

Dear relatives and friends

Well, another month has passed by so quickly during which we've seen more visitors taking up the opportunity for internal visits. We want to thank you all for your patience and cooperation whilst we carried out the risk assessments and put the new processes in place. We are pleased to say that visiting is working well, and despite the need for extra staff and workload, it's all been worth it to see how happy it makes our residents.

Pod visits are still busy and when the weather permits, garden visits are ideal to get some valuable fresh air and vitamin D.



As always there's more change to share with you. Government guidelines changed from May 4 and residents are now able to take short visits out of the home without having to isolate for 14 days afterwards. This is a long-awaited step forward however we must remember that our residents are still vulnerable to the virus and they have not been in public places for so long. So, we strongly advise to take things slowly and carefully. We know you will support us in making every trip a happy and safe one for all.

Government Guidelines (4 May 2021):

To take part in outdoor activities, residents will be accompanied by a member of care home staff, or one of their nominated visitors, and they cannot meet in groups as care home residents are most at risk from COVID-19.

Visits out of the care home should take place solely outdoors, except for the use of toilet facilities, with no visits to indoor spaces (public or private) and avoiding the use of public transport where possible.

Walton Care Policy:

Whilst we fully support this new guideline, we must encourage everyone to remain vigilant and to continue to protect the residents as much as possible in their first venture outdoors for a long time. We will expect the nominated visitor to continue with the same infection control practices applied to indoor visits.

- 1. The resident must be accompanied by one of the nominated constant visitors (only).**
- 2. Residents can be taken in the visitor's car but the visitor must wear a face mask whilst in the car. This can be removed whilst outdoors.**
- 3. The visitor must take a lateral flow test beforehand.**
- 4. Outdoor trips should be kept to 1 hour to begin with, any longer might be a bit overwhelming for residents. We will review this as time goes on.**
- 5. Residents must not be exposed to groups for any reason.**
- 6. Visits must be solely outdoors at all times. Please consider the weather conditions as it will not be possible to shelter indoors from the rain or the cold.**
- 7. Visitors need to book ahead to give us time to prepare residents for their trip out.**

We've seen a steady flow of new residents coming into the home and the return of staff who were shielding, on long term sick and on furlough. It is good to see them back!

We had an inspection from CQC, focused on Infection Control and have passed with flying colours. Our rating of 'Good' in all areas with some outstanding features has been updated from March 2021. Well done to Claire and all the staff!

As you know Laura left us for pastures new so the lovely Jack and Sam have been busy entertaining residents. The permanent position is still vacant, however we have interviews arranged for this week, so fingers crossed. Jack and Sam are doing a great job in the meantime!

Sam (Brucy) held a game of 'Play your cards right!'.



And another of the resident's favourite pastimes – cheese and wine afternoon!



Yesterday there was a fun aerobics class as part of 'Move it May' combined with 'Tea Tuesday'!



And of course, the obligatory Bingo session which everyone loves to join in, including staff.



A Burnley Express reporter and cameraman visited the home yesterday to interview staff following their award for 'Most Companionate Care Home in Lancashire 2021'. The article and interviews should be online from Monday and the printed version will be published next Friday, 13 May 2021. We are very proud of the team and they are delighted with the award.

The spring baskets around the home have been lovely again this year, thanks to Huntroyd Nurseries.





We thought you'd like to know a little bit more about our brilliant volunteers. Here's a note from each of them.

Sam on the left :

Hi! My name is Sam and I'm one of the activity assistants at The Grove care home. I have just graduated from Manchester Metropolitan University doing an accounting and finance degree. In my spare time, I enjoy going on walks, recently completing the 3 peaks in Yorkshire. In the home, I enjoy chatting to everyone and beating David at dominoes as well as other games with residents. I'm currently undefeated so if anyone thinks they can change that, don't hesitate to ask!

Jack on he right:

Hi my name is Jack and some of you may remember me, I've been helping with the activities at Christmas time and last summer between my university terms. I look forward to

continuing my work and providing interesting and engaging activities that include all the residents, making each resident feel at home, accompanied by Sam.

With covid restrictions finally lifting, we have some freedom to look into activities outside the care home. Trusting the 'reliable' British summer provides some nice weather, we look forward to trips like a visit to Townley Park for the residents to enjoy the nature as well as an ice cream.

We also look forward to getting busy in the garden as the flowers planted by Eileen, Anne, Jean and June grow taller by the day and are soon to be moved into the garden. However, for those rainy days, we have afternoon tea planned along with other activities. Of course, there will be plenty of treats so chair aerobic classes will come in handy to keep active.

Finally, although we are making tentative baby steps towards normality there is still a tremendous amount of additional work being carried out at the home: testing staff and residents, extra cleaning regimes, constant risk assessments, monitoring all professional and maintenance visitors, wearing of PPE at all times, booking and managing pod, external and internal visits, the list goes on. We have to adapt to changes in policy quickly and ensure everyone is up to date. So, we would ask that you please be mindful of the continued pressures for the manager and her staff and give all of them your full support and encouragement.

Kind regards

Karen and David

7 May 2021

