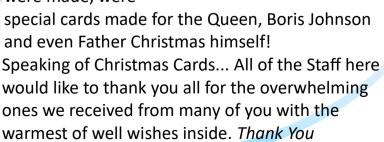


## December will be magic. Indeed it was!

Tinsel, sparkles, evergreens and all things merry. Although Mr. Weatherman didn't bring us a 'white Christmas' we found it necessary to provide our own display in the conservatory.

Of course we also had to provide a fireplace for Santa to come down the chimney too!
Our lovely residents were on hand to help with the decorations, as we made colourful snowmen, baubles, stars and gingerbread men which, we gracefully hung from the windows. This was also part of a college apprenticeship project for one of our students, Alex who has been working here, and was proud to report her activity time to her

We continued our craft sessions with some cardmaking and amongst the family ones that were made, were





Happy

New Vear

Wishes



tutor and fellow students.

TOGETHER WE CARF

Voices of Angels returned to us once again this year as we welcomed the

children and staff from St John the Baptist Primary School. How wonderful they performed singing old and new songs alike with plenty of smiles, handclapping and some special actions for us all to follow. With about 20+ pupils taking part and guiding us, we couldn't resist the temptation to join in. After their grand performance, the children spent time talking to our wonderful residents and at times, shared their secret wishes for Santa. How sweet it was at one point when I

heard a pupil say "you will always be on Santa's nice list because you always want us to sing to you, and we looooove coming here."



## Joining the Festive

Spirit was all of our regular entertainers who put together their own selection of seasonal songs. Such a variety from old to new. Guitar duo Jigsaw gave us some classic 50's & 60's in their usual 'twangy guitar' style and wonderful harmonies. Amanda had us singing along to some of



our favourite pop classics including an outstanding delivery of Lily Allen's version of 'Somewhere Only We Know.'

We even had a new duo visit the Lodge known as Earl Grey & Victoria Sponge.

Accompanied by their ukulele and double bass, they gave us an uplifting range of early tunes.

Carol-oké T'was the day before Christmas... Taking

time to reflect upon the true meaning of Christmas we had our very own carol service. An opportunity to sing our favourite and traditional carols once again, such as Away in a manger and The First Noel.

We printed out songbooks for everyone and was able to display the words (karaoke style) on the big screen TV. It was a wonderful alternative to the usual 'Christmas hits' and to embrace a little faith. For some, a memory of our younger years as we walked the streets, door to door, carol singing.







Christmas Partytime... Everyone loves one and we are no exception. Again our annual residents Christmas Party was an afternoon of fun with all the trimmings. Colin & Lynn aka Doorstep Entertainments, gave us a special Christmas show with songs, comedy and plenty of costume changes. It was all nostalgic including a slot with Frank Spencer! We also tucked into some traditional buffet food

plus the opportunity to have a festive drink. With our Santa and Elf hats we sang along to some great songs. Our wonderful staff provided some backing vocals too and the occasional 'wiggle' on the dancefloor! ...Britain's Got Talent anyone? Certainly our Christmas was special and hope yours was too and we would love to share a smile or two...





























From us <u>ALL</u>... may we wish all our readers a wonderful New Year and look forward to sharing 'Life at The Lodge' in the new decade! *Until then...* Mark See you soon,