

**Newsletter Christmas**  2023

**St John’s House in 2023**

2023 has been a great year for St John’s House.

The headline news was that we raised enough money to buy the house from its previous owners so that its future is now secure and it is owned by the charity - *St John’s House Trust (Bridgend)* - on behalf of the people of Bridgend.

We celebrated buying the house on St John’s Day in June, with the Mayor coming along to unveil a plaque for us. We also launched our regular donation scheme which is helping us maintain and improve St John’s House

This year we have welcomed more people to the house than ever before and our volunteers have been there greeting people, showing them around, answering questions and all of the other things we do to make visitors feel valued and welcome. We have decorated the house to reflect the year’s seasons and celebrations and our monthly quiz at the Outdoor Bowls Club manages to be both testing and enjoyable.

We have hosted a visit with Disability Wales where people advised us on steps we could take to make St John’s more accessible to all.

We have had two very successful story-telling events in November and December.

Our shop has moved across the hallway to give it more room and this has freed up our new exhibition space. We launched our programme to support local artists with a textile piece, *The Eagle,* from Lara Fuller and, at present , our second artist, Timothy Lewis, is using the space for his art installation *Watching Paint Dry.*

We couldn’t have done any of this without our dedicated volunteers and St John’s House would not be here without your continuing support so thank you for visiting us, donating, liking our Facebook posts and letting others know who and where we are.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all at St John’s House and we look forward to seeing you in 2024 – first open day, January 14th!