

## Review of the Year

Another year is over, and it will not be long before 2014 comes to a close, making way for 2015 and all that it may bring. As is inevitable with any such organization, the Stroke Club has said farewell to several good friends, people whose smiles will never be forgotten and whose lives have enriched and touched each and every one of us in one way or another. They may no longer be with us but their spirits will remain embedded in a Club that welcomed them, supported them and made a difference to their lives whilst encompassed within our fold.

It has been a busy year as ever and members spent a few moments reflecting on the highlights of the past twelve months. Tom and Val loved the tour of the Lifeboat College in Poole, with Tom finding the simulator an experience he will never forget. Christine, one of the newest members, has been overwhelmed by the friendly atmosphere, wonderful company and amazing variety of activities on offer. And not surprisingly, many opted for the Christmas lunch as being their particular favourite. Another resounding success commented David. Every year it just gets better and better ..... For Jim it had to be the Sandwich Competition, an opportunity for the creative juices to flow and interesting combinations put forward to tempt and talk about. Everyone entered into the spirit of the occasion, bread was buttered, filled and plated and judged good, bad or downright disgusting!! Committee Chris enthused about Pine Lodge Tearooms where, in her words, we were lushed up to the nines on gorgeous homemade cakes. So eat your heart out, Mr. Kipling, cos Pauline's baking is exceedingly good. A singalong Allan Knott style blew away the cobwebs and was a smash hit with June, the atmosphere of the Greasy Spoon Café was soaked up by many, and a visit by a European Barn Owl was loved by everyone. He certainly left his mark on Anne when he decided she was an ideal candidate on whom to relieve himself in colourful fashion!! It was all there in 2014 – talks on everything from health to history, art classes, games sessions, outings and so much more. Maybe an extra few weeks should be added to 2015 so everything we would like to do could be accommodated. But whatever happens, it is bound to be a year of fun and laughter, Thursday mornings bursting with activities to enthuse and enthrall and a whole host of surprises added for good luck ..... People survive strokes and our Club bears witness to the fact that life goes on and can be enjoyed to the full regardless of your limitations. So laugh and the world will laugh with you, especially at Dorchester Social Stroke Club.