

Newsletter

Happy New Year

2020 has been a very unusual year, and as we enter 2021, we would like to take a moment to reflect on the positive times we have had this year. Our focus has always been to ensure

we are a safe and caring environment for our residents, which has been particularly important at a time when visits from loved ones have been restricted.

Intergenerational Festivities

Despite being unable to continue with our usual intergenerational groups, it is very important that we maintain relationships with our local communities and the young people in them. Linden House care home in Epsom was lucky enough to receive a special visit from children at St Christopher's school, who sang to the residents from the garden. The residents were able to enjoy the performance from inside the warmth of the home, with a great view of the garden. Before further restrictions were placed on the UK in December 2020, Linden House decided this visit would be the perfect idea to get the residents in the mood for the festive season.

The children from Year 2 put on a fantastic show, with perfectly performed dance moves along to the popular Christmas song 'Jingle Bell Rock'. Paula Windmill, home manager at Linden House care home, said: "The residents thoroughly enjoyed the performance that the children of St Christopher's school put on for them. It helped to uplift everyone's spirits and get us in the mood for Christmas!"



Christmas Carolling



At Wren House care home, residents were treated to a lovely Christmas carol performance by the Minster Church, Warminster. The singers serenaded Wren House residents from outside the home, and everyone listened to the lovely Christmas songs indoors in the warm.

The residents also enjoyed a virtual Christmas treat, a performance of A Christmas Carol, live from Bristol Old Vic Theatre. Although Christmas has been very different this year, we have tried to ensure that everyone can still enjoy the magic of the festive season. The Wren House residents were able to watch the performance using the home's giant, interactive tablet.

Pauline Taylor, 87, a resident at Wren House care home, said: "Despite being unable to see a live pantomime or take part in other Christmas traditions with family and friends, the staff at Wren House have really helped us to celebrate Christmas properly."

Links with our Local Community

Residents at Featherton House care home in Deddington have received handmade Christmas cards from children at Helmdon Primary School. The 'Panda' class four-year-olds have been practicing writing their names and put their skills to the test to write their names and special Christmas messages for the residents. The cards were hand designed with Christmas themed pictures on the front, which the residents have proudly displayed throughout the home.

Jean Waddup, 75, a resident at Featherton House care home, said: "It was so lovely to receive the Christmas cards from the children at Helmdon Primary School. I thoroughly



enjoyed reading through the cards and their writing is fantastic!

"I will be writing a card back to the children, they are so precious! I hope they all have a lovely Christmas." Westerham Place care home in Westerham was another home lucky enough to receive some beautiful handmade cards from local students. The home was sent Christmas themed cards from Moor House School and College and Charles Darwin School. Each card was hand decorated by the students and contained lovely messages for the residents to enjoy. Everyone had a great time reading out the cards to one another and sharing stories of their time at school.



Walking in a Winter Wonderland

Decorations are a huge part of what makes Christmas so magical. The staff and residents at Patcham Nursing Home in Brighton were treated to an extra special display this year by new care assistant, Michael Paine.

Before the pandemic, Michael owned an events business which sadly had to close like many other businesses in the sector. When Michael closed his business, he kept his props, lighting and backdrops, which he used to decorate Patcham Nursing Home.

Michael said: "After disinfecting and isolating the props, I couldn't wait to get to work and decorate the lounge and sun room for the residents. We decorated the lounge with a white snow drop background and the angled spotlighting created a mystical atmosphere. Seeing the lights provided a great sensory experience for the residents and the home looked beautiful."



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You can also find your local Wren Retirement Living Care Home on Facebook.

Please note: some of the photos in this newsletter were taken before the latest guidance from the government & public health bodies