



COMPASS CARE HOMES LTD

Newsletter October 2011

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Time flying again!! Where does it go? I must apologise that it has been well over a year since you last received a newsletter but we've been so busy, and lots of things have happened for us to tell you about.

Again, should you wish to find out more information, keep up to date or just be generally nosy please don't hesitate to contact us. Someone will be happy to chat; we love to hear from our families and friends.

Management & Staffing

There has been one or two changes to the management here at Compass recently, Steve Bettany joined us in September 2010 as the Business Manager and has helped lighten some of the workload for Linda.

I have returned to Compass as the Manager to carry out the day to day running of the home, and I hope you will all be pleased about my return; You may remember that I left approximately 5 years ago to take on new challenges in dementia care, but recently felt that I wanted to come back into the Learning Disability Sector. I am sure you will all remember me as Lesley Scott; however I got married in June 2010 and I'm now Lesley Stennett. I am looking forward to catching up with everyone and should anybody have any concerns, compliments or suggestions I am only too willing to listen and have a chat.

With my appointment, Linda is hoping to be able to take more of a backseat and allow me to take the driving seat.

Changes

There are always changes to report and this time, the most pressing seems to be with all the financial cutbacks the threat of this impacting on Day Care, and also the threat of the DLA benefit being cut. Basically, at the moment, everyone receives a personal allowance and a further DLA benefit. Due to the local authority funding concerns, people who attend day care are required now to pay for it. This cost has gone up quite considerably over the last few years.

It is now £6.80 per day and if they use the local authority transport a further £2 a day is needed.

To help we now, transport all our clients to and from the centres' which saves them something but there is now the real threat that DLA will be stopped which means they will only get their personal allowance. This is meant to cover all their personal needs, such as toiletries, clothing, holidays, trips out etc., and should they continue to need to pay for day care at only 3 days a week attendance, they will only have a very limited amount left towards their other costs.

Needless to say I'm quite concerned about this but at the moment still waiting to hear what other changes may be offered to 'offset' this situation. SO FINGERS CROSSED.

Staff News

Needless to say we have had a few staff changes within the last year but thankfully these haven't upset our ability to meet the needs of the clients and the home. A huge thank you is extended though to all the staff team for their hard work and contribution.

Katie returned to work in March following 9 months maternity leave, she had a beautiful bouncing baby boy who she named Nathaniel; Katie soon felt like she hadn't been away!!! and has settled back into the team.



Louise has also been on maternity leave since our last newsletter and she had a beautiful little girl named Esther, Louise is also back at work.



Also, other big news is that Linda got married at Gretna Green on 1st May 2010 and had a lovely day, followed by a fabulous honeymoon visiting the likes of Singapore, Borneo and Malaysia, where she spent a year as a child living. What she loved was being able to revisit places, that she could recall. An amazing time.

House Improvements

We have had some ceiling tracking put up in the main lounge since our last newsletter, this enables the needs of some of our clients to be met and allows them to sit and enjoy the company of others and watch television.



We also have plans to give the small lounge a facelift; hopefully this will take place in the very near future.

Client News



Sadly Ken one of our clients passed away in July 2011, Ken had been with us for 9 years and we all miss him but take comfort in the fact that Ken had a good long life and managed to fulfil a lot of his wishes, Cruise holiday, holidays abroad, owning a laptop, too name but a few.

In August last year we had a new client move in with us, Mr Ian Shepherd, he has settled into life at Compass well and will hopefully enjoy all that it has to offer.



Sadly in August of this year following being poorly, John passed away peacefully at home, John had also had a good long life and knew how to enjoy himself, John enjoyed day trips and lots of holidays while living here at Compass and would often entertain us with his sense of humour and mischievousness, he is and will continue to be missed by all.



Birthday Celebrations'

Two of our clients have recently celebrated their 60th Birthdays, Mr Steven Fox and Mr Malcolm Clegg who happen to share the same birthday 18th October, they have decided they want to celebrate with a day trip to Blackpool, where they will enjoy some fish and chips by the sea, fun in the amusements, seeing the illuminations and then rounding the day off with a show at Central Pier where they will be entertained by the Legends – Elton John, Elvis Presley, Rod Stewart and Neil Diamond!! I only wish I was going too!!!

Garden

Our new business Manager Steve, was taking his new role rather seriously when he declared to the world. NINJA TURTLE FOUND IN COMPASS POND! He said he was feeding the fish and spied an amphibian, which he called a mutant ninja turtle emerging from the depths. Of course we all had to go outside to investigate. This was great, as we all enjoyed the fish feeding frenzy



On a more serious note, thanks to our maintenance Steve for getting the decks cleaned as this enabled us all to get outside onto the decking to enjoy the fresh air and sunshine during the warmer months.

Holidays

Last year, the clients and staff again enjoyed a trip to Whitby and also Ribby Hall in Blackpool and Llandudno.

This year we had on offer a weeks cruise down the Thames, where taking in sights such as Windsor Castle, Legoland were enjoyed, the clients really enjoyed relaxing on the boat while cruising down the river and watching the world go by, this trip was escorted by Linda, Steve, David and Rebecca and the clients were Andrew, Maggie, Lynda, Hilary and Paul.

A four night stay in Ireland taking in the Great Causeway and Whiskey factory, this holiday was escorted by David and Pauline and the clients who enjoyed this trip were Lynda, Hilary and Malcolm.

Also a five night stay in Whitby, the accommodation was beautiful and while there enjoyed the 60's festival at the Pavilion starring The Manfreds with Paul Jones, Elvis Presley and the Everley Brothers to name but a few, this trip was escorted by myself, Grahame, Katie and our volunteer Steve, the clients who went to Whitby were Steven, Paul, Ian, Lynda and Maggie.

All in all it is felt that the holidays were a resounding success and the clients enjoyed either one or two of the holidays on offer and appeared to have a really great time.

New Year Festivities 2010

Thanks to everyone for joining in with our New Year festivities at The Keys Restaurant at the beginning of the year, we had a brilliant night; everyone has complimented the food, the location, and the in-house entertainment.

Christmas 2011

We are now starting to think about Christmas, how to celebrate this year, Christmas menus, Christmas presents for our clients etc, if any one has any ideas these will be greatly appreciated, as I'm sure you will

all agree, it gets harder knowing what to get each year!!! But I don't doubt we will have a great time organising things as well as on the day.

Questionnaires

As part of our quality assurance it is helpful to receive feedback from people who use or have knowledge of our service, I would therefore appreciate it if you could spare the time to complete the questionnaire and return it at your convenience, this feedback is valuable to us and enables us to improve our service. Thank you

CQC - Care Quality Commission

Just a quick reminder to you all, that if you want to see our reports or raise any questions or concerns about our service, please contact our inspector, who is still Karen Summers' CQC Yorkshire & Humberside, Citygate, Gallowgate, Newcastle upon Tyne. NE1 4PA. Emails should be sent to enquiries.YorkshireHumberside@cqc.org.uk or phone 03000 616161.



I would just like to take this opportunity to wish you all a **Very Merry Christmas** and a **Prosperous New Year**.

From
Linda, Steve, Lesley and the Team