

(Don't forget the £50 prize!).

Please spare a thought for Phillip our Outreach Worker in Montgomeryshire who is unwell and likewise Fran in Radnorshire and N Brecknock.

We wish them both well and hope that by the time this issue comes out they will be once more fighting fit.

Farewell also to Jane our indomitable Young Carers Outreach Worker in Montgomeryshire. After over seven years she has now retired to France, she will be impossible to replace but whilst we think how to do it Joy will be helping us out and running the Chill Clubs in Newtown and in Welshpool each week.

Best wishes

Gyles Palmer
Powys Carers Service

EMPLOYERS WHO DARE TO CARE - WHAT EMPLOYERS NEED TO CONSIDER!

A conference aimed at employers in Powys is planned for the 4th July, to be held in Llandrindod Wells. The day will aim to offer a broad balance of information encompassing research into employment - family life balance, looking at the range of issues surrounding people with many responsibilities.

The skills required to be a member

of the workforce will be discussed with information based on skills in Powys, and research in Wales.

Examples of employer perspectives from Human Resource Departments in Powys will demonstrate innovation.

Carers perspectives on seeking to maintain employment, careers and skills alongside the juggling required to manage busy agendas will be highlighted.

New Girl in the Team

As the 'New Girl' I should like to introduce myself to you all. I have been appointed to work for Powys Carers Service as an Information Worker which I am rapidly learning means all things to all people!

My name is Lesley Jones and I have collected a range of work experience as I have progressed through my working life. I started many years ago as a nursery nurse then I trained as a general nurse. During thirty three years of practice as a nurse I worked across many specialities but the last twelve of those years was as a sister in a neonatal unit, that is one caring for sick and premature babies. During that time many advances in care became available making a huge difference to the possible survival, and better outcomes for very fragile children. Although I enjoyed this role very much the demands of shift working and the arrival of my last child made a change for better hours desirable.

Fortunately I had some experience in teaching and I was able to exploit this in a successful application as a

course co-ordinator and lecturer in Health and Social Care in a further education college. I worked at this very busy and satisfying position for six years before moving to a research job initially in a subject close to my heart - Farm Safety and Children. This, once completed led on to other research contracts in the health and rural arena. Many fine words were written for various sponsors. The reports are probably gathering dust but the research process taught me a great deal.

As you will have observed from this introduction the word 'care' can be attributed to much of what I have done in work. Health has been a firm thread throughout and thus I should have the necessary background to make a contribution to the Carers Service in Powys.

Mainly office based, I shall be trying to source information which will be useful both to carers and to the outreach staff. Eventually this will be added to a new web site which I will be endeavouring to write; the aim being to make a much more interactive site, which is easily used and suitable for the needs of the

young and more mature alike. This doesn't mean that paper based resources will end. It is accepted that not everyone is ready for the electronic revolution just yet. Another very important aspect of the job will be publicity; that is taking out a message about carers and their needs to a wider community especially in areas of training, education and employment to try and encourage a more flexible attitude.

To be able to support cares it is important that those that care are identified and therefore fresh approaches to finding carers in the community, recognising the contribution that is made by carers to the welfare of others and encouraging recognition of the rights of carers is an important aspect of the proposed work.

Some of you will have already met me through your groups. Eventually I would like to meet all of the groups and find out particular needs which only you can identify. If you wish to contact me I am based in the office in Llandrindod Wells tel. 01597 823800 or email on lesley@powyscarersservice.org.uk