



**Together  
We  
Care**

# Housman Court

Monthly Newsletter  
December 2019

**We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

## 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!

We have a few events that we would like to invite you to, on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm the staff at Housman court are putting on a concert/show for all residents, families, friends and staff to enjoy.

On Christmas eve the staff will be getting into the Christmas spirit and singing carols in the main lounge, again we welcome you all to attend and enjoy with us, the residents will have a visit from the main man himself.

On the 31<sup>st</sup> New Year's Eve at 12 midday we will all gather in the dining room to toast the new year in together, this has always been a special event.

## Amica Care Trust

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

## Goodbyes

Sarah our cook left on Sunday December 1<sup>st</sup> we wish her well in her new position, This week Vicky left the care team but has decided to stay working for Housman court as a bank carer.

Kate our kitchen assistant is leaving us on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December, although she is staying on as bank staff we wish her well in her new position.

## Welcome

Ashley and Lisa have joined the senior Team Ashley on nights and Lisa on days we welcome you and hope you are happy in your new role here at Housman Court.

I know that you will all make them feel welcome.

## Fundraising Christmas Fayre

We held our Christmas Fayre on Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup> December, this was a fantastic event and we raised around £240, we are continuing to sell raffle tickets, the raffle will be drawn on Christmas eve around 11am, all are welcome to join us. We wish to thank all those who attended the Christmas fayre, those who donated and those who helped at the event, it is greatly appreciated and was a fantastic atmosphere enjoyed by all.

## 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 and they had a go on one they appeared to get a lot of enjoyment from it, these cost around £10,000 so any ideas or help to raise any funds would be greatly appreciated as we feel that the resident 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 December

We currently have no birthdays this month, but would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Please remember, if you are struggling to know what to buy we still have the 'sponsor a plant' for the garden.

## Team Birthdays in December

Trish 5<sup>th</sup> December  
Kate 15<sup>th</sup> December  
Claire Rainbow 21<sup>st</sup> December  
Nancy 25<sup>th</sup> December

## 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
- Church service Reverend Steve Levett (in house)
- Methodist church every Sunday
- Bingo every Friday afternoon in the Community Centre 2-3pm £3.00.
- Coffee morning last Thursday of every month – all are welcome for a coffee and catch up, not to mention the cake

### Planned Events for December

- Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December Bowling
- Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Fayre
- Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December the Christmas cake competition, Christmas decoration competition, the choir competition will take place, Karen and two of the trustees will be in to judge.
- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December “swing into Christmas” at the Golden Lion. Two course Christmas lunch and entertainment from live singers.
- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> Entertainment with Me and My Girl live at Housman court.
- Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December ice skating at Webbs at 11am.
- Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> an evening of entertainment performed by the staff at Housman court 7pm all welcome, Refreshments provided.
- Tuesday the 24<sup>th</sup> **Christmas Eve** *all are welcome to join us in a sing a long in the main lounge, followed by drinks and refreshments and the resident will get a visit from the main man himself Father Christmas.*
- Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> December **New Years Eve** *we welcome all family, friends and staff to join us to toast the new year in at 12pm midday. Refreshment provided.*

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

### WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

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.

### Inter-house Competitions

Each year the Trust hold competitions within the homes where we compete against each other to win prizes.

As you are aware, we had the Garden Competition recently and we still have the following competitions to prepare for:

- Christmas Cake
- Christmas Decorations
- Choir

As with all of our competitions it is about resident, relative, community and team involvement.

Thank you to all who helped!

### 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 November 2019 was ...Donna Bate!

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 which we have decorated pink and yellow

### Update on developments within the home

- We held Resident and Relative meetings on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September at 11am and Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October at 6.30pm that all were invited to attend.
- 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.
- 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 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)

### 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](mailto: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 Faye or Lisa if you have any ideas or suggestions you would like to raise in between these meetings and also during reviews.

Our e-mails are: [lisa.dews@amicacare.co.uk](mailto:lisa.dews@amicacare.co.uk)

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February at 3pm

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 have been scheduled and will commence in the next couple of months and 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.

These will be held on:

- Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February – time to be confirmed

### **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](http://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.

**We had a great time making the Christmas cakes for the Cake competition**







## Fun at Bowling





We had a lovely time decorating the home ready for Christmas



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