More-Molyneux
- ICL Media
- Jane Vlack
- John Jeffries
- June Harbott
- Lucy Kilner
- Matt Fides School of Marshall Arts, Godalming
- Mayor of Surrey Heath, Cllr. Dan Adams
- Mayor of Waverley, Denise Le Gal
- Mr & Mrs Thomas
- Mr & Mrs Wilkinson
- Mr Newberry
- Mr Parry
- Mrs Ellis
- Mrs Knowles
- Mrs Williams
- Ms Pazda
- Ms Vere Nicol
- Padre Stewart Shaw – RAF Wittering
- Regiment of The Honourable Artillery Company
- Richard Atkinson
- Sharon Hardwick - St Clement Danes Church – London
- Simon Over and the St Clement Danes Choir
- St Peter & St Paul Scouts
- Stephen Petch
- Sue Green
- Sue Parkes
- The Band of The Honourable Artillery Company
- The Godalming & Guildford Jazz Choirs
- The Greenhouse
- The High Sheriff of Surrey, Jim Glover
- The Rt Hon. Jeremy Hunt MP
- Waitrose Godalming
- Waverely Borough Council



If you are interested in supporting the Meath by volunteering, making a donation or have an idea for a fundraiser please contact the Fundraising & Communications Office: 01483 411071

Helen Jackson, Fundraising & Communications Co-ordinator: helenj@meath.org.uk

Gemma West, Fundraising Events Co-ordinator: gemmaw@meath.org.uk

www.meath.org.uk

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Registered Charity number No: 200359