



PLEASE NOTE:

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

**Welcome to Our Spring Newsletter**

Spring is finally here, bringing longer days and hopefully some warmer weather ahead. Despite a particularly wet winter there has been no shortage of activity across Horizon Healthcare Homes, with everyone continuing to enjoy a wide range of fun and engaging experiences.



This edition of the newsletter is packed with stories and photos, although it only captures a small glimpse of all the wonderful things happening in our homes. If you'd like to see more of the daily activities and special moments, please take a look at our Facebook page, where we regularly share updates.

Our Valentine's celebrations were a great success this year, especially the fiercely contested inter-home cake-making competition! We're now looking forward to the next events in our calendar, including our Easter display competition and the celebration of Eid.

Many of you will know that our Employee of the Year award is traditionally presented at our Christmas party. Recently, a family member suggested that relatives and friends could also help recognise staff by contributing to the voting for each home's Employee of the Quarter. We think this is a fantastic idea. Your feedback is incredibly valuable to us, and it would be wonderful for family members and friends to nominate staff when they feel someone has gone above and beyond.

Hearing about the positive experiences you have with our teams is always encouraging, but feedback about where we can improve is just as important. Our aim is always to build on what we do well while continuing to learn and improve.

You may recently have received a summary of the results from last year's Annual Quality Questionnaire. This survey provides us with valuable insight into how we are supporting people and helps guide improvements across our services. Please keep an eye out for the questionnaire later this year and take a few moments to share your views. Of course, feedback can be given at any time by using the compliments and complaints book in the home, or by speaking with a member of the management team.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

**Russ Leese Director**

**Learning and Development News** - The learning and development of our workforce never slows down, as we have to be continuously responsive to the ever changing demands of the sector, as well as the needs of the people we support. In the last newsletter I mentioned that we would be expanding our training team to enable us to strengthen the learning and development provision even further...

Many of you will already know Shannen Hornby from her time as Registered Manager at Roxburgh Lodge, well I am delighted to announce that at the beginning of February, Shannen joined the learning and development team in a new role as Training Support. Shannen will be involved in many aspects of supporting and progressing the development of staff moving forwards, but one of her key responsibilities is to support our employees in gaining their professional qualifications. Already Shannen has been developing strong working relationships with our chosen learning providers, as well as providing hands on support to the learners themselves, enabling them to navigate their way through their apprenticeships smoothly.

We currently have 123 staff already qualified, an additional 36 staff undertaking their qualifications and others waiting to go through enrolment as we speak. Shannen's involvement will not only be invaluable to the learners themselves, but will also take some of the pressure from our management teams who can call on her for support in this area at any time. I'm sure you will all join me in wishing Shannen the best of luck in this new role. **Kathryn Howitt Learning & Development Manager**

*This edition of the newsletter has news from Russ Leese, Learning and Development, as above, what has been happening across all the services, the Day Service, staff news and competition results.*



## NEWS FROM THE HOMES

**Beckside Lodge** joined in the fun when the team assisted the People Supported to make a cake for the inter-homes Valentines cake competition, both Ellie and Naomi enjoyed themselves.



Ellie has also been enjoying her Music Therapy sessions which have been featured recently on the Nordoff Robbins Website the following comments:-“ Ellie can find it difficult to interact with others and can struggle to maintain her interest during activities. Ellie also has a physical disability that requires her to use a wheelchair, and this limits the opportunities for her to take part in activities she enjoys. However, during her weekly sessions with music therapist Michael, Ellie flourishes.

Ellie’s playful and energetic personality means she thrives during sessions that balance flexibility with musical structure. This often involves singing improvisations while Michael accompanies with rhythmic guitar playing. To match Ellie’s energy, Michael plays lively grooves on the guitar, which can help to motivate her during sessions.” More comments and a video can be seen by going to the following link <https://www.nordoff-robbins.org.uk/stories/ellies-story-music-therapy-and-learning-difficulties/>

**Cranmer Court** have been very busy, completing lots of activities both at home and going out. The People Supported have enjoyed arts and crafts activities, foot spas and hand massages, baking sessions, music therapy, exercise with G Fit and more recently making Valentines cards and choosing who to send them to. External activities they have enjoyed include visits to the library, cinema, bowling, arcade, going for lunches and coffee, shopping, haircuts and visiting local places for a walk. The team organized a New Years eve party for the people supported with a coloured snack theme and Akvile and Christian enjoyed a romantic meal together to celebrate Valentine’s day. Marie realized her Hopes and Dreams by seeing a local Brass Band in concert.



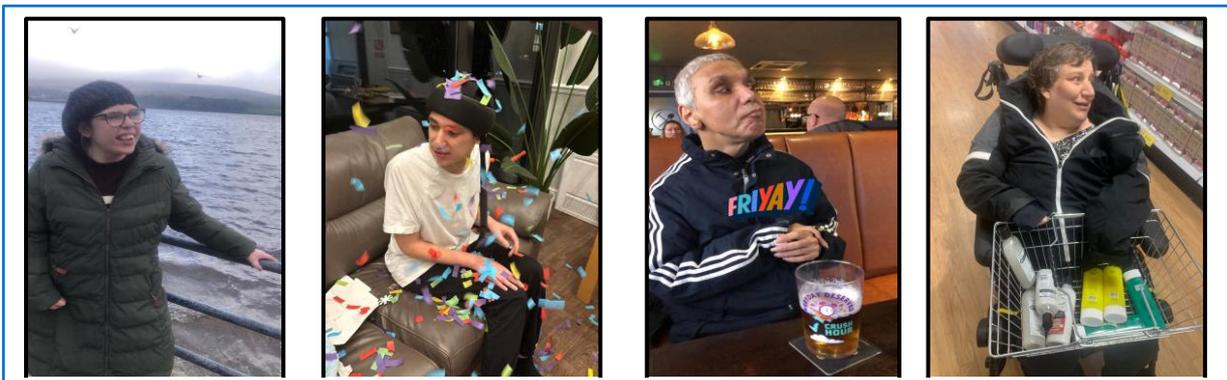
The team at **Ferndale Lodge** have offered the People Supported lots of different activities to keep them occupied and entertained. They organized New Year celebrations which included a quiz, food, fun and laughter and an indoor snowball fight on New Years day. Group exercises, watching movies, indoor football, completing different arts and crafts activities, baking for Valentines, playing "Guess the Sound" quiz have all been immensely enjoyed by everyone, both staff and PWS who have participated. Tracey and Aaron enjoyed lunch out and a walk along the Spen Valley Greenway, Tracey also enjoyed a trip to the White Rose shopping centre with Adele for lunch, bowling and a Costa Coffee: one of Adele's favourite things. Others enjoyed Frankenstein the panto. Some of the People Supported also attending the Valentine's cake competition at Sandhurst Court and had a lovely afternoon. Louise realized one of her Hopes and Dreams by going on holiday to Blackpool, where she played bingo, visited the Zoo and experienced the hydro pool. She said that she had "a lovely time" when asked.



**Fixby Lodge** took some of the PWS to see the pantomime, Beauty and the Beast at Lawrence Batley Theatre in Huddersfield which was thoroughly enjoyed. Richard and Paul enjoyed spending time together going out for lunch and Chloe and Amy worked together to bake Fixby's entry for the inter-home Valentine's cake competition. All of the PWS celebrated Valentines day with music, karaoke, dancing, a buffet and giving gifts out, Michelle, one of the Team Leaders, entertained everyone doing her Tina Turner impression.



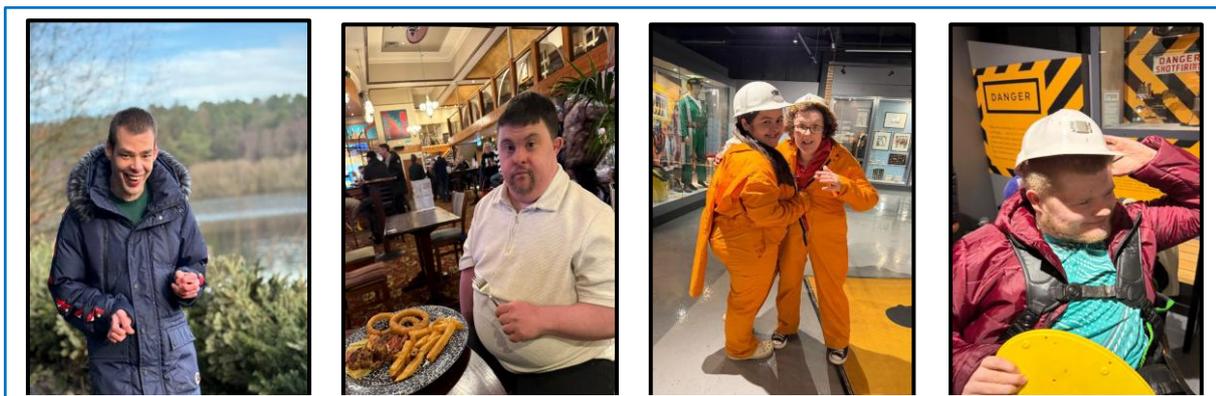
**Hampton House** also celebrated New Year with a New Year's eve party which all the People Supported thoroughly enjoyed. The PWS have been keeping busy attending church, visiting Hebden Bridge, exploring Castle Hill in Huddersfield, walking along Mirfield canal and around Hollingworth Lake, shopping, going for coffee, lunches and the odd pint whilst out and about. They have also completed crafts and baking at home.



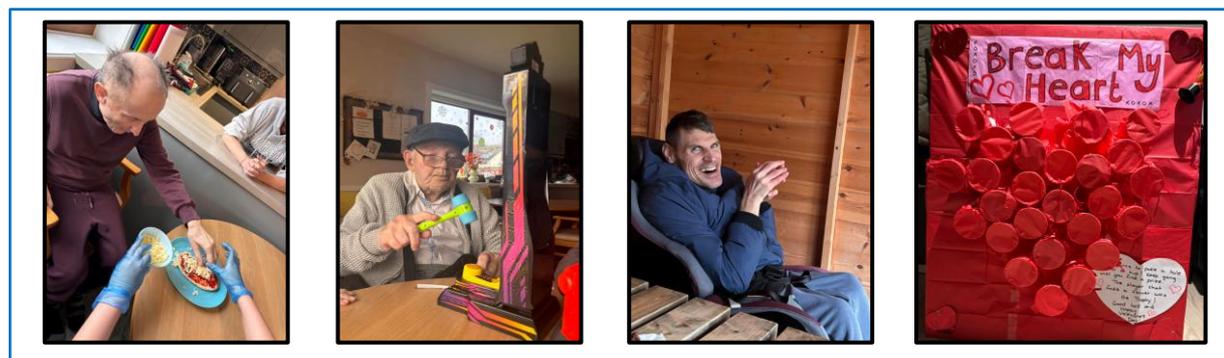
**Langley Lodge** have kept themselves occupied both at home and going out. They attended Beauty and the Beast pantomime where they had a lovely time, some PWS have visited the Railway Museum in York whilst others went to the Sea-life centre in Manchester and Tropical World Leeds. They have listened to the music box together, enjoyed Music Therapy sessions, had one to one time reading, dancing and painting nails and also spent time making a floral display for the entrance carefully selecting the flowers and giving each one a kiss.



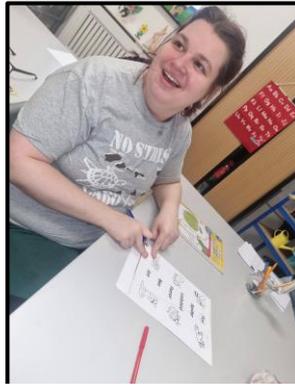
**Roxburgh Lodge** also took some People Supported to the pantomime to see Snow White, which they enjoyed, they have been out to Ogden Water for walks, started attending swimming sessions going out shopping and for meals. They have welcomed both a new person into the home and a new manager to lead the team. There has been lots of support from everyone in the home to help people settle into their home and work place. **Sandhurst Court** have also welcomed a new Person Supported: the team have been kept busy in supporting the transition, which went very well. People Supported have visited Pugneys for a walk and a picnic and the National Coal Mining Museum where they had a brilliant day and even dressed up in the uniform. The home also hosted the inter-homes Valentine's cake competition, but more on that later.



**Windsor Court** have had lots of fun enjoying a games afternoon, making their own pepperoni pizzas, creating decorations for Valentine's Day and St Patrick's Day and karaoke singing. They have been across Thornton Viaduct to the junction lodge where they enjoyed hot drinks and brownies. The team have also facilitated regular walks in the winter sunshine, as well as taking people on shopping trips and have welcomed family visitors.



When visiting the **Day Service** the PWS have enjoyed completing lots of new activities. Vonnie, the Activities Co-ordinator has introduced sand play, wood work, hairdressing, basic English and Maths sheets, more baking sessions, and offering healthy snacks. Some of the rooms have been redesigned and new equipment purchased. Those attending have thoroughly enjoyed making pizzas, Valentines cards, decorating love Heart balloons, making spring flowers and spending time with friends from different services.



All the homes came together to celebrate Valentine's Day by having a "bake off competition". Sandhurst Court hosted the event and all homes were invited to participate by submitting a cake to be judged and enjoy afternoon tea together. The judges were Rachel from Hampton House and Jason from Sandhurst Court and they selected two winners, one for the best looking cake and one for the best tasting cake.

**Valentine's Day Bake Off -**  
Thursday 12th February  
**Best Looking Cake Competition**  
was won by Cranmer Court  
who had the best designed cake on show.



Cranmer Court had the best designed cake on show.

**Valentine's Day Bake Off**  
Thursday 12th February



**Winner**  
Fixby Lodge  
Best Tasting Cake

Fixby Lodge won - the best tasting cake competition.



## GENERAL NEWS

The majority of the homes have had at least one person supported celebrating a birthday since the previous newsletter. Sarah at Becksides; Lodge, Jeanette, Tanith and Chris at Cranmer Court; Aaron and Robbie at Ferndale Lodge; Amy, Anthony and Emma at Fixby Lodge; Jemma at Hampton House; Thomas and Ben at Roxburgh Lodge; Jason and Ashley at Sandhurst Court; and last but not least David at Windsor Court, who celebrated an amazing 85<sup>th</sup> birthday! All birthdays have been marked with treats, gifts, cakes, parties and doing special activities. Ben at Roxburgh Lodge who celebrated his 40th birthday thoroughly enjoyed himself singing and dancing at a party his family had organized for him.



As well as the Employee of the Quarter and Employee of the Year awards that Russ mentioned earlier in the newsletter, we also recognise staff who have Long Term Service with the company. Recently we have had Aliyah Hussain, Tracy Lettice and Joanne Gabriel at Sandhurst Court celebrate their 5 year service along with Kirsten Dean from Fixby Lodge. Zoe, Registered Manager at Sandhurst Court said that her three staff had been at the home since it opened and have shown dedication, resilience, helped shape the service and have a positive impact on a daily basis. Zoe herself has reached her 5 year service along with Shannen Hornby, Training Support, Nicola Jackson, Operations Support, celebrated 10 years and Mandi Gallagher, the Registered Manager at Fixby Lodge was recognised for an amazing 15 years of service! Congratulations and thank you to all of you.



*We hope you have enjoyed reading this edition of our newsletter, if you 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) You can now find us on Facebook under Horizon Care Services.*

