



PLEASE NOTE: Consent has been given for all news items, names and photographs used in this edition of Horizon News

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*Hello everyone.*

*It really doesn't seem two minutes since we put together the Winter Edition of our Newsletter. How time does fly by – especially when you are having fun, which we can see again in this Spring Edition!*

*It really is fabulous to see and read about so many wonderful activities that the people we support partake in, though there are so many more, which we simply don't have room in the Newsletter to include. As always, a massive thank you to the staff teams who make all of this possible.*

*I'm sure most people will agree that it is wonderful and very welcoming to feel some warmer weather, longer daylight hours, spring flowers and blossom on the trees. While everyone in Horizon Healthcare Homes enjoys activities in the community around the year, this is a time when we are able to enjoy the outdoors more and more. I am sure we will be taking full advantage of the better weather over the coming months*



**Just in case** If you enjoy reading this edition of our newsletter and would like to find out more please visit our Twitter page or You Tube channel so you can see what is happening in all of the homes. Both can be accessed through our website [www.horizoncareservices.co.uk](http://www.horizoncareservices.co.uk) We are now on Facebook under Horizon Care Services

## Learning and Development

As we enter Spring and enjoy the warmer weather, the development of our staff continues to be a key priority. As we know, this is a vital factor in ensuring that our workforce has the knowledge and skills to confidently and competently deliver excellence in everything that we do. The support and guidance of our services management teams ensure that each individual member of staff has a tailored learning plan to help them achieve their full potential. This commitment to developing and supporting staff was recognised previously by Investors in People during our assessment for our platinum award and has led to further acknowledgment recently when we were invited to feature as a case study in a new Government white paper on the impact of effective management on staff well-being and engagement. We are excited to share this paper with everyone once published in the near future!

Despite the recognition we have received to date, this does not stop us from striving to continually improve what we do and so there are several areas that we are currently developing. One of our top priorities at this time is our induction process for new members of staff. We recognise that joining our sector for the first time can feel overwhelming due to the level of responsibility that comes with the role. This inevitably means that there is a large volume of information that needs to be understood, however it is vital that we also make time to ensure new staff are welcomed and supported in a person-centred way. By revisiting our induction process we can identify if we have the right balance to give new staff everything that they need to confidently and comfortably settle into their new roles, as it is our wonderful staff who make such a huge positive difference to the day to day lives of the people we support!

**Kath Howitt, Learning and Development Manager**

## News from around the homes

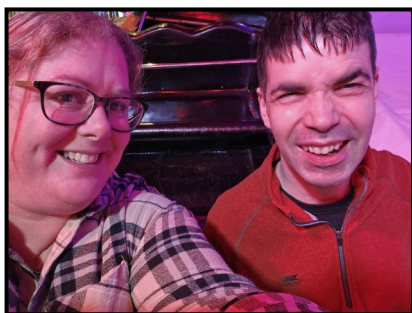


**Beckside Lodge** had a new resident move in all the way from Australia; fortunately he doesn't take up much room, he is very quiet and doesn't need feeding—Kathryn bought herself a cardboard cut out of Jason Donovan which she is very proud of. The home also had a special visit from Crunchie the Shetland pony who braved the snow to cheer everyone up and Ellie and Sarah went to the pantomime at Bradford Alhambra Theatre—oh yes they did! Other visits included a trip to Cannon Hall Farm.



**Cranmer Court** celebrated Jeanettes birthday marking her special day with a birthday tea and making a fuss of her. Ben has been keeping himself busy: he attend the Pyramid of Arts sessions and was the Featured Artist of the month for January. One of the skills he enjoys is screen printing and he has made ladybird tote bags that are sold in the groups web-shop.

**Ferndale Lodge** have also been busy with the People Supported going out and about. Tracey and Adele have been shopping locally on the bus, whilst Aaron visited Tropical World, and Tracey and Thomas went to an indoor funfair in Harrogate. David joined the group that went to Hollingworth Lake and The Greenway into Cleckheaton for walks and coffee; he also went to Blackpool with Thomas to participate in the audience of an episode of Britian's Got Talent being recorded. Annette and Adele attended a local Knit and Natter group where they enjoyed making flowers. All trips out seem to have refreshments of some kind included. In house, the team have celebrated Aaron's birthday, held a Ready Steady Cook Competition, enjoyed a Chinese "fake-away" to celebrate the Chinese New Year, and staff and People Supported participated in exercise and well-being sessions and games of bingo.



Chloe and Dominic from **Fixby Lodge** had a night out with staff at the Smile Bar in Huddersfield which they both thoroughly enjoyed having a few drinks and soaking up the atmosphere. Amy was taken to a Hydrotherapy session which she loved attending and asked before she got home if they could go again. Richard has been practicing his drawing skills with encouragement and support from the staff team, whilst Anthony celebrated his birthday by going shopping, having lunch out, bowling and receiving gifts. Fixby have also celebrated Amy's birthday with cake, presents and everyone dressing up in fancy dress outfits, whilst others celebrated St Patrick's Day in Huddersfield.



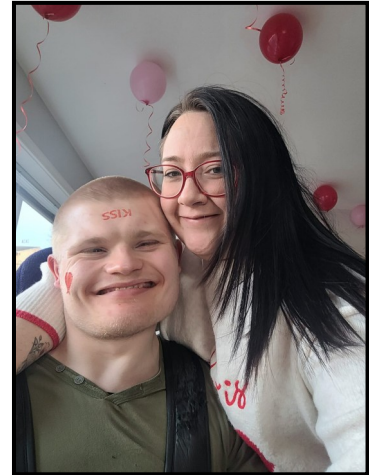
**Hampton House** have kept busy with activities at home and going out. There have been lots of shopping trips for different people supported. Nancy and Beth wrapped up warm and went for a walk round Pugneys and Helen visited Honley Library whilst at the Day Service to do a jigsaw and wordsearch. The team marked Yorkshire Pudding day with homemade puddings for tea made by some of the People Supported. Nancy has been practicing her Independent Living Skills by hoovering and helping to clean her motability car. People Supported and staff have participated in chair Zumba sessions which created lots of fun and laughter. The team decorated the home to celebrate Avatar and Jemma's birthdays. They also had gifts and cake, while Jemma enjoyed a trip to town and a meal in Nandos. Everyone enjoyed having a Chinese meal to celebrate the Chinese New Year and a group of staff and People Supported had fun playing Bingo.





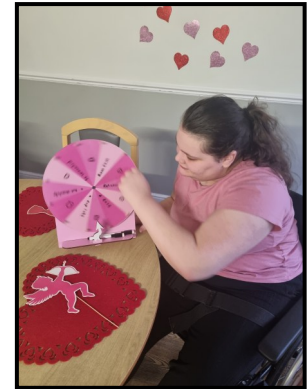
### Some people say romance is dead, not at Horizon as the homes celebrated Valentines Day

Love was truly in the air at Sandhurst to celebrate Valentines Day with balloons scattered across the dining room ceiling, creating a magical atmosphere. The event was packed with delightful activities that brought smiles and joy to everyone. People supported indulged in baking sweet treats, enjoyed a charming afternoon tea, and crafted beautiful wax melts. The fun didn't stop there – temporary Valentine's tattoos added a playful touch, while a thrilling Valentine's scavenger hunt kept everyone



on their toes. The dining room was alive with laughter and music, and creative window decorations added a festive flair. To top it all off, a pizza-making session brought everyone together for a delicious lunch. Every person felt the love and warmth of this unforgettable celebration!

At Beckside Lodge they played Kindness Bingo, which Jay, the new Deputy Manager won, and Spin the Wheel to choose activities. Everyone received a rose and a cupcake



Windsor Court decorated the home, played Valentine themed games, completed crafts and had party food whilst dressed in red or pink. At Hampton House Helen and Charles decided to go out for a romantic meal and exchanged small gifts, whilst Rachel invited Jason from Sandhurst Court to Hampton to spend time together and enjoy homemade heart

shaped pizzas. Beth, Rachel and Helen also enjoyed making Valentines chocolate marshmallow lollies with the staff to give out to everyone.



All services were invited to a Valentines party at Cranmer Court where those that attended enjoyed participating in fun activities and seeing everyone gather together. Cranmer Court also enjoyed doing Valentine's themed craft activities.



**Langley Lodge** have been keeping busy going for walks in local parks such as Greenhead Park and Kelly joined Ruth and Elizabeth in a visit to The Deep. Whilst having a break in the café at Greenhead Park



Ruth and Elizabeth were fortunate to be entertained by a singing and dancing group playing drums. Claire has attended Knit & Natter groups and visited a Kitty Café in Leeds, although she was not sure of the cat that decided to sit beside her, followed by lunch at Wetherspoons. Both Ruth and Ian have made personal achievements recently: Ruth has been shopping into Huddersfield using public transport, and Ian walked to the local barbers where he happily sat in the chair for a hair cut and actually enjoyed himself.



The team at **Roxburgh Lodge** have organized trips to Tropical World for Ben and Paul to enjoy looking at the different animals, insects and butterflies ,whilst Wayne and Darren realized one of their Hopes and Dreams by going to The Deep. They have also visited local garden centres, and a Community Centre to participate in crafts sessions. At home they had Italy as a theme for the month of January where they



learned about the Italian culture, cuisine, played “pepperoni bingo” and had a mafia film night. They have also enjoyed pamper sessions and baking , as well as celebrating Thomas’s birthday with cake, of course!



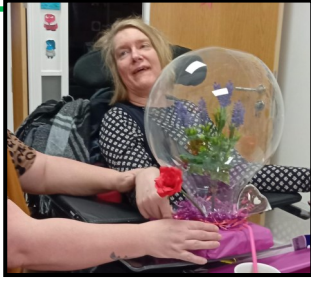
**Sandhurst Court** have held an all inclusive, action packed session with both staff and People Supported who have participated in Disco Chair Zumba, which found them “grooving through the session”. This resulted in lots of laughter and joy.

**Windsor Court** have been visiting different places: Paul and Jeffery went to The Piece Hall in Halifax for the Tractor Convention, Paul, Tony and Robert visited the Media Museum in Bradford and explored “the light and sound through mind-bending exhibits”. Jeffery and Elaine have been shopping and Jeffery also accompanied David to Woodbank to the Jigsaw Festival. At home, everyone celebrated



David’s 85th birthday with a big party—what a fabulous occasion to celebrate! Elaine has completed her butterfly tapestry and everyone has enjoyed making castles out of playdoh sand and movie afternoons with popcorn.





### Day Service News



The Day Service in Honley is becoming a thriving hub of activity. Yvonne Williams oversees the day to day running of the service, welcoming regular visitors from most of the homes. The People Supported love to mix with people from other services, making new friends and sharing lots of different experiences. They can choose to relax watching a movie in the Movie Room, play games, or be pampered. Many of our people supported love to have a manicure, or enjoy different sensations in the Sensory Room, bake up lots of delicious treats to take home, or fill their time in the Crafts Room. Yvonne always keeps the craft materials well stocked and introduces/encourages both staff and People Supported to make different, new and often exciting products which are usually linked to a season or festivity. You can see by the facial expressions how much everyone loves attending the centre.



**Staff News from some of the homes— Langley Lodge** have been celebrating with their staff: Gloria George celebrated her 5 years of service in January, when she was presented with a congratulations letter and gifts to mark the occasion. Heather Cook, Veronica Swaby-Lynch and Anna Siska have all completed their Level 2 NVQ'S and the team are planning to participate in a 10K memorial walk for Perminder in May, on what would have been her 60th birthday. They will be raising some funds for the charity Scope. The team also welcomed their newest member, with Anna Siska having a beautiful baby girl a few weeks ago called Blessing. At **Cranmer Court** there must be something in the water, as the saying goes, as they have seven staff who have either just returned from Maternity Leave, currently on Maternity Leave, or are pregnant. Congratulations must also go to Zaiynab Makwinja and Gabriella Szucs for completing their NVQ Level 3. **Sandhurst Court** have recently promoted, after successful interviews, two Support Workers, Aliyah Hussein and Louise Taylor to the position of Acting Team Leaders to cover Maternity Leave. Zoe Rhodes the Registered Manager has said that: "they are both hard working, passionate and dedicated to making a difference"

At **Windsor Court** Sami Cariss was awarded Employee of the Quarter, as voted for by colleagues in the staff team. A new Team Leader, Bakar Shah, has started at the service and is settling in well. Both Georgina McGeehan (Level 3) and Sharon Ackroyd (Level 2) have registered to complete their NVQ's in Health and Social Care.



**Roxburgh Lodge** have appointed two staff as Activity Leads, Lois Barraclough and Channele Hodson, who in a short time have organised multiple ways of fundraising and have a month of random acts of kindness planned to get Roxburgh involved in the local community. The Roxburgh team have also started an internal management team competition; they have 4 houses, Air, Water, Fire and Earth, each led by a member of the management team, They plan to compete initially in areas of fundraising, community links and nourish development.