

# Wenham Holt Nursing Home



## Wenham Holt Nursing Home Newsletter July 2020

Dear Friends,

At last we have a breathing space to give us time to keep you up to date with the news and events of the nursing home.

It has been an exceedingly difficult number of months but, here we are safely through the first phase of the pandemic but waiting nervously for what is to come. The patients have, in the main not been too disturbed by the realities faced by us all but well done to everyone for coming through all the hardships. The staff have been incredible, at no time were we short staffed and at no time did our lovely patients miss out on any of the care they all deserve.

Activities continued, sometimes in a simpler way but thanks to everyone involved, there has been good fun and music! A simplified timetable of activities for the pandemic period has been produced which I have enclosed for your perusal.

We have also had parties, VE Day, Easter bonnets and various birthday celebrations. Although we haven't had a hairdresser everyone has had haircuts and hair sets and even hair dyes, thanks to the great efforts of staff, not bad! The chiropodist visited for outdoor foot care and with the aid of a bespoke Perspex screen we constructed it was a safe, fairly enjoyable experience for everyone.

Staff have been wearing full PPE, we have new scrub uniforms that are laundered on the premises and we all wear masks, face visors, net hats etc. Incredibly, the patients have not seemed to be disturbed by these visions that are now their staff! Everyone has had at least one COVID-19 virus test and weekly testing of staff and monthly testing of patients will shortly begin...please sympathise!!!!

We introduced garden and patio visits about six weeks ago and by using Perspex screens and garden umbrellas those people who wanted regular visits with their loved ones have been able to do so. When patients have become seriously frail, (end of life) relatives have been allowed to visit more frequently wearing full PPE etc. Unfortunately, we have had a few instances of visitors not following the staff instructions which has been very disappointing. The GP has recommended that visits should only last about 20 minutes.

The calculated vulnerability of patients and staff would indicate that we will not be allowing visitors into the home until the threat of a second wave of the virus has completely disappeared. I enclose the assessment for staff who are at greater risk and the vulnerability of the patients has been well documented in the press. If you would like to book a visit telephone 01730 895125 and we will try to meet your requirements, please

bear in mind we are limited in the number of safe visits we can host during the day and your preferred day or time may not be available but we will do our best.

Dan and I remain in residence in the mobile home with a few nights at home in turns and try to have Friday at home together, but this is not always possible.

To give you further reassurance of some semblance of normality for our patients, they have had homemade cakes everyday throughout the pandemic. Our chef has ensured good home cooking was available for everyone with every patient receiving a glass of vitamin c strengthened orange juice with their lunch. During the peak of the pandemic supplies were particularly hard to acquire, but he managed to get the best available, also supplying the staff with their basics so they did not have to visit supermarkets...we even donated to the local food bank!

Our maintenance programme has carried on throughout the difficulties, the sewage treatment plants has had a major refurbishment, a lovely new garden was planted in the middle garden, please walk down and have a look, we call it the 'pandemic garden'.... The gardens have been maintained to their usual standard, well done to the maintenance team.

Two more French doors have been replaced with new UPVC units and the patio has been re-pointed. We have ordered a shelter which will be installed outside the large conservatory which will give visitors some protection from the weather during the coming months.



If you are worried about anything, please do not hesitate to ring it is always great to have a chat.