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HORIZON
HEALTHCARE
Homes Limited

HORIZON NEWS

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Whilst it has been a very long, and at times very difficult eighteen months, it finally feels like we are making some sort of progress in terms of getting our lives back to a level of normality. Of course, life in our homes has been incredibly difficult because of the levels of restrictions that the government advised us to take in order to keep people as safe as possible and I would like to thank all of the staff for the amazing efforts during this period that has resulted in everyone in our homes being safe and well. Not only that, but for the

amazing efforts that have been made to ensure that everyone has been actively engaged in fun activities and maintained everyone's emotional well-being. It has been a challenge, but thankfully we are now seeing everyone getting out and about again and doing some of the things that have been really missed. I would like to thank all of the people supported and their family members and friends who have remained patient and understanding of the levels of restrictions that we have had to impose and for supporting us with this.

I hope you enjoy reading the contents of this newsletter and hopefully we will be able to continue to focus our time once more on working more proactively and sharing our wonderful success stories with you.

Best wishes to all

Russ Leese

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In Next Edition

- New kitchens and new technology installed
- Halloween at the Day Centre
- VIP lunch with the Lord Mayor
- Investors in People - did we win!



Grand Opening!

The 'Summer House' at Fixby Lodge was officially opened recently by the The Mayor and Mayoress of Huddersfield.

Mandi the Manager at Fixby Lodge commented that it was a fantastic day and that their new 'best friends' had extended an invitation to attend the Town Hall as VIP guests for afternoon tea when restrictions lift.

News Just in!

THE
**INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE**
AWARDS 2021

We're Shortlisted!

Wish us luck for the 23rd November!



Scarecrow Competition

'Battle commenced' with Scarecrows appearing in the gardens, lounges and entrance halls at all the homes in August. Displays ranging from topical themes to classical scarecrows were worked on in 'top secret' by the people supported and the staff as each home vied for the coveted bragging rights as Scarecrow competition 'winners'. After much deliberation and, only by a split decision, Windsor Court was announced as the victors for 2021 with their 'Beatles' display complete with John, Paul, George and Ringo all equipped with guitars, drums and of course, a 'yellow' submarine!

Unfortunately for some of the scarecrows, the day did not end well as local youths in Bradford were later seen sporting the 'Abba' wigs!



Making our Scarecrow by Ferndale Lodge



Firstly we held a people supported meeting and discussed about making a scarecrow for the competition. We talked about how we could tie this in with Pride month - celebrating diversity and individuality. We chose our materials and had great fun building our scarecrow. And of course we had a party to celebrate pride and had our scarecrow as guest of honour.



Flat cap competition for 'Yorkshire Day' was judged by Adele and Annette from Fixby Lodge. The winning cap, made by Dominic and Emma from Fixby Lodge (no cheating involved!) included a Yorkshire badge, grass and sheep which unfortunately fell off before this picture was taken.

SUNFLOWER COMPETITION

Compost, pots, gardening tools and lots of green fingers were on display as the homes eagerly tended their sunflowers grown from seed. As you can see below, some homes have more green fingers than others but, once again, Fixby Lodge came out winners with their 'whopper' of a sunflower which reached a staggering 10ft tall.

When asked why Fixby Lodge seem to come out winner's in most of the competitions, Mandi, the manager replied that they were all 'born winners' at Fixby!



Celebrating our staff

EMPLOYEE'S OF THE QUARTER



As a company, we recognise that our staff are our biggest asset. So, it was no surprise for the people who live at Fixby Lodge to be visited by 'Mary Poppins' the other day! Julie, the Deputy Manager is keen to instil a sense of fun and adventure in each and every day - her outfit certainly lifted morale - especially when dispensing medication!



Ryan Edgerton has been recognised as Roxburgh Lodge's employee of the quarter for supporting his colleagues and being a natural leader. Emma, the Manager at Roxburgh added that he always goes above and beyond and is very person centred.

Learning and Development

The challenges of the last 18 months have resulted in lots of adaptations in how we deliver our training, but as the restrictions ease we are slowly able to introduce more face to face learning opportunities once again.

One of our key priorities is to invest in our team leaders who play a vital role within the management teams of our homes and in July we introduced our brand new Leadership Development Programme. This is a 12 month comprehensive training programme which sees our team leaders attend a series of workshops in our new training facility in Honley, in addition to completing structured 'on the job' learning within their own service. Post workshop projects and reflective reports further allow the team leaders to put theory into practise, thus developing further skills and confidence relevant to their role.

Kath Howitt our Training Coordinator added *'The sessions to date have been incredibly well received and I was delighted to see such enthusiasm and commitment from everyone who attended. Our team leaders are a fabulous bunch and absolutely deserve this investment; I can't wait to see what the rest of the programme brings.'*

Once our existing team leaders have completed their training, the programme will become available to aspiring 'team leaders'. Details of how to apply for future programmes will be released next year.

Tracy Lettice, a member of staff at Sandhurst Court has never worked in care before but she is proud to say 'I'm a support worker for young adults with disabilities and I love it. It's the most amazing job I've ever done I cannot believe I had not done it earlier'.

Kirsty, the Manager at Sandhurst Court commented that 'Tracy drives the home's minibus and this is one of the main reasons we have been able to get the 'guys' who live at the home out at weekends for long days out.' She also added that Tracy helped during a difficult couple of months in June and July with overtime to cover annual leave and sickness. 'She certainly has become the mother figure within Sandhurst and it's a pleasure to be around her. And the adults we support love her too!'



Anthony helps the Fixby Lodge Driver, Lee, keep the mini bus in perfect condition ready for their next outing.

David's job at Ferndale Lodge is to answer the telephone - and as you can see, he's very good at it! He even takes his reception work outside in the sun!



VACCINATION UPDATE

As you will be aware, the vaccination program has proven to be instrumental in reducing the risks of becoming seriously ill from the virus and that the government have legislated that from November 2021, it will be mandatory for all staff working in care homes, including non-emergency professionals visiting care homes to be fully vaccinated. Family members and friends visiting care homes do not necessarily have to be fully vaccinated, but we would encourage everyone who does visit to have the vaccine in order to protect your loved one, the people they live with, the staff team, and of course yourself and others in the wider community. Hopefully, vaccination will continue to enable all of us to lead a less restrictive lifestyle.

World Chocolate Day!



We couldn't let 'World Chocolate Day' pass without inviting all the homes to take part in a competition to see who could be the most creative with chocolate! And as you can see from the pictures, the homes rose to the challenge with their amazing creations.



Winners were Sandhurst Court who created a 'Hedgehog' Cake, with staff and the people supported having a fantastic time getting chocolate everywhere!

A Hope and Dream fulfilled!



Kathryn who lives at Beckside Lodge had her hope and dream fulfilled on 9th September, with a little help from the Reverend Andrew Grieff as her reborn baby 'Evie' was christened at the local church, St Michaels and All Angels.

Having been contacted by Zoe, the Deputy Manager at Beckside Lodge, Reverend Grieff was able to turn this day into a special occasion for Kathryn and Evie by facilitating a baptism of Christianity. Kathryn, surrounded by the people who are most important in her life, was delighted to have walked Evie down the aisle while her favorite song 'I've been waiting for you', from the film Mamma Mia 2, played.

Mum, (Lynda), Auntie Maureen and staff members' Zoe Rhodes, Dawn Dean along with Evie's Godparents, Amanda Breakwell, Karen Williams and Brandon Brown, were all welcomed back at Beckside Lodge to celebrate following the baptism with a Karaoke party. Welcome to the World Evie Iris Withington!



Days Out!

At last, we have been able to accompany the people we support to some of their favourite places. People at Ferndale Lodge enjoyed their day out at the Yorkshire Wildlife Park, and Blackpool - Paul certainly enjoyed his day, as did Emma and Chloe from Fixby Lodge!



In the hot Summer weather, Paul Bowness and Dominic Gorman chose to enjoy a very relaxing 'lads day out' at the park.



Anthony Martin from Fixby Lodge visited the Day Centre for the first time which was a massive achievement for him. He had a great time and ended the perfect day with fish and chips.



Can't wait for the next edition of 'Horizon News'? Why don't you visit our twitter page or view our You Tube channel so you can see what's going on at all the homes. Both can be accessed via our website www.horizoncareservices.co.uk