

OLDER PEOPLE'S DAY

The staff of the **Beth Johnson Foundation** took the opportunity to acknowledge 'Older People's Day' on the 1st of October 08, with an event held at their premises in Hartshill.

Around 25 older people from the Stoke-on-Trent area were invited along to the celebrations and to join in the fun day.

Guests, from sheltered accommodation, residential homes and those living independently, were greeted on arrival with a warm welcome and a hot cup of tea and biscuits.

Once everyone had settled in, the proceedings got under way with a little quiz, which all participated in and prizes were duly awarded to those with the highest scores. This was quickly followed by a reminiscence session which was a huge success. Memories of bygone washdays were stirred and shared as the dolly tub and peg, blue bags, Robin starch and flat iron were passed around the room. There was much laughter too as pink lace-up corsets from yesteryear were tried on, and some of the ladies no doubt recalled the agonies they once went through to achieve a svelte waistline!

Soon it was time for lunch and it was a truly magnificent spread that all of the guests enthused about. An array of varied sandwiches, scotch eggs, sausage rolls, fresh fruit platters and fancy cakes adorned the table and were thoroughly enjoyed by one and all.

Lunch over and it was time for everyone's favourite – BINGO. With all 'eyes down and looking in' the tension mounted. Eventually, after a few false calls, a gentleman won a prize box of chocolates for winning a line and a lady soon followed his call with a full house. She received a fine prize of a beautifully presented and well stocked food hamper.

After Bingo came the 'Play Your Cards Right' game with more prizes given out to correct guessers of higher or lower. Tombola came next and due to the generosity of both the BJF and their staff, all guests each received not one but three tombola prizes.

After copious cups of tea, the time finally came for our older guests to leave. They all agreed it was a day they had really enjoyed and would remember for a very long time to come. They went away happily clutching their goody bags and leaving the BJF staff feeling that all their hard work had paid off and had been so worthwhile and rewarding.