

Housman Court's Monthly News Letter July 2019

Dear Residents, Relatives and Friends

Welcome to our latest newsletter, which we hope you enjoy.

We would welcome resident, relative, team members and friends involvement and input into the monthly newsletter. Any stories you would like to share, quizzes, crosswords or poetry would be welcome. This is your Newsletter!

Amica Care Trust

Please follow the link below to view the website <https://www.amicacare.co.uk/>

Goodbyes:

Eileen – Cook at Housman Court left us this month to start her retirement and spend more time with her husband. Eileen has been part of the kitchen team for 11 years.

We wish Eileen well and hope that she enjoys her retirement taking holidays and enjoying hobbies.



Welcome:

Debbie has joined the Care Supervisor team and Hazel has joined the bank care team.

We welcome them and hope they enjoy working with us here at Housman Court.

FUNDRAISING

On Saturday 1st June, Lisa organized the third annual Fundraising Football Tournament in conjunction with Gaz Evans who is the manager of Catshill under 9 football team. This event, as always was a fantastic, fundraising event which took place all day at South Bromsgrove High School using their pitches. There was a BBQ and refreshments were available and there was a raffle with some fantastic prizes which were kindly donated.

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the event and came along on the day to cheer the players on. The event raised £1400 which has been split between the Houseman Court Residents fund and Catshill under 9 football club. This will go a long way in helping us to develop the garden to make it a much nicer area to sit and enjoy.

Residents' & Team Members Birthdays:

All residents' birthdays are celebrated with a card and a gift from all the staff here at Housman Court. Families are welcome to stay for lunch or have a room made available for family to hold a get together. The kitchen also prepare a birthday cake for each resident.

Forthcoming Resident Birthdays in July:

- Margaret – 5th July
- Edward – 27th July

Forthcoming Team Birthdays in July:

- There are no team members celebrating this month

Planned events for the coming month

(please see our notice board for the most up-to-date activities taking within the home).

Regular Planned Events:

- First Monday of the Month Bowling at Rubery – always very popular
- Church service Reverend Richard (in house)
- Methodist church every other Sunday
- Coffee morning last Thursday of every month – all are welcome for a coffee and catch up, not to mention the cake!

Planned Events for July:

- Thursday 18th – G-Fitness 11.00am – 12noon – Jenny will be putting us through our paces in the lounge
- Wednesday 24th July – Amica Care Trust – Garden competition – fingers crossed we win this year after all of the hard work. However, I think you will agree that we feel that garden is a much better environment to relax now.

Please see photos at the back of the Newsletter for all the fun things the residents got up to in May

Employee of the Month.

We had an amazing response to employee of the month with several nominations. The winner of Employee of the Month for May 2019 was Shannon

Thank you for making a difference.



We welcome all Residents, staff and visitors to nominate staff for Employee of the Month when they observe their good practice within the home. We have a letterbox and nomination slips in the main corridor which we have decorated pink and yellow

Update on developments within the home:

- Decorating plan – we have now started decorating the first floor landings and have memory boxes outside the rooms where the decorating is completed. We would like your help to personalize the memory boxes, please speak to a member of the team. We hope you will soon start to see some changes too in the reception area and dining room.
- Garden – changes ahead. As you know we hold an annual inter Trust garden competition and this year we are going all out to win. Residents are being involved with the planning, planting and nurturing and the first step was to remove the boat raised bed to open this area up to make a better seating area. A huge thank you to Helen & Heather for all their hard work.

The next stage was to slab this area and to have the other raised bed moved to the back fence to allow a nice, open walk way, this is looking good now. We hope to have a giant games area here and the grass area we are making into a putting green. It will be all fun in the sun (hopefully the sun will be out again this summer)!

Any Alan Titchmarsh's out there who would love to help us develop the garden to make it an attractive, relaxing area and help us win the competition please let Laura, Lisa, Helen or Heather know.

At the recent residents and relatives meeting a relative suggested that it may be nice for relatives and friends who struggle with things to buy individuals, that they may like to 'sponsor' a plant for the garden which will also help to keep the garden well stocked and looking nice – all

thought that this was a lovely idea. Anyone who may wish to do this please speak to a member of the team and your loved ones can see them grow and nurture them.

Please speak to Helen or Heather for ideas and suggestions of how you can help us turn the garden into a relaxing and enjoyable area for all.

Keeping in contact & keeping you up to date:

As you are aware most people now are set up to communicate electronically such as e-mail, it would be lovely for us to be able to update you and keep you in the loop more frequently.

The Activity team now have their own e-mail address and they can send items to you including this newsletter. We would be grateful, if you would like items shared with you, for you to contact the activity team to provide them with your e-mail address via Activities.HC@amicacare.co.uk

Upcoming Residents and relatives meetings:

We will meet every three months as a group but you are able to speak to myself or Lisa if you have any ideas or suggestions you would like to raise in between these meetings and also during reviews.

Our e-mails are: laura.wilkes@amicacare.co.uk & lisa.dews@amicacare.co.uk

- Thursday 9th May at 11.00hrs & 14.00hrs – we will be joined by Elaine who is a funeral celebrant to give a talk and give suggestions and ideas – **taken place, thank you to those who attended.**
- Wednesday 7th August at 11.00hrs & 18.00hrs
- Tuesday 12th November at 15.00hrs

Meetings are subject to change, changes will be notified via the newsletter. Please join us to share ideas and suggestions and discuss future plans.

'Cuppa and Cake' meetings with the homes cook:

We would like to welcome residents, friends and families to join Sue for our 'Cuppa and Cake' meetings.

These have been scheduled and will commence in the next couple of months and will be held every two months. These are an opportunity for everyone to come along to talk about the menu's and try out new foods during the taster sessions. Or simply just enjoy a cuppa and cake made by the cook.

These will held:

- Tuesday 25th June – thank you to those who joined Ange the new cook for her first meeting
- Tuesday 27th August
- Tuesday 29th October
- Tuesday 3rd December – Christmas menus

Compliments and Complaints:

Please if you have any compliments or complaints/suggestions, do let us know as we like to share this information with the team and we strive to make improvements that will benefit the residents, relatives and loved ones of Housman Court.

Carehomes.co.uk:

Also we would appreciate you sharing your experiences on the carehomes.co.uk site by logging on to www.carehomes.co.uk, searching for Housman Court and leaving a review. This allows others who are looking for a suitable home to read real experiences of those already involved with Housman Court. There will also be cards available in reception for you to complete if you prefer.

Photo Consent:

Following the rebrand, we will be sending out the Photo consent forms to update. Please can we ask that you complete and return them to us for our records.

We have had some lovely trips and entertainment over the last month which have brought a lot of fun and happiness for those who have taken part.



Football Tournament winners – Adults Bromsgrove Select & Juniors Sutton FC



Good old British Seaside Fun – without the sun, in Weston Super Mare!



Oh we do like to be beside the Seaside. Despite the rain and lack of sun everyone had a wonderful day.



We had a lovely day celebrating the National Carers Week with a BBQ lunch (which happened indoors due to winds and rain) followed by the awards ceremony which residents, visitors and team members took part in voting. Thank you to everyone for helping us celebrate and nominating team members.

Winners were:

- Most Ambitious – Nancy
- The Motivator – Tina B
- Most Inspirational – Heather
- Compassionate Carer – Helen
- Adaptable to change – Collette
- Most Passionate – Dennie
- Top Team player – Dorota
- Mr Sincere – Kieran
- Heart of Gold – Vicki
- Going the extra Mile – Heather

Although these awards we presented by Kern Wilkinson – CEO & John Whittaker – Chair of the Trustees every single member of the team was praised for what they do to make a difference to those who live at Housman Court. Together we Care.