



**Together
We
Care**

Housman Court's Monthly News Letter June 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:

We say goodbye this month to Eileen a member of the kitchen team who has been a part of Housman Court since 2008.

Eileen is retiring to spend some quality time with her husband. We wish Eileen well and she will be missed but I'm sure she will popping in from time to time.

Welcome:

We would like to welcome Sam & Hannah to the team. They are two of our new Senior Care Team. We will also be welcoming Angela Hobbins in June as our new Head Cook, you will have the opportunity to meet her at the Cuppa & Cake meeting - TBA

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

FUNDRAISING

Forth coming Fundraising event:

On Saturday 1st June, Lisa is organizing the third annual Fundraising Football Tournament in conjunction with Gaz Evans who is the manager of Catshill under 9 football team. This event is a fantastic, fundraising event which will take place all day at South Bromsgrove High School using their pitches. There will be food and refreshments available and a raffle with some fantastic prizes which have kindly been donated. If you would like to be involved, have your own team or support us on the day then please speak to Lisa or Laura for more information. All profits will be shared between the resident welfare fund to help with trips and entertainment and Catshill under 9 football club.

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. Sue and Eileen also prepare a birthday cake for each resident.

Forthcoming Resident Birthdays in June:

- Ben – 13th June
- Beryl – 16th June
- Patrick – 16th June

Forthcoming Team Birthdays in June:

- Mick – 12th June
- Sue P – 20th June
- Dorota – 24th June
- Collette – 28th June

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 June:

- Bowling on Monday 3rd June, always enjoyed by all who come along.
- Annual Weston trip is being planned for 4th June 2019 – this is a fantastic day out and sometimes we actually get to see the sea! Please let Helen & Heather know if you are interested in a day beside the seaside, beside the sea!
- National Carers week Awards Ceremony Tuesday 11th June – a presentation of awards and certificates for members of the care team who have been nominated. Please use the nomination forms in reception to make your choice and join us on 11th June at 11.30am followed by a BBQ lunch. Everyone is welcome.
- National Cupcake Day Thursday 13th June – the ladies and gents will be celebrating this great event by decorating cupcakes which we will all get to enjoy for afternoon tea. Come along and help us to make some wonderful creations.
- Oomph trip – destination to be confirmed on Wednesday 19th June, always a great day out, filled with fun and laughter.
- Monday 24th June we will have our additional, monthly minibus trip – destination to be confirmed
- Thursday 27th June we will be having our monthly coffee morning when everyone is welcome to come along and join us for refreshments and cake whilst having a chat

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 Sandra Madden– 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:

- Choir in the Home – Heather organized a choir to visit both Housman Court & St John's Court. We held the first choir practice here at Housman Court on the afternoon of Tuesday 14th May and invited our ladies and gentlemen, family members and team to join in the fun. Everyone had a lovely afternoon enjoying the bright and cheery songs and afternoon tea. This was our very first Housman Choir and want it to be your choir and be something we can all continue to enjoy, so please keep joining us for the fun.
- 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.

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
- 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.

Knitting Club:Some of you may have noticed Meda knitting squares; last year she was making two a week; then she had a break but has re-started now. Some friends also donated squares so Meryl and family made up knee blankets; the grand children enjoyed making the patterns!

We hope you like them and find them useful.

Now the knitting club is meeting perhaps some more of you will start knitting . I find size 8 (4mm) needles with double knitting wool gives a good result making a 6in. Square. You can do any pattern you like but plain is fine; most people do stocking stitch (one line of purl then one line of plain.)

Here Meda is surrounded by just some of the blankets donated.



I hope this helps you keep warm especially when going out into the garden or on the mini bus.

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.



Bollywood Boogie with Patrick, Ivy & Meda



Bowling fun – Beryl & Meg, Les & Jean all trying for a Strike!



Enjoying the beautiful trains and scenery of the Severn Valley Railway – we had an amazing day and hope to return again soon.