



Pendine Park news

The newsletter of the Pendine Park care organisation

Issue 14

We're looking forward to creating new services and 100 new jobs in Caernarfon



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Mario Kreft with AM Alun Ffred Jones and MP Hywel Williams at the Bryn Seiont site.

Our new centre of excellence for dementia care has been hailed as a “fantastic” boost to the economy of Gwynedd.

We are investing £7 million in the centre that’s being built on the site of the former Bryn Seiont community hospital on the outskirts of Caernarfon.

The centre which will create 100 jobs is being backed by the local AM Alun Ffred Jones and the local MP, Hywel Williams.

They were taken on a guided tour of the site by Pendine Park proprietor, Mario Kreft MBE.

The organisation has already been flooded with calls from people looking for work at Bryn Seiont Newydd (New Bryn Seiont).

It’s hoped the bilingual centre will open in the Autumn and will also provide respite and day care in addition to the 71 beds for the people living there.

There are also plans to build 16 companion living apartments as part of a second phase of the development.

Mr Jones said: “It’s fantastic. This facility will be a huge boon, not just to the immediate area but also to North West Wales in general.

“...first class, top rate centre”

“It opens up new opportunities, not only for staff to work in a first-class, top-rate centre, but also for the families of those who suffer from dementia.

Hywel Williams added: “The centre will be hub for other services such as day care and respite care.

Mr Williams also praised Pendine Park’s commitment to using the arts as a way of improving the quality of life of the people for whom they provide care.

According to Mr Kreft, opening the pioneering centre will be the perfect way to celebrate the Pendine Park’s 30th anniversary.

He said: “We will be a bilingual community based organisation, serving the needs of individuals and their families and trying to ensure that people get the very best care with an enriched quality of life, whatever their disability.”

For more information about the services available and job opportunities at Canolfan Bryn Seiont please ring 01978 720242 or go to the website www.pendinepark.com

Top tenor Rhys delivers triple tonic



Pendine Park chief executive Gwynfor Jones with Rhys Meirion and his daughters Elan, 16 and Erin, 13 at Galeri.

A sell-out audience was treated to a triple tonic.

The concert at Galeri in Caernarfon starred top tenor Rhys Meirion and his two daughters Elan, 16, and Erin, 13.

The performance was part of a monthly programme of concerts called TONIC offering older people an opportunity to enjoy the arts.

Pendine Park is sponsoring the programme along with a range of other arts-related events at Galeri.

Rhys Meirion says the TONIC programme is vitally important as it gives older people the chance to enjoy a range of music and performers during the early afternoon.

He said: "TONIC is a fantastic programme as it gives some older people, who don't like to, or who are unable to, come out in the evening a chance to enjoy music and the arts.

"I'm impressed with Pendine Park's commitment to the arts.

Sponsorship from Pendine Park means the older people who attend TONIC events can do so because the tickets are at a price they can afford and that's vital."

Pendine Park spokesman Gwynfor Jones is thrilled the TONIC programme is able to attract stellar performers such as Rhys Meirion.

He said: "Pendine Park is committed to the arts and we know the benefits it can bring to our clients and residents.

"I'm impressed with Pendine Park's commitment to the arts"

"It's especially important to us to be involved in programmes such as TONIC in the Caernarfon area ahead of the opening of our new Bryn Seiont centre in October.

"And we are absolutely delighted to see so many, particularly older people, coming out and enjoying the TONIC performances at Galeri Caernarfon."

Galeri Caernarfon marketing manager Steffan Thomas said: "We are thrilled with the TONIC programme and Pendine Park's sponsorship.

"Every monthly performance is either sold out, or very close to being sold out, which shows just how popular the concerts are.

"Today, prior to Rhys Meirion's concert we were able to show a new short film explaining a little about Pendine Park's commitment to the arts and of course the quality of care they are committed to."

Buddug Jones, 69, of Caernarfon, who is registered blind and takes her guide dog Freya along to enjoy the shows, said: "We really enjoy coming to every TONIC performance and never miss."

Youngsters dance their way to a brighter future

A group of unemployed young people danced their way to a brighter future by organising a tea dance at our community centre. The event at Pendine Park was the climax of an “inspiring” three-week programme called Truth about Youth - Who Cares? which is funded by The Co-operative Foundation.

The course was run by the Prince’s Trust in partnership with our training company, Smartcare.

A similar scheme last year resulted in 17 of the participants gaining social care qualifications. Eleven of them secured jobs, six of them at Pendine Park.

A raft of special guests turned up to the Gwern Alyn Community Centre at the Hillbury House Care Home to congratulate the latest group of young people on the course.

They included Wrexham AM Lesley Griffiths, the Mayor of Wrexham Cllr Alan Edwards and the Mayoress Glenys Edwards and the Head of Enterprise and Employment at Prince’s Trust Cymru Rhian Mathias .

The guests, who also included Co-operative Membership Officer for Mid and North Wales, Deb Wozencraft, and the Director of Wellbeing and Empowerment for the Older People’s Commissioner for Wales, Daisy Cole, were served a feast of sandwiches, cakes, coffee and tea by the enthusiastic team of 14 young people aged between 18 and 25.

The dedicated group also performed an energetic, funny, and thoughtful play about remembering the little things when taking care of people.

The event ended with the tea dance which saw Pendine Park residents and staff, as well as the crew from The Prince’s Trust strutting their stuff.

It was the culmination of a three-week course where members of the group gained experience and qualifications in the care industry with the aim of helping them onto the first rung of employment ladder.

More than half the group are likely to be offered jobs by Pendine Park.

According to Sabrina Rafferty, 18, from Gwersyllt, who learned the ropes as a care practitioner at Pendine Park’s Hillbury care home, the Prince’s Trust course has made a huge difference to her life.

She said: “It’s been an amazing experience. It’s like a big family here, and it’s helped me to see my future, which is working in social care.”

Wrexham AM Lesley Griffiths added: “I’m always happy to come to Pendine Park. The work they do in the care sector is fantastic.”

Pendine Park proprietor Mario Kreft MBE, added: “I’d like to thank the Co-operative foundation for supporting the project. It’s now a longstanding relationship that’s been developed between Pendine Park and The Prince’s Trust, and it’s been a privilege to work together.”



Resident Isabella Buck with Sarah Lee and Keyleigh Weston, right



Resident Alan Hassall dances with Sabrina Rafferty



Prince’s Trust student Zannia Kingaby with residents Ruth Crawshaw and Richard Brown



Prince’s Trust student Sabrina Rafferty with resident Ceinwen Jones.



*Pendine Park chief executive
Gwynfor Jones at Siop Gofal*

Shopping for jobs in Caernarfon

As a prelude to our new centre of excellence in Caernarfon, we have now opened new premises in the town centre.

Siop Gofal (Care Shop) in High Street is a drop-in centre where people can find out more about our plans for Canolfan Gofal Bryn Seiont and hear about job opportunities there.

At the moment it's open two days a week but as the official opening gets closer it will be open daily.

Pendine Park proprietor Mario Kreft said: "We'll be using the offices above it for recruiting and training purposes.

"It's an opportunity for people to come in and talk about the sorts of services they're looking for and have a paned and get information about what we're going to do.

"We're looking forward to being an integral part of the community in Caernarfon.

"We're very hopeful that people will accept that Canolfan Gofal Bryn Seiont is going to be a very important community resource, a real community asset.

"I'm hoping that we'll be providing really top quality services for people with dementia and their families for years to come.

Caring quartet shine at social care Oscars

A talented quartet from Pendine Park were honoured at the prestigious Wales Care Awards. The glittering awards night at City Hall, Cardiff, which celebrates best practice for the care sector in Wales, is run by Care Forum Wales and sponsored by Barclays Bank.

The MC for the evening was the popular TV newsreader, Lucy Owen.

The winners from Pendine Park were Matthew Palamarczuk, Claire Venables, Judi Roberts and Tracey Cuthill.

Inspirational admin assistant Matt, who has cerebral palsy is "on cloud nine" after collecting gold.

He was honoured in the Promoting of Fulfilled Lives category, sponsored by Boots Care Services.

Despite his condition, which keeps him wheelchair bound because of his restricted movements and speech, Matthew, 29, from Gresford, has become an integral part of the team at Pendine Park.

Matthew, who has a 2:1 degree in estate management from Glyndwr University, said: "I'm still on cloud nine. I was shocked when I found out that I'd won gold. I've never won an award before and that made it special. I never thought that I would win anything like this. To be nominated was enough for me.

Claire Venables, 29, a Senior Care Practitioner at Highfield won the gold award in the Residential Care Practitioner category sponsored by the Older People's Commissioner for Wales.

Highfield was the first care home in Wales to achieve official accreditation from the Gold Standards Framework.

Claire had the brainwave of distilling the Gold Standards Framework into an easy to understand booklet for staff at the care home.

She said: "I'm still quite shocked that I won a Wales Care Award to be honest. It's brilliant – I feel very honoured and am quite humbled. I was just proud to be there.

"Everyone was nervous but it was mixed with excitement. It was glamorous and everyone was dressed up. It was just like the Oscars."

Meanwhile, Judi Roberts, who is in charge of the Cae Bryn home won the Leading Practice in Learning Disability and Mental Health Services award sponsored by Barchester Healthcare.

Judi, 43, a mother of two young sons, said: "I was quite shocked when I won, because you just don't expect it. I didn't think I was going to get gold. It's nice to get the recognition."

It was also a big night for Tracey Cuthill, 46, the registered manager of Penybryn care home, who said she was "overwhelmed" by the occasion.

She won Silver in the Leadership and Management in Residential Care Services category sponsored by Christie & Co.

Tracey said: "I'd never been before and the atmosphere was really exciting – I thoroughly enjoyed it. I was a bit overwhelmed and the hall where it was held was quite breathtaking.

"It was a real honour to be at the awards and It was lovely just to be nominated.

"When I got back into work the staff had got me a beautiful bouquet of flowers to congratulate me. There was a card with it that they'd all signed. I was really touched.

"We work really hard as a team and this is recognition of their hard work. I just steer the ship, the staff are the ones who drive it forward, so this is for all of us."

Pendine Park proprietor Mario Kreft MBE said: "I am so very proud of all four of them and I am delighted that their hard work, skill and dedication has been recognised at the Wales Care Awards. Their awards are richly deserved."



Caring quartet, Matt Palamarczuk, Judi Roberts, Claire Venables and Tracey Cuthill



Ceri Belshaw from Denbigh Chocolate shop with resident John Molyneux and Susie Owen.

Residents treated to a tasty choccy workshop

Sweet-toothed residents we're treated to a tasty workshop.

Residents, staff, and family members, got together for a delicious workshop by Denbigh Chocolate Shop at our Hillbury care home.

Enthusiastic choccy fans crunched biscuits, and mixed them with Belgian chocolate and marshmallows to create yummy rocky road.

Hillbury resident John Molyneux, 70, got in on the action and had a great time at the choctastic demonstration.

He said: "It's lovely and everybody is happy. I got involved in making the rocky road and it looks very tasty.

Denbigh Chocolate Shop Assistant Ceri Belshaw, 25, added: "We're making rocky road and the residents are getting involved and helping out.

"We've melted the chocolate, and we're crunching the biscuits and mixing everything together with marshmallows. It's great fun. You can't go wrong with chocolate."

The chocolate workshop was the brainchild of Anita Moran, an Activities and Well-being Coordinator at Pendine Park.

She said: "The demonstration is interesting, everyone is laughing and joking - it's brilliant.

"This is the first time we've done this but it's gone so well that I definitely think we'll be doing it again.

"It's part of our enrichment programme here at Pendine Park. We put on all sorts of classes for the residents, like art classes and poetry classes. We even have the world-class Hallé orchestra coming here to do music workshops."



Resident Phil Hillier with Susie Owen.



Resident Alan Hassall with Ceri Belshaw from Denbigh Chocolate shop.



Resident John Pierce with Anita Moran..

Our training team get smart with record number of learners



From left, the Mayor and Mayoress of Wrexham Cllr Alan Edwards and Glenys Edwards, Ann Farr, from Smartcare, David Jones, Principal and Chief Executive of Coleg Cambria, Gwynfor Jones and Cllr Jim Kelly and his wife Margaret.

A training organisation is going from “strength to strength” after teaming up with a further education college.

Smartcare Training, part of the Pendine Park care organisation, is working with Coleg Cambria to improve standards in social care.

In the last four years Wrexham-based Smartcare has helped 550 care practitioners gain NVQs and diplomas in health and social care - with a record number of 194 learners being trained this year.

The latest batch of students were presented with their awards at a special ceremony at the Catrin Finch Centre at Glyndwr University after passing their Level 2, 3, or 5 health and social care diplomas.

The Mayor of Wrexham, Cllr Alan Edwards was on hand, along with Cllr Jim Kelly, a long-term supporter of Pendine Park, to present the newly qualified learners with their diplomas in front of an audience of family and friends.

Smartcare manager Ann Farr said: “We continue going from strength to strength and now have a team of 16 assessors supporting learners who are working with people in residential care at a number of different establishments across the region.

“We have learners who are all keen to progress their careers and gaining a recognised work-based qualification is an important step. We have young learners and some who are more mature.

“But regardless of age they have worked really well and have

collectively shown real enthusiasm for their academic studies as well as their role as professional care practitioners.

“They are taking the knowledge they learn back to their care and residential homes and using their new skills to enrich and improve the lives of the vulnerable people in their care.”

“I’m extremely proud of what we have achieved not just in the last 12 months but over the last four years.

“Pendine Park has a superb reputation...as a training provider”

Ms Farr was delighted to once again work closely with Coleg Cambria in delivering relevant modern apprenticeships.

She added: “We are looking forward to working with Coleg Cambria in the future to further enhance the modern apprenticeship scheme. We have set a high standard and we will never rest on our laurels.”

It was a sentiment echoed by Coleg Cambria principal and chief executive David Jones.

Mr Jones said: “It is a delight to work with Ann Farr and her Smartcare team and we have a long standing and excellent relationship with Pendine Park care organisation.

“The social care sector is so very important to North East Wales and Wrexham in particular and Pendine Park works exceptionally hard to ensure standards of care are always being improved upon.”

“It is impressive to see the number of learners that have gained qualifications through Smartcare in just four years and I’m sure we will work even more closely in the future in delivering practical, knowledge-based courses.”

The Mayor of Wrexham, Cllr Alan Edwards, said: “It really is a privilege to be asked to present certificates to so many successful students. Pendine Park care organisation has developed and grown in Wrexham and is now a major provider of social care.

“The organisation is also a major employer within the town and we should all be proud of their excellent reputation.

“Pendine Park has a superb reputation, not only as a wonderful provider of the very best care the sector can offer, but also as a major training provider for people working in care whether they are new to the role or established care practitioners.”

Former Mayor of Wrexham Cllr Jim Kelly added: “My wife and I are immensely proud to be associated with such a wonderful institution and to have been involved with it, and its staff, for so many years. I think we should be grateful Pendine Park is based here in Wrexham.”

Staff and residents raise cash for inspirational Catrin



Resident Marion Jenkins with Teresa Jardine and Catrin.



We have raised cash to help an inspirational young woman who suffered terrible burns after a coach crash.

Staff, residents and families at Pendine Park donated £500 to Catrin Pugh, 20, who was trapped in a blazing coach in the French Alps last year.

The caring crew at Pendine organised a series of events to raise funds for Catrin, including a wheelchair walk and BBQ, a quiz night, a family fun day and a summer fete.

She was given a one in 1,000 chance of pulling through after the smash near the Alpe d'Huez resort left her with 96% burns. She has had skin grafts from her mother, Sara, and brother Robert, and has had over 4,000 staples in her body to hold them in place.

Jen Roberts manager of Gwern Alyn paid tribute to Catrin's bravery.

She said: "I think Catrin is amazing. She's got such a wonderful personality and she's absolutely gorgeous. She's come a long way. When she came to our first event in Bersham she had to sit most of the time.

"We've raised £500 and it's been a real team effort from people all across Pendine Park. It's not just the staff that's been getting involved but also the residents and their families.

"Catrin's story has inspired a lot of people, and a lot of people remember hearing about it just after it happened and when they heard we were raising money they wanted to do something to help.

"It really puts life into perspective."

Baking revolution raises money for MS Society

Staff and residents joined the baking revolution and organised a cake sale as part of a fund-raising campaign in aid of Multiple Sclerosis charity.

The merry crew at Highfield care home were inspired by the likes of Paul Hollywood and Mary Berry to hold the event in aid of the MS Society.

Multiple Sclerosis (MS) affects more than 100,000 people in the UK - including a number of residents at Pendine Park.

The MS Society is fighting to improve treatment and care to help people with MS take control of their lives

MS is complex, has many symptoms, and might include fatigue, vision problems and difficulties with walking. But MS is different for everyone.

The staff at Pendine have also been holding weekly coffee mornings for the MS Society.

Highfield resident Sue Mullally, 67, has had MS since she was in her 20s.

Sue joined the MS Society before she knew she had the condition, as part of her job as a personnel manager for British Gas.

She said: "Having MS limited a lot of the stuff that I could do, and I have to keep a bit more of an eye on when I'm not feeling so well.

"I think it's great the staff at Pendine have organised these coffee mornings and this cake sale to raise money for the MS Society. The society needs the money so it can look after its members, and this is a lovely way to raise it.

"It's also a chance for people with MS to share their experiences and to get support. It's good to have a stage where people can share their feelings. It gives us an opportunity to help each other.

"We've had a lot of cake. I had a bit of Victoria sponge and some scones. They were very tasty and I think everybody enjoyed them.

"They arrange a lot of activities for us at Pendine, and they also engage with the community. Here they very much focus on what people can do, and giving them the opportunity to do as much as they can. I do art here. Also at the cake sale was Seema Day, a volunteer for the Wrexham branch of the MS Society.

The mother-of-two who lives in Wrexham has MS herself and believes that the MS Society coffee meetings at Pendine Park make a big difference to the residents.

She said: "It gives the chance for people to have a chat and share their experiences.

"It's about reminding people with MS that they're not alone, and they don't have to do this by themselves."



Seema Day from the MS Society and Suzie Owen, wellbeing and activities organiser at Pendine Park at the cake sale..

First Minister presents Mario with St David Award



Pendine Park proprietor Mario Kreft MBE has been awarded Wales's top honour.

Mario who is also the chair of Care Forum Wales, won the enterprise category at the St David Awards.

The award was presented by First Minister Carwyn Jones at a glittering ceremony at the Senedd in Cardiff.

Appropriately, he was accompanied by wife Gill who has played a major role in the development of Pendine Park since they set it up together in 1985.

They established Pendine Park because they both had elderly grandparents who needed care and the places they went to see didn't match their requirements - so they set up their own "family care home".

Among the first to congratulate Mario was Wrexham AM Lesley Griffiths.

She said: "I am delighted Mario has been honoured in this way.

"This recognition for all his pioneering work and dedication for 30 years is richly deserved.

"Mario leads by example and is an eloquent and effective champion for the social care sector in Wales.

"He is always the first to say he has fantastic support from his colleagues at Pendine Park and Care Forum Wales and from his wife, Gill. They are very special people."

Mario said: "I was delighted to be nominated in the first place so to actually receive the award is a fantastic honour.

"This is the perfect 30th anniversary present for Pendine Park. None of this would have been possible without the huge contribution of my wife Gill whose expertise, energy and creativity have provided foundation for everything we have achieved.

"The award is also a recognition of the huge contribution of social care in communities right across Wales, including the teams at Care Forum Wales and Pendine Park.

Last year Mario was awarded a Fellowship by Glyndwr University in Wrexham.

Christine and Olga go extra smile



Pendine Park Smile award winners Olga Azarcon, and Christine Lewis with Pendine Park Chief Executive Gwynfor Jones and Centre Manager of Smartcare Ann Farr.

A caring duo have won a top award for going the extra smile.

Christine Lewis, 55, and Olga Azarcon, 41, who work at Pendine Park, shared the Top Smiler prize at our annual Smile Awards.

The award was created in 2010 to recognise those who not only smile, but who go the extra mile to help others at Pendine Park.

All the entrants in the competition were nominated by their co-workers, the care home residents and their families.

Fifteen finalists were chosen by a panel of judges. Usually, there is

only one overall winner, but the judges decided they couldn't choose between Christine and Olga, so awarded them both the gong.

Christine, who works as a care support worker at our Highfield care home, said: "I feel very proud and it was lovely to read what my other members of staff, residents and members of their families had written about me.

"I just love my job. It's so nice and friendly at Pendine Park. I sing all of the time in work.

"A smile is so important for the residents, because it's something that can make their day. It makes you feel good to make them feel good.

Olga, a senior care practitioner at Pendine Park's Bodlondeb care home, said: "I come in with a smile and I leave with a smile. People have told me that my smile is infectious."

Pendine Park spokesperson Gwynfor Jones congratulated the winners.

He said: "This is an award for people who have gone the extra mile to help the residents or their colleagues."

Our musical staff rocked against dementia

A pop concert at a pub raised the roof - and money to battle dementia.

Among the stars at the Rock Against Dementia night at the Commercial pub in Wrexham was Olivia Thomas, 26, a singer who once shared a stage with pop princess Pixie Lott.

She was joined by musical workmates from Pendine Park

They performed an energetic mix of pop, indie, R n B, and raised a total of £300.

The proceeds are going to help raise awareness of dementia and support the work of Admiral Nurses, who are specially trained look after people who have it.

Olivia Thomas, an activities and wellbeing coordinator at Pendine Park and one fifth of girl-band Indigo City, performed on the same stage as Pixie Lott at Chester Rocks.

At the Commercial she sang Thinking Out Loud by Ed Sheeran, and Killing Me Softly by the Fugees.

Olivia said: "The night went really well. We had a fantastic turnout.

"We had a raffle, and there were loads of different prizes like wine, and chocolate. Places like Nando's, ODEON, and Mecca Bingo donated prizes. We even had a big hamper from Unilever.



"They've all been very generous so we're really grateful to them. We're also really grateful to the Commercial because they donated an extra £100 on top of the £200 we raised and they put on free buffett.

Olivia added: "Music is very important to what we do here at Pendine Park. It's part of our enrichment programme.

Also performing on the night was Olivia's boyfriend Rob Hanaghan, 26, who played an acoustic version of Purple Angel, a dementia awareness campaign song written by Pendine Park staff member Tracey Green.

Care practitioner Bethan Williams, 23, who works at Pendine Park's Hillbury care home, also sang on the night. She performed True Colours by Cyndi Lauper, and Valerie by Amy Winehouse.

The driving force behind the event was Anita Moran, activities and well-being coordinator at Pendine Park's Hillbury care home.



Performers Bethan Williams, Rob Hanaghan and Olivia Thomas with organiser Anita Moran.

Determined Matthew qualifies as a Paralympic sport coach



A man with cerebral palsy who works for Pendine Park has overcome his condition to become a qualified coach in a Paralympic sport.

As well as working as an admin assistant, determined Matthew Palamarczuk, 29, teaches a sport called Boccia to the residents.

Matthew has gained a Boccia Leaders Award to teach the Paralympic sport.

The target ball game which is similar to bowls is for athletes with disabilities that have a major impact on motor skills.

To gain the award Matthew had to show that he is proficient in things such as teaching skills, understanding the needs of players and empowering them, introducing creativity and fun into sessions, and structuring activities.

Despite his condition, which keeps him wheelchair bound, and severely restricts his movement and speech, Matthew has become an integral part of the admin team at Pendine Park.

Pendine Park's Boccia players took centre stage in a video made by the care organisation to support the Llangollen International

Musical Eisteddfod 2014.

Matthew fell in love with the sport whilst watching it for the first time during the London Paralympic Games of 2012.

Matthew said: "I've been playing Boccia for over a year. I like throwing the balls and seeing how close I can get them to the target.

"The game is a lot of fun and it's very competitive and I definitely play to win.

"The residents enjoy it as well, and I enjoy teaching it to them."

Matthew's condition certainly hasn't stopped him from being active. He belongs to the Riding for the Disabled Association in Llanfynydd, near Wrexham, goes on annual skiing holidays the French Alps, and has a Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. He has been working at Pendine Park care organisation for over a year.

Matthew added: "The cerebral palsy makes it harder to get around because I can't walk and it also makes it much harder for me to speak. My speech is stilted.

"But I just get on with it. There's no point getting worked up about

it.

"I'm very lucky to have friends and family who have supported me throughout my life.

"I work at Pendine Park on a normal PC and I also use a tablet because my condition makes it hard for me to write.

"I was just looking for something to do so I asked if I could help out at Pendine Park. They were so impressed with my work that they put me on the books. This is my first proper job.

"I like working at Pendine Park a lot because I like the people here."



Daughter beats bidders from across the world to reclaim dad's painting



The daughter of an artistic resident bought back one of his long lost paintings at an auction - and beat bidders from the other side of the world.

Amanda McGilchrist, 50, was shocked when she saw the instantly recognisable watercolour painted by her dad, Wilf Jones, 86, when she was browsing at the Wingetts auction rooms in Wrexham. She successfully bid for the painting and it took pride of place at a special exhibition at Pendine Park to celebrate Age Positive Week.

Wilf, a resident of Gwern Alyn care home, said: "It made me feel very happy that she found it. It has been hanging in my room, and I feel very proud that it was on display at the exhibition and the end of Age Positive Week.

"The painting is near the waterfall in Bersham where there are a lot of trees. You can tell the sun was out because of the shadows."

Pink party is a real hoot

A party in Wrexham to raise money for a breast cancer charity was a real hoot.

The pink party at Pendine Park care organisation in aid of Breast Cancer Awareness welcomed some very special guests - courtesy of the North Wales Owl Sanctuary.

They included Malaqi, a five year old South African barn owl, along with Casper a white faced Scopes owl, which is also five years old, and Gandalf, an Indian collared Scopes owl, which is around four years of age.

Residents at our Hillbury care home wore protective gloves to hold a number of owls and learn all about them.

Afterwards, they tucked into pink cupcakes, enjoyed some special pink lemonade, had a game of pink bingo and tested themselves with a special pink quiz.

The perfect pink party was the brainchild of Hillbury House Care Home activities co-ordinator Anita Moran who lost her own mum to breast cancer.

She said: "Breast Cancer Awareness and supporting breast cancer charities is really important to

me as I lost my own mum, Jean, to the disease five years ago. She was only 68.

"Mum didn't seek help early enough and by the time she went to the doctor it was too late. That's why I think raising awareness of breast cancer is so important, getting checked earlier can definitely save lives."

"Our residents really enjoy events such as this and staff have helped by making cakes which we are selling to raise funds.

"I'm also grateful to the relatives of residents who came in and supported our pink party and helped us raise some money for what is a good cause."

Kath Teburi dropped in to visit her mum, Gertrude Jones, 97, and to enjoy the pink party with her.

She said: "I visit mum most days. She has been at Hillbury for two-and-a-half years now and really enjoys it. There is so much going on whether it's music, parties or visits from people such as the Owl Sanctuary."



Olivia Thomas with resident Giavanna Andrews and Casper



Resident Betty Coggins with Malaqi.

Pendine Park hits the right note



Pendine Park is once again sponsoring the Llangollen International Musical Festival this year.

We're supporting Children's Day on the Tuesday, July 7, and the concert starring top tenor Alfie Boe on the Thursday evening of Eisteddfod week.

Alfie Boe has sold one and a half million records and has been at number one in the classical charts many times. Dubbed Britain's Favourite Tenor, he will be performing songs from musical theatre and movies.

Joining him will be Welsh singer Sophie Evans, who went onto star as Dorothy in the West End production of The Wizard of Oz having finished runner-up in the TV talent show Over the Rainbow, classical saxophonist Amy Dickson along with

Jonathan Antoine, the classically trained tenor who rose to fame on Britain's Got Talent.

Proprietor Mario Kreft MBE said: "Our sponsorship of the Llangollen International Eisteddfod is the perfect way to celebrate Pendine Park's 30th birthday this year.

"We love the ethos of the Eisteddfod and I think it's a very important arts festival based in Wales but drawing people from all over the world.

"We're very much in tune with their philosophy and we're very much in tune with the idea of being able to showcase our inter-generational work, our work with vulnerable people, particularly those with dementia, through our music workshops and our other planned activities this year.

"We're delighted to be again involved in the Children's Day, bringing the work to a much wider audience with an understanding of people with special needs and people with dementia.

"It's great that the people of Pendine Park are involved in this ground-breaking project and are given a stage of their own."

"We're also very pleased to be able to sponsor the Alfie Boe concert.

"Interestingly, one of Alfie's key charities is bringing music to vulnerable people, both children and adults and the importance of art as a therapy, as a sense of wellbeing and it's very much in keeping with what we do at Pendine Park."

Daisy and Rosie double act



Our activities team has been given a fluffy boost. Our pet pooch Daisy has now been joined by her not-so-little sister, Rosie. The mischievous, snow white Samoyeds are proving a big hit with our residents.

Pendine Park proprietor Mario Kreft MBE said: "The benefits of animal assisted therapy are becoming increasingly well known for their positive effects on health and wellbeing.

"Spending time with loveable dogs like Daisy and Rosie can help to increase confidence, as well as bringing comfort and companionship to older people."

Daisy and Rosie with staff, from left, Olivia Thomas, Olga Azarcon, Nicky Clarke, Beth Mullock, Sophie Ellis, Susie Owen, Irene Monks and Tracey Green.