
Elderly care home residents make film about life memories

5:30pm Friday 27th May 2011

By Natalie O'Neill

ELDERLY film-makers at a care home in Childs Hill were joined by the Mayor of Barnet to watch their debut animation film.

The film, called *A Few of My Favourite Things*, draws on memories of the lives of the people living at Central and Cecil care home in Church Walk House.

Central and Cecil supports vulnerable people across the capital including the elderly and people with mental health support needs.

Professional drama therapist, Rachel Jolly, worked with groups of residents, staff and family members to discover residents' special memories and their important objects.

Afterwards, they were shown how to use a computer and how to film their stories. Joan Heley, 91, shared memories of living in Scotland with her family and described a neighbour's pet budgerigar which used to perch on her husband's glasses.

Ms Heley said: "I have fond memories of looking after the budgie while living in Scotland with my husband and daughter. And I loved using the computer."

Edward Pretty, 87, created an animation showing a red double-decker bus travelling across a map because he loves to travel and Christabel Johnson, 93, drew on her experience of working as a nurse from the age of 17 to 67.

She said: "I worked during the Second World War – we only got hit by two small bombs so it wasn't so bad. I am very proud to have been a nurse.

"I enjoyed making the film about my story but I was a bit frightened about using a computer at first – now I'm not and I can even send emails."

The Mayor, Councillor Lisa Rutter was blown away by *A Few of My Favourite Things*.

Addressing the film-makers, Cllr Rutter said: "I think the animation project is absolutely amazing - you are all stars.

"I have never before seen these artistic endeavours in a care home – I am really impressed with these types of activities.

"I want to congratulate the arts and education programme which has been offering these creative and therapeutic activities for nearly 30 years to older residents."

© Copyright 2001-2011 Newsquest Media Group