



**Together
We
Care**

Housman Court

Monthly Newsletter
March 2020

Dear Residents, Relatives and Friends

Welcome to our latest newsletter, which we hope you enjoy. We would welcome resident, relative, team members and friend's involvement and input into the monthly newsletter. Any stories you would like to share, quizzes, crosswords or poetry would be welcome. This is your Newsletter!

Amica Care Trust

Please follow the link below to view the website <https://www.amicacare.co.uk/>

Exciting news:

We are Pleased to announce that Lisa is the new manager at Housman court, we feel that this is fantastic news as Lisa is well known to the residents, families and staff at Housman court. We are currently recruiting for a Deputy Manager.

Goodbyes:

We say goodbye to Faye who has been our Manager at Housman court for the last 6 months, Faye has returned to St Johns, we wish to take this opportunity to thank Faye for all her hard work and support during her time at Housman court.

Amie H is leaving us on the 27th February, we wish her well in her new job.

Jenna, Home administrator, is leaving on the 4th march, we wish her well in her new job.

Welcome;

We welcome Gail who is coming to join our night carers, I know you will make her feel welcome.

Fundraising

We held our first quiz night on Friday 21st February, this was a great success we raised £262.00 once all fees were paid. Heather and Helen wish to thank all those who attended, donated raffle prizes and supported this event it is greatly appreciated.

Spring Fayre

We are holding our spring Fayre on Saturday 14th march between 2-4pm, all are welcome to attend, we would be grateful of any items for our raffle or tombola, all monies raised go towards our resident's funds.

Day trip to Weston-Super-Mare

We are pleased to announce that we have booked our annual trip to Weston-super-mare, this will take place on Wednesday 24th June. If you would like to join your loved ones for a most enjoyable day out please let Helen, Heather or Lisa know.

Tiny Table

In the new year we are going to try and fundraise to purchase a Tiny Table, A Tiny Table is a large interactive Tablet that is attached to a table that you can move around the home, and when we had one in to show the resident's and they had a go on one they appeared to get a lot of enjoyment from it, these cost around £8,000 so any ideas or help to raise any funds would be greatly appreciated as we feel that the resident's at Housman court would benefit from one of these.

Residents' & Team Members Birthdays

All residents' birthdays are celebrated with a card and a gift from all the staff here at Housman Court. Families are welcome to stay for lunch or have a room made available for family to hold a get together. The kitchen also prepares a birthday cake for each resident.

Resident Birthdays in March

Team Birthdays in March

Annie 11th march
Sandra 22nd March
Sian 24th March
Demi 28th March

Planned events for the coming month

(please see our notice board for the most up-to-date activities taking place within the home).

Regular Planned Events

- First Monday of the Month Bowling at Rubery – always very popular
- Last Monday in the month Church service with Minister Jackey Hartrey (in house)
- Methodist church every Sunday
- Bingo every Friday afternoon in the Community Centre 2-3pm £3.00.
- Hairdresser in the community center every Friday.
- Coffee morning last Thursday of every month – all are welcome for a coffee and catch up, not to mention the cake

Planned Events for March

- Monday 2nd March Bowling
- Wednesday 4th March Time for a Cuppa (Coffee morning to raise money for Dementia uk, held in the community centre, all are welcome.
- Wednesday 4th March Choir practice 4-5pm in the community centre.
- Saturday 14th March Our spring Fayre 2-4pm.
- Minibus trip 18th March Ladies day out, Shopping trip to either Redditch or Merry Hill.
- Monday 30th march in house church service.

Please see photos at the back of the Newsletter for all the fun things the residents got up to in February

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

Any Donations towards our spring fayre for the raffle or the tombola are greatly appreciated, any unwanted Bottles of wine, pop, chocolates or toiletries, please see Helen, Heather or Lisa.

Mick has been making a work board for our ladies and gents who like to be active with their hands enjoy making things and taking things apart.

Mick has made the frame and we are now filling it with items which can be done up, taken off, unscrewed, plugged in etc.

Mick has come up with some suggestions of things to add, listed below. If you can help with any items then please drop them into us here to add to the board.

Zip, Plastic Pipes through board and back into ball holder, Light Switches, Door security Slide Bolt, Bolt, Plastic Buckle (Wheelchair Strap), Door Handle, Trapdoor with Prize chocolate (three different bolts), Lock with three keys on string, Material, Velcro Straps, Door knocker, Lights, Buzzer, Abacus, Padlock, Door Stop Spring, Plug & Socket, Hinges, Maze puzzle, Wheel(s), Toilet Roll Holder, Coach Bolt and Nuts, Telephone with dial, Mirror, Magnifying Glass, Egg Timer, Chains, Compass, Wooden knobs, Horn – Rubber Squeeze

This list is not exhaustive and any ideas and suggestions to add onto the board would be appreciated.

Employee of the Month

We had a good response to employee of the month with several nominations.
The winner of Employee of the Month for March 2020 was Louise!



Louise was nominated for the following reasons: nothing is too much trouble, a hard worker on nights,

We had a lot of nominations this month, some of the following were.

Megan; a lovely person and perfect carer, for always being caring and compassionate.

Collette; always working hard.

Sue; always working hard.

Thank you for making a difference.

We welcome all Residents, staff and visitors to nominate staff for Employee of the Month when they observe their good practice within the home. We have a letterbox and nomination slips in the main corridor.

Update on developments within the home

- We currently have no lift as you all may be aware, this is going to be replaced but will take some time for a new lift to be built, we thank you all for your patience and apologise for any inconvenience caused. If you are struggling with using the stairs, please do not hesitate to use the chair lifts. We should be able to update you more in the next couple of weeks with dates and how we will manage the lift replacement in the home
- Paul has started to paint the hallway downstairs and I hope you agree this is already starting to look great.
- Decorating plan – we still continue to decorate bedrooms and we are slowly making our way around. There have also been some changes to the reception area which now looks more inviting. We plan to move into the dining room and complete the first-floor corridor in the near future
- We are adapting the dining room so that we can have a space where the residents can (if they choose to) do more meaningful activities. This will involve a work surface and a sink area that has already been started and looks great!

We still wish to develop the garden and front of the home. At the recent residents and relatives meeting a relative suggested that it may be nice for relatives and friends who struggle with things to buy individuals, that they may like to 'sponsor' a plant for the garden which will also help to keep the garden well stocked and looking nice. Anyone who may wish to do this please speak to a member of the team and your loved ones can see them grow and help to nurture them.

- Staff room – the team have been taking breaks in the dining room as you will have seen as they did not have a dedicated staff room, this is now being changed. As the hairdressers has moved to the community centre we are adapting the hairdressers into a staff room. (this has been postponed due to the lift being out of action) A staff room has been made temporarily on 3rd floor whilst the lift is out of action.

Keeping in contact & keeping you up to date

As you are aware most people now are set up to communicate electronically such as e-mail, it would be lovely for us to be able to update you and keep you in the loop more frequently. The Activity team now have their own e-mail address and they can send items to you including this newsletter. We would be grateful, if you would like items shared with you, for you to contact the activity team to provide them with your e-mail address via Activities.HC@amicacare.co.uk or Lisa at lisa.dews@amicacare.co.uk

Upcoming Residents and Relatives meetings

We will meet every three months as a group, but you are able to speak to Lisa if you have any ideas or suggestions you would like to raise in between these meetings and also during reviews. Lisa's e-mails : lisa.dews@amicacare.co.uk

- The next resident and relatives meeting will be held on 20th May at 2.30pm.

Meetings are subject to change; changes will be notified via the newsletter. Please join us to share ideas and suggestions and discuss future plans.

'Cuppa and Cake' meetings with the homes cook

We would like to welcome residents, friends and families to join Angie for our 'Cuppa and Cake' meetings.

These will be held every three months. These are an opportunity for everyone to come along to talk about the menu's and try out new foods during the taster sessions. Or simply just enjoy a cuppa and cake made by the cook.

The next one will be held on:

- Tuesday 5th May at 10.30am

Compliments and Complaints:

Please if you have any compliments or complaints/suggestions, do let us know as we like to share this information with the team and we strive to make improvements that will benefit the residents, relatives and loved ones of Housman Court.

Carehomes.co.uk

Also, we would appreciate you sharing your experiences on the carehomes.co.uk site by logging on to www.carehomes.co.uk, searching for Housman Court and leaving a review. This allows others who are looking for a suitable home to read real experiences of those already involved with Housman Court. There will also be cards available in reception for you to complete if you prefer.

Photo Consent:

Following the rebrand, we will be sending out the Photo consent forms to update. Please can we ask that you complete and return them to us for our records.
We have had some lovely trips and entertainment over the last month which have brought a lot of fun and happiness for those who have taken part.



Betty had a lovely few days celebrating her actual Birthday as she was born on a leap year.







We all had a fabulous time on Saturday 29th Feb with the singer Ruby Red.



We all had a most enjoyable afternoon at the Theatre watching Swan Lake.

The following Poem was shared to us by Hannah one of our Senior Carers,
It was Wrote by her Grandma.

Childhood...

Oh what pleasure's come to mind,
looking back at childhood times.

Happy day's no money spent,
daydreams a plenty and off we went.

Climbing trees to look out far,
tiddler's jolting in a jar,

Pocket's of thick bread and jam,
We pretending it was ham.

Our super yacht just a coach house door,
It sank if we took more than four.

We camped beneath clothes horse and sheet,
Our heads inside but not our feet.

We played Cowboy's,
Indian's too,
not counting the times
We got wet through.

Gaily we skipped through the years,
filled with laughter,
Sharing tears.

All too soon we are fully grown,
And one by one
We make a home.

Thank you for reading our newsletter and please do
send us poems, short stories, new ideas and
suggestions for us to include.