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Edition 3: April 2019

HORIZON NEWS

Russ' Blog



Hello and welcome to our Spring Newsletter. What an eventful few months it has been since our last publication!

While it might seem like a distant memory now, the Christmas Party held at Cedar Court Hotel can only be described as 'AWESOME'! Despite ridiculous weather, the attendance was incredible and I think everyone present had a fabulous time. The spirit of the party I believe captured the ethos of Horizon perfectly!

There have been lots more wonderful things happening which you will read about and see photo's within this newsletter. There have also been some very sad times since the last newsletter with the passing away of Maggie, Michael, Nigel, Jacqueline and Leon, all of whom were very much loved by all. Despite the sadness surrounding the deaths of these five wonderful characters, in typical Horizon spirit, I have been astonished by the positivity of all involved in the fabulous support that has been given and the wonderful celebrations of the lives that all five individuals have led.

As always, thank you to everyone for the tremendous support provided in every home and for making Horizon a wonderful place to be.

Best wishes to all

Russ Leese

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Headline News

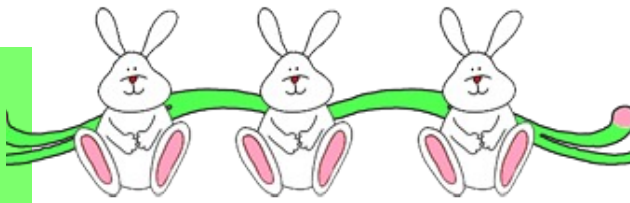
- Birthday Celebrations for Tanith and Chris
- Kathryn and Andrew celebrate their engagement
- Russ has article published in Skills for Care Guide
- Come dine with me! See page 4 for more details



Engagement News

Love was very much in the air at Beckside Lodge on Valentine's Day. Kathryn was proposed to by her boyfriend Andrew, who really pulled out the stops and popped the question in traditional style, on bended knee. There was a wonderful party afterwards to celebrate the great news. The happy couple met a year ago through their mutual love of music and are hoping to tie the knot in the summer of 2021. Congratulations to Kathryn and Andrew and best wishes to them for their future together!

Community Spirit..

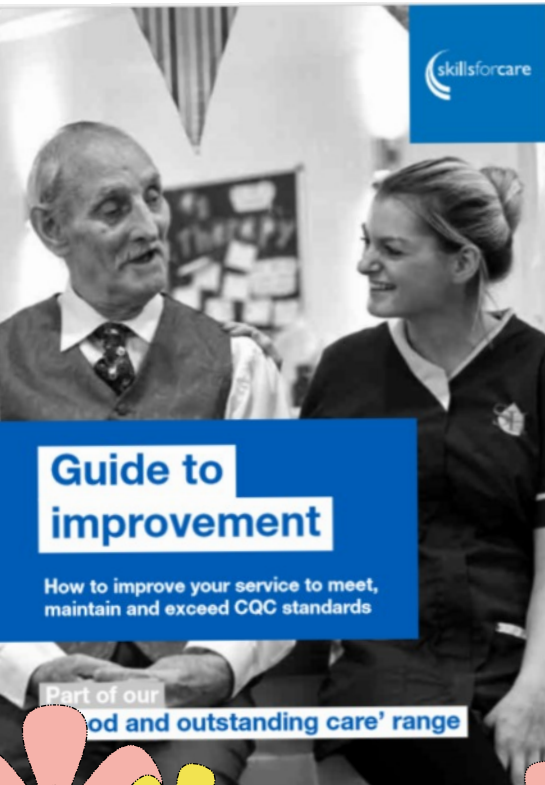


In Late December, Kirsty and her team had a lovely morning presenting the 'Winter Warmers' charity with a lot!!!! of shoe boxes. Thank you to everyone who donated including Bramwell Manor (Voyage Care) who brought over at least 10 filled boxes.

Sarah, the representative from the Winter Warmer's (the one with the Christmas jumper on) was so over whelmed with the donations that she had a little cry and was so appreciative of the boxes filled by the staff and people supported from all the Horizon Healthcare Homes and from Voyage Care.

Kirsty said "She spoke to us about the charity and what it has done for the local homeless people.

The boxes will be given out at a Christmas Eve Meet where homeless people are provided with a meal".



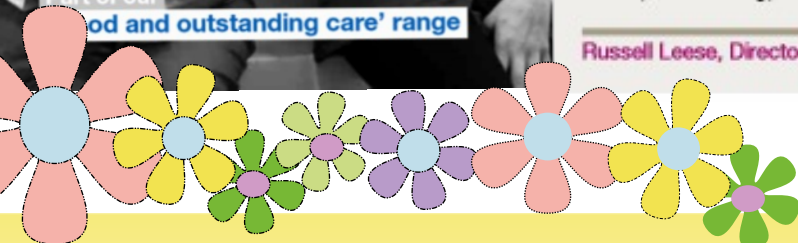
As a member of the 'Outstanding Society', Russell was recently asked to contribute to the Skills for Care Guide to Improvement which is scheduled to launch in April 2019. Russell's contribution (below) on 'Effective Leadership' can be found within the Developing strong leaders and managers to support improvements section of the guide.

"Effective leadership is key to ensuring that teams perform well. It's about bringing individuals together into an effective team and maintaining this. I've observed good teams perform poorly if the manager isn't an effective leader. And I've seen poor teams develop into effective teams with a skilled and effective manager.

"A good manager listens and responds to, takes action to support, mentor and fully understands the individuals in their team, and applies their skills consistently to bring about harmony and effectiveness.

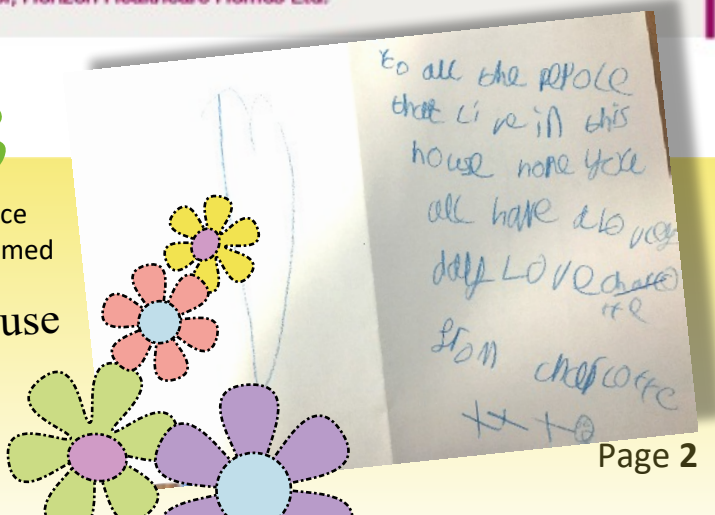
"A good leader has a clear vision, understands their client group and knows how to support them. The key then, is for them to support all of the individuals within their team to share the same vision and to strive, collectively, to achieve the same outcomes."

Russell Leese, Director, Horizon Healthcare Homes Ltd.



The Staff and people supported at Ferndale Lodge had a nice surprise when they checked their mailbox ! A young girl named Charlotte left them a lovely card.

'To all the people that live in this house hope you all have a lovely day'



A Heartfelt Thank you to Windsor Court

When Maggie's life drastically changed after having a fall and sustaining a spinal injury, we were faced with finding her a new home after been in hospital 6 months.

The hospital was pushing us to look at some large nursing homes with 60 plus beds. They had totally forgotten that Maggie had a learning disability and needed to be with people that would understand her. We needed Maggie to still enjoy some social life because, before her accident, she had a very active life. We were hitting a brick wall! Then we were told about Horizon and Windsor Court.

Maggie was at Windsor Court for only 8 months before she died from Cancer. The care and love that she was given was exceptional. In the last 6 weeks of

her life she had a month in hospital where the staff from Windsor Court spent hours with Maggie; they even visited her on their days off. The support they gave also included us, her family.

Maggie was terminally ill and we were asked where we would like her to die. We said, not in hospital, but we were not expecting her to go back to Windsor Court. We couldn't believe it when they said they wanted her home; and when I told Maggie she was delighted, her face lit up.

Shannen and her team along with the community Matron, Ruth Foster, worked so quickly and efficiently to get her home the next day. Maggie arrived home, escorted by Jade, to a welcome of balloons, banners and welcome

home cards. We were phoned to say that she was 'home' and they said that they wished that they could have bottled her delight. Sharon took the lead in her 'end of life' care; the room looked lovely, everything clinical had been removed. When we saw Maggie in her own bed and how comfortable she was, we were choked.

Over the next ten days, Maggie got weaker. Shannen and her team, supported by Ruth Foster and the community nursing team, cared and loved Maggie until she died.

We wish to thank and praise all the staff at Windsor court. Our thanks also to everyone that supports Windsor Court from behind the scenes and to Roger; without him we don't think all this would be possible.

Written by Kath Maguire

STAFF TRAINING....

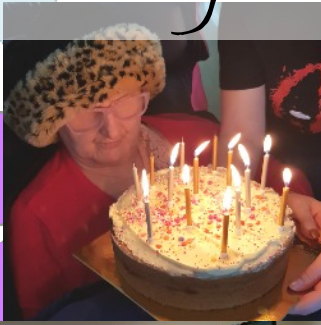
... is a priority for all of our staff and Moving and Handling training is always high on the agenda for John Fletcher, Deputy Manager at Ferndale Lodge who is also our accredited 'Moving and Handling Trainer. John took this 'selfie' at a recent training session at Windsor Court whilst making the most of the good weather.

Horizon Healthcare Homes now has a dedicated Training Coordinator, Kath Howitt, who joined the 'Horizon Team' in December of last year. She has over 20 years experience in the learning and development field, specialising in statutory and mandatory learning and in leadership and management development. Kath is working closely with the managers at our homes to ensure that our staff have the relevant training they need to provide an outstanding level of care for the people we support.

And it's not just the staff who are having training Russell, who lives at Ferndale Lodge, took part in a recent Basic First Aid course along side the staff. He enjoyed the experience and, as you can see from the photo, right, was able to master 'chest compressions'.



Birthday Celebrations at Cranmer Court



Tanith, celebrated her 61st birthday with her friends at Cranmer Court with a house party and was entertained by a Jazz band.



Chris' had his 50th birthday ... he went out for lunch to celebrate with his keyworker, Josh, and Seb from Pyramid of Arts music group.



Red nose day fun!

at Ferndale Lodge



First we had a baking challenge, then a danceathon where we all tried to master the new

'triangle dance' also during the day completed the babybell cheese challenge where we had to complete the babybell task . As you can see in the photo (middle) Mr Bean and teddy also turned up!



Fixby Lodge Events...



Following Anthony's confidence building he has made it into a fish and chip shop and even managed to order his own fish and chips! This has become a regular treat for him now.

Andy sat in a pub for his entire lunch which is a great achievement, Andy has been working on his confidence in the community and does not like new environments. Staff at Fixby Lodge have been supporting him with this. He even stayed for pudding. Well done Andy and many more puddings to come!



Paul, Chloe and Andy had a day out at Yorkshire Wildlife park, everyone enjoyed their day in the rare February sunshine. They even saw a Polar Bear !!

The staff and people supported are learning Makaton together, two signs per week are displayed in the kitchen for all to learn. This enables everyone to be able to communicate together effectively as well as learning something new whilst having fun.

Fixby Lodge are holding a 'Come dine with me' competition where each home will cook and host an afternoon of guests. The winner will receive a voucher for an afternoon tea at the Northern tea House. Everyone welcome from all homes to take part.