

Crossways Newsletter

December 2023



December Highlights

December has been a month full of celebrations. We welcomed the festive period with a lively singalong with Dave & his accordion followed by Christmas Carols with the pupils from Brockway's School. Continuing on, the home has enjoyed many different entertainers, schools and nursery schools throughout the month as well as our annual residents Christmas party. We enjoyed a magical Christmas trip to Chessington Garden Centre, where we walked round the grotto full of beautiful lights and displays, then met Father Christmas and everyone made a Christmas wish. Father Christmas joined us on Christmas day and gave out presents to all the residents. The Activities team were absolutely delighted and very proud to have won Caring UK Activities team of the year. December has also been busy with many visits from family and friends and we've enjoyed catching up and getting to know them all.

Local Schools and Care Homes

We were treated to many visits from local schools, where the pupils joined us for the festivities. The local nursery school children made every resident a Christmas card and sang to us, Brockways students held a Christmas Carol quiz, Overton Grange Choir joined us for Christmas Carols, and we also went to Overton Grange to see their Christmas production. We were invited to Grennel Lodge Care home for their Christmas pantomime and had such a wonderful time fully of laughs and "it's behind you!"

Residents Party

The residents Christmas party was a great success. Many families joined us for lots of delicious food, karaoke singalong and then the raffle. The atmosphere was so festive; laughter and singing could be heard throughout the home. A huge thanks to everyone who donated to the raffle, we raised £230 and the proceeds will go towards items for activities.



We won ! Caring UK Awards 2023

Lisa, Vanessa and Nigel were overjoyed to win this award. This is a National award; so to be recognised for their contribution and commitment to activities at Crossways is an amazing achievement. For us, this award is shared by the whole dedicated team at Crossways who work hard in ensuring the residents participate and enjoy all aspects of Activities and their lives are enriched by this.

Feedback from the judges - A shining example of personalised approach to all aspects of care, showing the true benefits of community collaboration. What stands out the most is not only the dedication and commitment to their residents and their wellbeing, but also to others within the community. The initiative approach to ensuring other activities teams within their local area have access to a WhatsApp group is an incredible show of teamwork outside their own organisation, which in turn ensures other residents in other care settings are also accessing the very best opportunities. The team continue to work with other care homes

within the area to also provide events such as afternoon tea for residents and regular in person meetings with staff from other homes to share best practice.

A fantastic team with great leadership and the community at the heart of it all



Karen's Pets & Ponies

One of the highlights this month was our visit from Karen's Pets and Ponies. Karen and her team bring Dotty the pony, her dog Lyla plus rabbits, chickens and guinea pigs. The residents thoroughly enjoy this visit and Dotty managed to go in the lift (with a bit of encouragement!) to see all the residents on all floors of the home. The home is filled with lots of laughter and many cuddles and engagement with all lovely animals.



Activities At Our Home

Throughout December we enjoyed a variety of entertainment from Dave and his accordion, Denny with his guitar and Richard's musical memoirs, Overton students with Seb playing his trumpet and a Christmas church service.

We held arts and crafts, one-one's and group get together's, where we reminisced about Christmas, our families and fond memories of them.

Rudy, the Therapy dog joined us during December – he wore a Christmas outfit and everyone loved seeing him looking so festive.

We continue to focus on individual activities including sensory, manicures, poetry, musical memories, many of these can be enjoyed in the garden.

The interactive touch table is regularly used, and we have also invested in some large floor games so we can play games in groups in the lounges. These games involve everyone and it's great to watch the competitive side come out.

As always, we are ensuring we spend time with those residents who are in their rooms, with personalised activities whether it be creative, reading or simply a good chat with a cup of tea.

We are committed to delivering personalised care to our residents, ensuring they have fulfilling lives.



Birthdays In December

We celebrated Anne M's birthday this month.

Looking Ahead....2024

We look forward to 2024 and spending it with all the residents, staff and families.

Stay In Touch & Participate

A message from Lisa – 'Getting to know me' - Please speak to Lisa or the office about this initiative. We feel it is beneficial for both residents, staff and families and is a short meeting where we get to know your loved ones.

If you would like to arrange a meeting with your family members key worker and the activities team for an informal chat about them and their well-being, please let Lisa or the office know. We have found this to be very beneficial and this has led to some great conversations and very funny stories! It also gives you the opportunity to get to know us better and for us to get to know the residents better. Alternatively, please email Lisa on – activities@crosswaysutton.co.uk to arrange this or if you have any ideas/suggestions or would like to volunteer in activities.

Facebook & Website

If you have Facebook please look us up: **CrosswaysSutton**, Lisa regularly posts updates and it is a useful platform for us to keep you involved in all the activities and updates at Crossways.

We have a website: crosswaysutton.co.uk. Which has recently been updated. We post photographs of what we are doing in the home and any upcoming events so you and your families can follow it. We do need consent to put photographs on these platforms, the forms are in the office. Please let Sarah or Alex know if you do not want your relative's photographs published at all and we can make sure that they do not get uploaded.

We would like to thank you all for your support over the year. And wishing all our residents, families & friends a very happy new year from Sarah, Alex & all the staff at Crossways



Hairdresser
- Every Wednesday

Doctor Visits
- The doctor visits every Thursday to see the most urgent cases.

Church Service
TBC

