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Meet Lorna!



On Monday 18th July 2016 the centre welcomed its new centre co-ordinator, Lorna Lawrence. Lorna has been with us for nearly 2 months now and has made some significant changes, for the better.

In Lorna's words...

"My name is Lorna Lawrence. I am 52 years old. I have four children and one granddaughter. I have lived in the Essex area for 24 years. Prior to my appointment here I worked for Sainsbury's where I was the PR Ambassador, community champion, charity co-ordinator and HR/Payroll administrator amongst other things. In 2015 I decided it was time to get out of retail and started looking for the right position. I had been for many interviews and even though I was offered the positions I applied for I did not feel they were the right positions for me, until The Centre Co-ordinators position came up. I feel this is the right position for me and look forward to helping the centre grow and benefit more people with MS and within our local communities. I look forward to meeting each and every one of you. my door is always open, so if you have any ideas as to what other services or activities we could have in the centre then please do come and see me.

My biggest achievement to date was being presented before the queen this year for my involvement in the Chadwell Heath Community Centre (formally known as Robert Jayes Library).

I enjoy reading, writing, cooking and travelling".

New Governance at the centre

As some of you may have already been aware, the MS Society have plans to change all governance of their branches in 2017. On Saturday 30th July an extraordinary meeting was held to discuss and vote on the future governance of the centre. Every member of our branch was written to, outlining the details and reasons for the meeting, stressing the importance of attending the meeting as every vote matters. Our chairman, John Jestico (against), and membership manager, Sue Crate (for), both stood up and put forward good cases. After the cases were put forward a vote was made. It was a landslide victory for the committee as it currently stands to be dissolved and the new governance to be put in place.

This now means that instead of there being an elected committee running behind the scenes of

the centre, there will be Lead Volunteers for each department, working in the centre daily. Whilst this vote has met some opposition, we feel sure that the future of the centre will be in safe hands with the new lead volunteers. These lead volunteers are yet to be chosen but watch this space for names, and pictures!

This new volunteer leadership will work together to keep the centre running in the manner you are all accustomed to. These changes will have no effect on the members.

25th Anniversary Gala Evening



On Saturday 20th August the centre hosted a gala evening to celebrate its 25th Anniversary. It was a fantastic evening, with over 70 people coming together in celebration. There was a red carpet and champagne reception, followed by a wonderful three course dinner, speeches, cabaret singer and raffle.

We were lucky enough to have a special guest, Trishna Bhuradia. Trishna is known to many as a contestant on the BBC programme The Peoples Strictly. She is also an MS sufferer and an avid campaigner of MS awareness, as well as being an MS Society ambassador. Trishna gave a passionate speech about the importance of volunteers.

Also in attendance was the Mayor of Redbridge, Cllr Gurdial Bhamra, and MP for Ilford South, Mike Gapes.

We also had some of the ladies from the charity For Those In Need in attendance, who presented our chairman, Dr John Jestico, with a cheque for £1000. We have been extremely lucky to be a beneficiary of this wonderful charity for many years and we can't thank them enough for the generous donations they have made to us over those years.

Thank you to everybody who came and helped make the celebration of the 25th Year of the Marjorie Collins centre a very special and memorable evening.

Thank you to Sainsburys Chadwell Heath for their donation of the champagne, Morrisons Dagenham and Wilko Ilford for their generous raffle prize donations, and to Gary and Katie of Little H Catering for once again providing us with a most delicious three course meal.

Other News

We recently discovered a wasps nest in the outside seating area. This was quickly rectified with the help of Simon Galbraith of SHG Pest Control LTD. Simon very kindly donated his time and services to rid us of the pesky wasps! Many thanks, Simon, for your generosity.

The toilet room in the new hairdressing salon is well on its way to being completed. Tony Castle, of South Essex Maintenance, very kindly donated 2 of his employees to come along and plumb in the toilet for us. Thank you also for today rushing to our aid and fixing a leak in one of the other toilets.

<u>Centre Activities</u>	<u>Upcoming Events</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sit, Stretch and Flex (Mon 11am-12pm) • Bocchia (Tues 11am-12pm) • Bingo (Tues & Thurs 12pm-12.30pm) • Card Craft (Tues 2pm-3pm) • Yoga (Thurs 2pm-3pm) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boat trip – 2nd September

<u>**Special Notices**</u>	<u>Special Thanks</u>
<p>The centre will be having new flooring laid mid-late September. We will have to be closed that week to allow the work to be carried out. Date to be confirmed.</p>	<p>Trishan Bharadia https://www.facebook.com/trishnabharadia2015/</p> <p>Cllr Gurdial Bhamra http://moderngov.redbridge.gov.uk/mgUserInfo.aspx?UID=761</p> <p>Cllr Mike Gapes http://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/mike-gapes/184</p> <p>Sainsburys https://www.sainsburys.co.uk/</p> <p>Morrisons https://groceries.morrisons.com/webshop/startWebshop.do</p> <p>Wilko http://www.wilko.com/</p> <p>SHG Pest Control LTD http://www.shgpestcontrol.com/</p>

South Essex Maintenance

<http://www.southessexmaintenance.org.uk/>

Little H Catering

<http://littlehcatering.co.uk/>

For Those in Need