

BRIARDENE NEWS!

Christmas 2020 Edition!



Briardene Stompers!

Briardene Stompers is our very own seated exercise club at Briardene to support our residents to maintain their fitness and mobility particularly during this year of restrictions and limitations. The members helped to design tee shirts, which they wear when they exercise. This is what the members have to say-

Kim - *"I like doing the exercises."*

Karen - *"I like the noise we make! I like all of it!"*

Alex - *"My favourite thing is the music."*

Emma - *"I think it's brilliant!"*

Miles - *"It's canny, canny!"*



Our Home Manager says...

It's been an extremely challenging year for everyone in the world and no different for us here at Briardene. All of the residents have coped remarkably well with the changed world. It's been an opportunity for all of us to see what is truly important to ourselves and the residents we support. A chance to assess what things have we missed? and what things have we all not missed? I hope this means, when things become less restrictive we can all focus on the things that make us happy and less time on things that we can do without. The entire staff team have been outstanding throughout the year. Even in the light of personal tragedies, they have continued to keep all the residents safe, with a smile on their face. Myself and all the residents are extremely lucky to have such a dedicated and caring staff team. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy new year!



Paulsimon Robinson

HS4LC

Harrogate Skills 4 Living Centre

Tel: 01423 562667

Email: briardene@hs4lc.org.uk

HS4LC Briardene
63 East Parade
Harrogate HG1 5LP

Briardene



skills@hs4lc.org.uk



www.hs4lc.org.uk

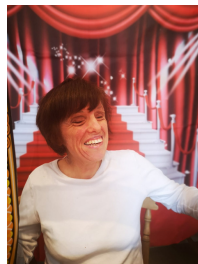
OUT AND ABOUT ON THE HS4LC BUS!

We will always remember 2020 as the year of challenges, some of which have been harder to overcome than others. Our greatest concern is always how do we maintain day-to-day quality experiences for the people we support. When it became clear that public transport would no longer be safe for our residents to be using, we had to look for an alternative. Our wheelchair accessible vehicle arrived in June and has been busy on the road ever since, taking residents on journeys near and far often with flasks and picnics on board. Our residents have enjoyed discovering quieter parts of our East coast, they have found reservoir walks, parks and quiet country escapes for fresh air, a change of scenery and alfresco dining. Our use of the vehicle has confirmed our resolve to pick up fundraising to be able to buy our own bus in the not too distant future!



ARMCHAIR TRIPS!

We haven't let covid restrictions stop our residents at Briardene from enjoying travel, they have enjoyed successful armchair trips to Spain, France and Germany.



Residents enjoyed themed activities, food, music and even learnt some exciting facts on their travels, they even tried on berets and had fun in the photo booth pretending to be on the red carpet at the Cannes Film Festival when they visited France!





HALLOWEEN FROLICS!

Halloween has always been a lot of fun at Briardene and this year proved more of an opportunity to party in the house than ever.

For the first year, every resident got involved with the big dress up, donning wigs and make up, and scaring each other. Games and party food were plentiful and the laughter and giggling could be heard in the middle of Harrogate.



RETURN TO CLASSES!

The Hs4lc Day service opened its doors in August following the implementation of Covid secure procedures and booking halls and venues across Harrogate to enable our learners to spread out safely. Although our residents haven't got their full programmes in place yet they have still managed to safely re-connect with their friends in a variety groups from Crafts to drama, animation and cooking. Wearing visors and taking temperatures has become part of the routine and everyone has been responsible and cooperative in keeping each other safe.

Alison enjoyed making festive handmade Christmas cards in the Monday story group.

The HS4LC Rock and Pop group have been learning the Makaton sign for "Love", which they practiced whilst listening to the Stevie Wonder song "I Just Called to Say I Love You".

The learners love singing along to songs, but can't do this with Covid restrictions so Makaton is a great alternative way of enjoying music.



"I missed everyone....it's good to be back" said Alex.

A SPECIAL GUEST!



Most of our families and friends have seen our summer house cabin, and many have been able to use it for safe garden visits over the last few months.

On December 14 this little space got transformed into a magical grotto for a very special guest. Our staff worked hard to keep this a secret from the residents who were truly bowled over on the day. Everyone who wanted to had as much one-to-one time as they needed to chat to Santa about the good and bad of 2020 and to get an early Christmas treat. It was just what was needed with all the changes to Christmas, it felt like a visit from Santa was the one constant comfort for Christmas 2020.

One passer-by couldn't help but comment on how lovely it was to see people actually having fun during such a gloomy month, it had made her day and it made our staffs day to have the difference that they make pointed out by a stranger.



BRIARDENE'S GOT TALENT!

Right through December, our Activities Champion; Leanne has been working with the staff team to organise videoed "talent sessions" with our residents, everyone got into the spirit of the performances and enjoyed creating a video that they can watch back over and over.

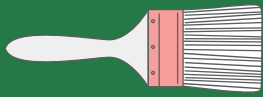


LOCKDOWN BIRTHDAYS!

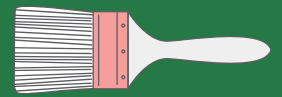
One of the many challenges of the 2020 has presented us has being how to celebrate our residents birthdays to make them feel special and to make the day feel different. Usually birthdays involve a trip to the pub or cafés or theatres and shows all of which have been off the agenda this year.

So this year has seen our staff get creative with personalise take outs....Main-course, desert and drinks from three different establishments! Countryside walks followed by drive-through treats at the golden arches And personally selected buffet teas with games and karaoke . All of our residents have enjoyed still beenable to share cake and open presents, dress up, feel special and celebrate their big days in a personalised ways thanks to the ingenuity and creativity of our staff.





BEDROOM MAKEOVERS!



In April this year when our residents were down in the dumps at services being closed and routines being altered, we shifted our focus to planning and personalising bedrooms, creating mood boards and choosing colours and décor using online shopping.

Supporting our residents to have as much choice over their environments is a key principle that we work with at HS4LC, our homes are their homes and should reflect the tastes and preferences of the individuals living in them.

Our hero Maintenance man Martin not only turned paint swatches and wallpaper ideas into reality but encouraged our residents to get involved and try their hand at decorating too.

For two of our residents Karen and Emma these rooms are now complete and looking amazing, for Karen this includes the creation of a new en- suite shower room too!



OUR QUALITY & COMPLIANCE MANAGER SAYS...

2020 has been such a year of challenges for our staff, residents and their families, all of whom have met each challenge one at a time with humour, patience and creativity.

Christmas time in particular has highlighted how much social contact during the festive season is so important. Not being able to have parties, meet friends at day services, and spend time with families during this time has been especially hard on our residents and their families, and yet somehow the staff at Briardene have managed to keep spirits

up and support everyone in the home to reach out to each other to make Christmas special. We hope that all our families will also find unique and different ways to try and find some peace and happiness over the coming weeks.

As we head into 2021 we know that there will be new challenges and more hurdles to overcome, but we also face the New Year with optimism at the vaccine rollout. HS4LC is continuing with its development and enterprise projects and forging ahead with further exciting plans for the organisation, all of which will be available to the residents in our homes to be part of.

We want to wish all our friends and families good health and happiness and we're looking forward to being able to open up our doors and inviting you to come in. Wishing you all a safe, healthy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.



Julia Moor