

As always we enjoyed a real variety of activities and entertainment over the Festive Period, including two touring pantomimes, trips out to see local Christmas lights and decorations, shopping trips, carol singers and our regular singers – Roger Eno & Elvis (to name a few!). We also enjoyed visits from local school children who came to sing for us and took the opportunity to visit our Holmwood grotto. Many of our residents were active in decorating the homes many trees. our annual Holmwood Cocktail party was well attended, plus we have enjoyed family and friends joining our residents for lunch and tea including Christmas Day! Thank you for those who have let us know how much they enjoyed it! We thought we would share the following memories of this sparkly time!



Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter, please let us know if there is a topic you would like us to include in the future.



We warmly welcome Mrs Gwen Harris, Mrs Wendy Brown, Sister Margaret Onions, Mr Henry Shipp and Mrs Patricia

We enjoy many good relationships with the local community and welcome the Emmanuel Pre School children for a regular monthly visit, during which they enjoy games and stories our residents, plus free use of our main lawn during the warmer months, where we are proud to have hosted their annual Sports Day in recent years.

Our Dementia Café launched last year and we are thrilled to hear that local people find this supportive and useful. This is held from 10.30 – 11.45 on the first Wednesday of each month. Please join us if you're able to, we often enjoy delicious cakes, biscuits and scones produced by our fantastic catering team!



STAFF TRAINING



All staff have recently completed their mandatory training updates for Health & Safety, Equality, Diversity & Inclusion, Protection of Vulnerable Adults (Safeguarding), Behaviours that Challenge, Mental Health Awareness, Mental Capacity, Deprivation of Liberty, Dignity & Respect and End of Life Care. Senior staff including Managers have received their medication training update. We are also proud that Dee has recently trained and qualified as our in house Manual Handling Co-ordinator and will be assessing/reviewing our residents needs and training colleagues.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY SURVEYS: It is almost that time of year again! We will soon be asking for your feedback via our surveys. In previous years we have enjoyed a good level of response, but would encourage everyone to take a few moments to feedback. All comments received are invaluable when reviewing our service and practices and form part of our quality assurance and forward planning. The results are also evidence for our regulators who ask that we demonstrate how we listen and respond to comments and suggestions. We regularly receive such lovely comments verbally, but would just remind everyone that our surveys are a great way to give us your views anonymously. Of course, we always welcome feedback at any time which can be given verbally to any member of staff or via our comments forms which are available in our reception area. Even a brief message is gratefully received and can be fed into our monthly quality report / held for evidence for our next inspection. Thank you.



Thanks to everyone who followed the advice on our yellow notices in reception recently - by taking extra care with handwashing and delaying visits to friends and family when unwell, we have avoided many of the bugs doing the rounds locally. Your efforts have helped us to keep our residents safe and for this we thank you!

REFRESHMENTS

Please remember our well stocked **self-serve refreshment area** is available at any time in the dining room, with a choice of fruit drinks, a selection of teabags and coffee, plus of course biscuits! Please just let a member of staff know if there is anything else you would like when visiting. As always we also welcome visitors to join us for main meals, but would just ask that where possible you let us know in advance so that we can ensure that we are catering for your preferences and needs!



FOCUS ON MAVIN ☺ Mavin provides fantastic Armchair Exercise sessions every Tuesday afternoon. They are always well attended and vary weekly in content. We are taking this opportunity to thank Mavin for all her effort and hard work! **Mavin is much appreciated by all at**



We enjoy a variety of regular animal visitors to the home including cats, dogs, rabbits, birds and reptiles. Many of us also enjoy daily contact with our resident cat, Frieda. In response to our residents communicating that they really enjoy a cuddle with our doggy visitors, our housekeeper Dee will now be bringing two (of her five!) dogs in for dedicated therapeutic 'pat dog' sessions. Research shows that many people greatly benefit from the natural affection that most dogs have for humans especially those who are elderly or unwell.



We are hoping to hold another **'DINERS EVENING'** soon. These lovely evenings provide an opportunity for residents to invite up to six members of their family and friends to join them for a candlelit five course dinner party experience with locally sourced food and wines. *If you would like to join us, please register your interest with the office.*



Very sadly, we have said goodbye to Mrs Marjorie Mace, Mrs Sylvia Chase, Mrs Joan O'Donnell, Mrs Bertha Arnold, Mr John Wells, Mrs Mim Plumb, Mrs Margaret Gillies and Mrs Audrey Mines. ***Gone but not forgotten...***