

**4 January 2021**

**To all Care Home Residents, Family and Friends**

Dear Residents, Family and Friends

The staff team continue with their great work to provide the best possible care for your loved ones.

We are aware that it has been very a difficult time for so many families who have been struggling with not being able to see their loved ones. It is important to us to find solutions to help each family to safely visit, when the current lockdown is lifted and we will continue to work with you all. In the meantime, please contact Natalie or Sasha to pre-book a Zoom meeting or a phone call with your loved one.

**Covid Testing**

Due to the high increase in positive Covid cases across the UK, including the Barnet area, we continue with our weekly testing and we have now also introduced daily testing of everyone who enters our Care Home, including all staff members.

**Covid Vaccine**

We are pleased to inform you that on Wednesday, 30 December 2020 all of our residents were vaccinated with the first part of the Covid-19 vaccine by our wonderful GP and his Nurse colleague.

The majority of our staff members have now also received the first part of the Covid-19 vaccine.

**General update**

The recently purchased hand and foot exercise machines continue to be enjoyed by the residents and help many of them to keep mobile, along with the assistance of our dedicated Activity Co-ordinator/Occupational Therapist, Jana, and our amazing Care Team.

Our Sheltered Housing Team (next door) worked closely with the Care Home Staff Team to put up hundreds of lights to give the outdoor area some festive cheer.

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Our residents also enjoyed a vast array of beautiful decorations and lights inside of the Home, in the communal areas and in each of their rooms to brighten things up for everyone.

Various activities were organised for the residents, they enjoyed their Christmas party and also the entertainment of 'Silhouette' who brought some festive cheer along with his brightly dressed dancers (staff members) in their Christmas jumpers and hats in the car park, in front of the dining room. Some residents got to their feet and danced with the staff, whilst many sang along, conducted the music or watched the magical outdoor entertainment.

Thank you to the staff that volunteered from the Care Home Office and the Head Office to provide a Zoom or Face-Time call to all families that wished to see their loved ones on Christmas Day, and to all of the Care Home staff team who made an extra special effort to help to bring the festive spirit into the Home for all of our residents.

On Christmas Day every resident was given a personal gift from our Trustees. John and his Kitchen Team provided some delicious meals over the festive season with all the trimmings, crackers and a lovely glass of sherry!

### **Planned Improvement Projects**

We are also pleased to announce some exciting improvement projects that we are planning to carry out in the Home from the start of the new year.

The beautiful summer house has now been built in the rear garden. Initially it will be used as a Covid safe resident/visitor meeting place (*when the restrictions are able to be lifted*). In the future we hope that Covid will be less invasive, so we will then be able to use the room as an activity room, family meeting room, or a sensory area.

Many of you may have noticed that renovation work in the kitchen has commenced. During the latter weeks of January/beginning of February 2021, the Care Home kitchen will temporarily close whilst all the catering equipment is replaced and the layout improved and updated. I wish to reassure you all that we will have temporary kitchen facilities in place, to ensure that catering services will run as normal and residents will not be aware of any changes to their routine.

In addition to the kitchen refurbishment, we will be installing a new eco-friendly heating and hot water system which will set the Home up with a sustainable energy source for the future. It will not be necessary for contractors to enter the building during the first phase of works, as an external staircase will be erected at the side of the building and an entrance created into the loft space where much of the work to fit the new water tanks will take place.

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Later in the works, new cool touch safety radiators and pipework will be installed in residents' rooms. However, the programme for this work will be dependent on the Covid restrictions and considered on a case by case basis dependent upon the health and needs of each resident, as each room will be out of use for a set number of hours in the day whilst the installation takes place.

The safety of our residents and staff is paramount to the Trust and all contractors will be required to participate in daily COVID-19 testing whilst on site. Due to site equipment and temporary catering facilities, it will be necessary for visitors to park in the Church car parking area adjacent to the cemetery; parking permits will be made available.

We have been looking at the outdoor space for our residents and also as an area for families to safely visit in the future. The Board have approved a budget for the rear patio area to be widened and a substantial area will become available later on in the year for the residents to safely use and for more activities to be held as the weather improves.

We look forward to providing improved facilities and services to our much-valued residents and their families.

I am sure you will all join the Trustees and I, in saying a huge **“thank you”** to all our staff in every area of our Care Home: -

**Care, Laundry, Maintenance, Kitchen, Cleaning, Activities and Administration.**

During the last few months they have remained focused and committed, pulling together in the most unbelievable way to keep the Home running and most of all to keep some normality for your loved ones, keeping them stimulated, safe and well cared for.

Please take care and keep safe.

With kindest regards

Gail Oliver  
Chief Executive