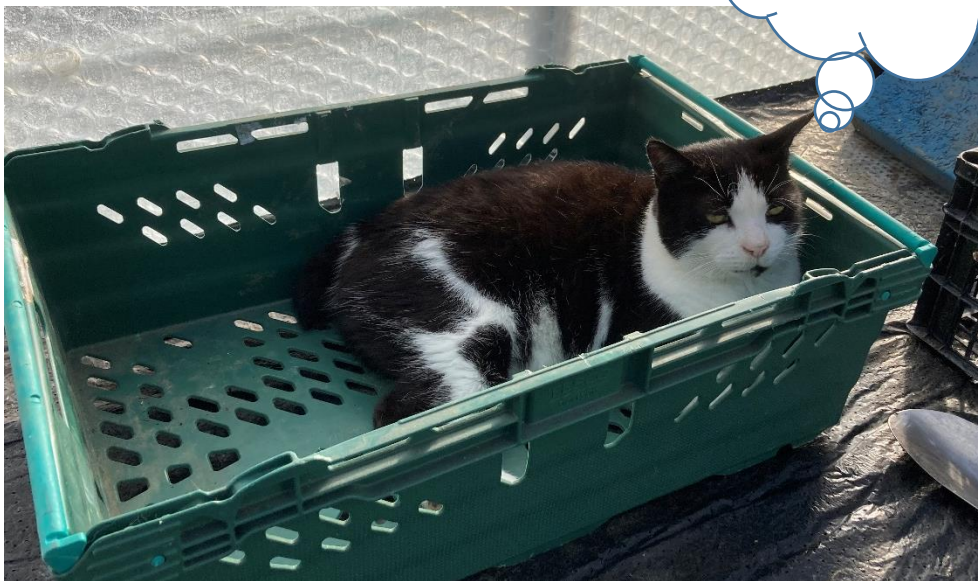


Marley's Tales

Winter 2023/24

What if the
Hokey Cokey
IS what it's all
about?



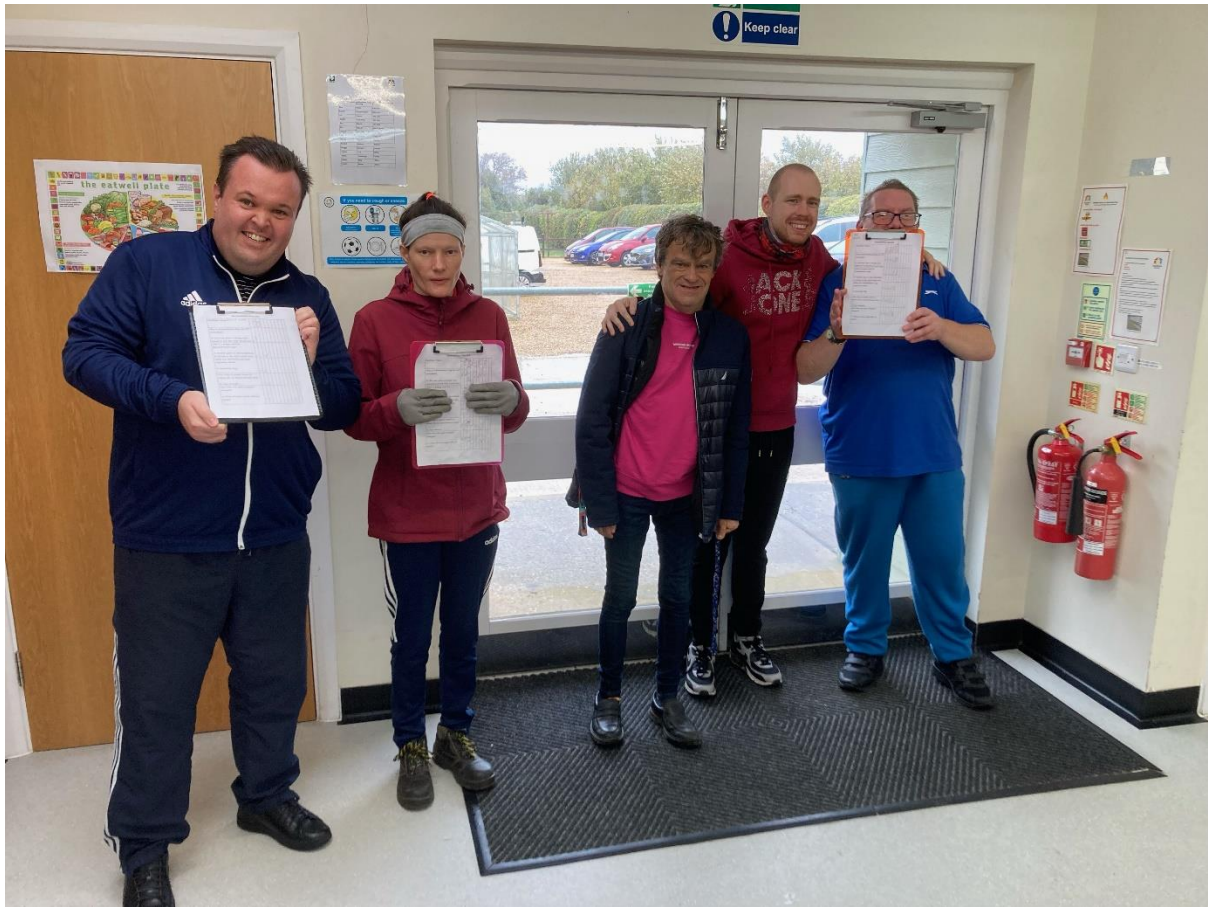
Tales from The Apuldram Centre, from the cat with no tail!

Marley's Tales is a seasonal publication produced by the trainees at the Apuldram Centre. We have named the publication after the Apuldram cat, Marley – The cat with no tail! We want to share with you some of the things we get up to and talk about. It is produced by the Apuldram trainees, with some support from the staff.

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Remembrance Day



We were thinking about Remembrance Day and what it means, so we decided to set people at the centre a little quiz about it. We researched our facts on the Ipads. We spoke to Phill, Maria, Karen, Sue, Bill, Debbie, Eric, Tasha, Joel, Henry, Alka, Larry, Elizabeth, Richard, Chrissie and Julie and asked these questions:

1. Why is Remembrance Day on 11th November?

A- This was when a treaty was signed to end the First World War.

2. Why is a poppy used for Remembrance Day?

A-Poppies grew in the battlefields in France and Belgium in the First World War.

3. What was Remembrance Day originally called?

A-Armistice Day

4. How long do people stand in silence for on Remembrance Day?

A-Two minutes.

5. How have this year's poppies changed?

A-They are now made with no plastic.

What did we find out?

Most people (12 of 16) knew that there is a two minute silence on Remembrance Day. Very few (6 Of 16) knew that the poppies had changed this year to not use plastic. Just over half of people could answer the other questions correctly.

Flooding at the Centre

After several days of torrential rain, there seemed to be more flooding at the Centre than anyone had ever seen. We took some photos so that we could remember how bad it was!











As usual, Eric cleared up!

“What’s in the poly tunnel, Richard?”

All of the tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers are out of the poly tunnel now and a winter crop has been planted. We asked Richard what had been planted for winter. He explained that there is now garlic, kale, shallots, broccoli, chard, spinach and winter cabbage. It will be ready from February and will be used by the kitchen or sold in the café.



Kale



Spinach



Purple Sprouting Broccoli



Shallots, spinach and garlic (in the top right hand corner)

Limericks

Josh, Elizabeth, Phill and Anthony had a go at writing some Limericks with Mike. What do you think?

There was a man called Phill,
Went to see his friend Bill.
But Bill was out,
He heard Phillip shout.
Phill found Bill at the till.

There was a ginger cat,
He had a black hat.
He wore a black suit,
He had a gold flute.
He squashed his rat flat.

There was a man from Spain,
He went on a large airplane.
The flight was very long,
Like going To Hong Kong.
He won't go there again.

There was a man call Elvis,
He slipped hurt his pelvis.
The crowd went wild,
An accident report was filed.
The fans in shock filmed this.

There was a man called Mike,
Who liked to ride a bike.
But it started to rain,
Which was rather a pain.
Swimming he tends not to like.

There was a man called Harry Kane
Who left Spurs on an aeroplane
Other teams found this funny
Did he go for the money?
One hundred million, are they insane?

What do you want for Christmas?

We asked everybody at the Centre, on a Wednesday morning, what they wanted for Christmas. We also asked what would be their impossible dream of a present, if they could have it. We got some interesting answers!

Name	Present	"Impossible dream" present.
Olivia	Chocolate	To be given my own art shop.
Ellie	Dollies	To be Sandy in Grease!
Chris (V)	Time with friends	Free cruises on all rivers in the world
Julie Hurman	A music CD	To live in an art shop.
Julie Hurst	Crayons	To dance on "Strictly"
Debbie	An Ipad	To see the Northern Lights and get world peace.
Paula	Brandy	A telephone to heaven
Danny	A John Wick 5 DVD	To live on a lorry
Nick	A Christmas jumper	World peace and a hot tub in my garden
Justin	A pack of M and S boxers	A trampoline in my garden
Rory	A dog	To be able to fly
Maria	A bag	For everyone to be healthy
Isobel	A holiday	World peace
Lianne	A hamper of relaxing things	My son's happiness.
Matt	A holiday	A new car
Tracey	A relaxing time	A new white mini
Larry	A winning lottery ticket	To win the lottery
Tasha	A 3 bedroom house (Is this a dream?)	Going on holiday to Mauritius
Debbie (V)	Warm furry slippers	A world cruise and second world cruise to see all the things missed on the first one!
Zac	A PlayStation 4	To win the lottery

Justin	A bike	To live in a big house with Katy Perry
Elizabeth	An Alexa	A holiday in Scotland
Emma	A Frozen DVD	A bus (!)
Sam	A boat	A holiday
Richard M	A book	To win the lottery
Zac Evans	Magnets	A tee-shirt (?)
Ed	Films and chocolates	Spending Christmas with family
Henry	Sock, chocolates and an air fryer	A lemon juicer(?)
Joel	Carols	A Christmas buffet

Some of the things we have been up to recently



We have been cooking and carrying out science experiments.



We made a Skittles rainbow.



Dyeing white flowers with food dye.



Alka and Zac made a Halloween headband!



Apuldram Christmas Trees

The Apuldram Centre sells Christmas trees. This year Danny and Barry are in charge of the operation. They sell trees from 3 to 8 feet tall, from £45 to £75.

There is a strange device that looks like a jet engine, that they use, and we wondered what it was.

Danny explained that it was a way of putting a net around the trees and it is called a netting box.

So far they sold 72 trees and they have about 17 left to sell.

Trees can be delivered in the local area.



The sales team!



This is the whole process!

Snow good being stuck at Apuldram

It was a snowy afternoon at the Apuldram Centre. The wind was howling ferociously. Trees were being blown around violently. Dead leaves were flying around all over the place. Even the birds were hiding in their nests to get out of the bad weather. Snow was falling, snow on snow, snow on snow. Some people were starting to worry about getting home in this bleak midwinter. Anthony was worried that he would not be able to ring the cathedral bells that night. How would people know about the service? Phil was worried about getting home to watch Neighbours and have his nap. Without his nap, he would be grumpy and bad tempered. Josh might miss his film and chatting to friends at home. Greg was thinking about his journey back to Selsey and Elizabeth was thinking about cutting the watercress at home and about her horse. The horse might starve, it would need its hay. The only person who was not that bothered was Justin. He lived on the site and had a simple walk home.

As the afternoon went on the snow got thicker and thicker and some of the taxi companies were ringing to say they could not come out. The snow would be too thick for them, they might get stuck. What were they to do? They could not all stay at the Centre. There were no beds, what would they eat?

"We're doomed!" said Phil in the style of Private Fraser, in Dad's Army.

"How can I get back to ring the bells?" Anthony exclaimed.

As the afternoon went on everyone accepted that they would have to stay the night at Apuldram. Danny was depressed because he could not sell any Christmas trees, because no one could get to the Centre. The roads were all completely snowed in.

Everybody was sad and depressed. Would they get home to their families for Christmas? Would they get to eat their turkey dinners and mince pies?

Nick tried to encourage everyone to sing Christmas carols and songs, but it didn't improve the mood. THEY WERE STUCK!!!!

As the night drew in, the mood worsened! Arguments started, people fell out with each other. There seemed to be no hope!

As everyone became resigned to their fate, they started to hear a strange sound in the distance. What could it be? Everybody listened really hard.

"Did you hear that?" said Josh.

"It's just your imagination," said Phill.

"That sounds like bells ringing," said Anthony.

"Well, you'd know," said Eric, sarcastically.

The room quietened and everyone tried to listen really hard.

Some of the trainees peered out of the window. They thought that they could see something. Was that antlers? Were they reindeer? Was someone shouting "Ho, ho, ho?"

"I think that's Father Christmas!" shouted Josh.

"Blimey, I think you're right!" said Eric.

"We're saved!" shouted Justin. "Let's go out and meet him!"

They waded outside in the thick snow to wave at Santa. As his sleigh started to land everybody shouted with joy. Santa's elves jumped from the sleigh to greet everybody in the thick snow. In their excitement, they had briefly forgotten their terrible predicament.

"What are you all doing here, so late?" asked Father Christmas.

"We're stuck. We're snowed in. Nobody can get a car along the roads!" explained Lisa.

Santa laughed and his belly wobbled. He thought for a moment and then exclaimed:

"Snow? That's no problem. I can clear it with my sleigh. My reindeer can stroll through snow and clear it easily."

To which Phill shouted "It's snow problem then!" and everybody laughed.

"But we are really hungry!" some people shouted.

Richard, the chef, came running out of the kitchen shouting “I can sort dinner! Father Christmas and all the elves are welcome. Lay the tables! Put the decorations up!”

So Debbie put up a nativity scene, the decorations went up and the trainees set up a Christmas tree.

Everybody was eating and partying in the Common room. The reindeer were enjoying their carrots, people were laughing and joking, there was music playing in the background and a festive time was had by all.

As the night went on, people began to realise that Santa, and his elves had disappeared.

“Where could they be?” said Elizabeth.

“Where has Santa gone?” people started to question.

“Was it something we said, was it the food he didn’t like?” Zac questioned.

Everybody finished their meals and started to look for him. They searched high and low in groups around the building and the grounds.

As they looked across at the road they could see the incredible spectacle of a white bearded man throwing magic dust on to the snowy ground. As he was throwing his magic dust the snow started to disappear. It was a miracle! How did he do it?

Slowly the snow was cleared and every one shouted with joy. The roads were cleared and they could all go home.

Vehicles started to flow along the road, again. Everyone cheered. But where was Santa? He could not be seen.

As they all looked up they could see Santa in the distance.

“Ho, ho, ho!” he shouted as he flew across the sky.

“Thank you, Santa for coming and saving us!” shouted everybody.

As they watched they saw him fly away until Santa and his sleigh were just a dot in the distance. A small speck on the horizon.

“Well, would you Adam and Eve it?” said Josh and Phil.

Taxis arrived and everyone went home to have a wonderful Christmas.

Christmas had been saved!

Written by

Anthony, Phill, Josh, Gregory, Justin and Elizabeth.

What will you be doing this Christmas

People all celebrate Christmas in different ways. Some see it as a time to look back at the year or to look forward to the next year. Others are just glad to have a rest! We asked everybody at the Centre what they were going to eat and do at Christmas. We also asked them what they would be thinking and feeling. Here are some of the answers.

“This Christmas, what will you be eating, doing and feeling or thinking?”

Eating turkey, spending
time with my daughter.
Being happy, but
missing people that
have gone.



Eating roast turkey,
having fun and
thinking about people
that I have lost.





Eating turkey,
walking and resting
and just being
happy.



Eating roast chicken,
playing quizzes and
relaxing.

Eating turkey and
beef, doing as little
as possible and
being chilled!

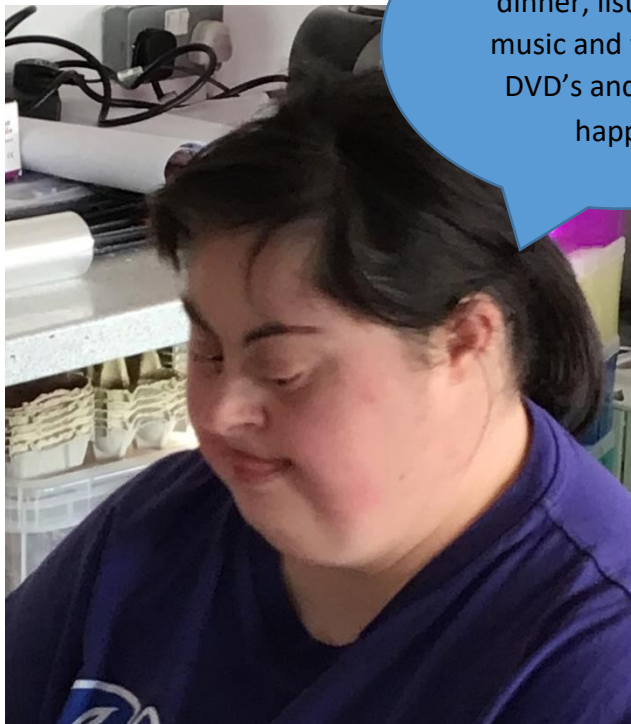


Eating beef
Wellington, opening
presents and feeling
cheerful!





Eating turkey,
watching TV and
opening presents
and being happy.



Eating Christmas
dinner, listening to
music and watching
DVD's and feeling
happy.

Good Bye, Richard

Richard Manning, who has worked at the centre for many years, has decided to retire. We will miss him enormously, but he has promised to come back and see us and to volunteer at the centre on a regular basis. We decided that we had to interview him about his time at Apuldram and his retirement.



Richard with the Interview team

Q-What have you enjoyed most over the years?

A- Well, I wouldn't have been here so long if I had not enjoyed it! I have simply enjoyed working with everybody. I remember one event when we took a team to Aldingbourne to play them in a pool match. We beat them 9-1, and they were lucky to get 1! I remember everybody being really good at being quiet as the games were being played.

Q- How long have you worked at the centre?

A- I have been here 28 years! I started on Thursday 13th July 1995. It was a strange week because I had worked in Homebase for the first half of the week until Wednesday and on the Friday we had a barbecue to celebrate someone's birthday.

Q- Can you remember any funny moments?

A- There have been lots of funny moments, but I do remember a visit up to Midhurst to collect holly for the wreaths. On the way back we got stuck in a huge flock of sheep that had escaped onto the road. I was asked to help collect them up, but of course I couldn't because I had a van full of trainees!

Q- What will you do in your retirement?

A- Put my feet up! I also intend to come back and volunteer to help out with walks and visits and maybe advise on some horticultural matters. I have a pruning project with my wife that needs doing and other bits of gardening for neighbours.

Q- How will you feel on Friday afternoon when you finish?

A- I will have mixed emotions.

Q- How has the site changed in your time here?

A- When I started the office block had just finished being a cow shed for the farm (Common Farm) that had been on this site. There is still the remains of a slurry pit at the front of the building. The large barn has always been here, but there was a smaller barn next to it where the Common Room is. There were sheep in the orchard field and a couple of goats. I have seen the large greenhouse built, around 2005, and removed a couple of years ago. Common Lodge has been extended and the new Common Room has been built.

Goodbye and good luck, Richard. Have a good retirement. We will miss you!

Elvis is in the building!

Alex invited an Elvis impersonator to help him celebrate his birthday. He sung to us in the Common room.

