

Welcome to  
*Thistle Court Care Home's*  
Edition 3 2025 Newsletter!

EXCELLENCE \* PEOPLE-DRIVEN \* INTEGRITY \* COMPASSION



*newsletter*  
EDITION 3 2025

EDITION 3



## Hello from Sarah Butfield

Welcome to the third edition of our newsletter. As the months pass and the activities, events and news items increase, it becomes more difficult to choose which ones to include! Fortunately, our team members do take photographs, and some are displayed within the home, and I know some of you have photographs sent to you directly with updates on your family member. Our whole home refurbishment is continuing and the changes to the physical appearance of the home are frequently commented on by relatives, friends, and visiting healthcare professionals. The comments include, *'it looks and feels like home'* *'the home is unrecognisable'* *'so much time, thought and effort has obviously gone into this work'*. Everything we do is focused on providing the best possible care in an environment that offers a continuation of life, and a home for life.

I feel extremely proud of our team who work tirelessly to support our family member community, and embrace all opportunities to enrich their lives. Take a look through our highlighted achievements, events and celebrations this quarter and I am sure you will agree that the joy and devotion shines through. Thank you for reading.

*Sarah Jane Butfield, Home Manager*

### This quarter's features:

- Hello from our Care Home Manager, Sarah Jane Butfield
- Our Moments Shared
- An Opera Singer Chooses Thistle Court to Call Home
- Recent Events
- Thistle Court Celebrations & Team Achievements
- Feedback
- Birthdays & Dates for your Diaries
- Thoughts from our Domestic Lead

## Thank you for allowing us to share these special photos

When people outside our community see photos of you or your family member enjoying activities like flower arranging, gardening, days out, painting ... it can gently attract others who share those same interests to feel this could be the right home for them or their loved one.

Most importantly, this helps bring like-minded people together, so you or your loved one can share hobbies and interests, build friendships and feel a true sense of belonging.

Thank you - your support makes a real difference and to read about some of the activity that goes on in the home we invite you to visit our news section of our website [Thistle Court Care Home - News](#)



## An Opera Singer Chooses Thistle Court to Call Home



In late May we were honoured to offer a warm welcome to a new family member in our community, Colin Stephens. He arrived demonstrating his well-tuned operatic voice and immediately became a firm favourite in our Snowdrop lounge, entertaining family members every day. Despite having a speech impairment, his singing voice is show stopping and he greets the team with operatic short bursts of song, but it was his rendition of “Time to Say Goodbye” originally sang by Andrea Bocelli and Sarah Brightman which brought not only Colin, but the team and family members to tears.



A few weeks later when the local sea shanty band, Bois Y Bryn attended for an evening of singing, dancing and laughter, we were delighted to find out that Colin was well known to a couple of the band members who used to live near him and his parents and sang with him in the Cwmbran Male Voice Choir. Colin sang with them and again brought tears to our eyes, seeing how happy and engaged he became. Colin has strong local community links and we are privileged to be able to support him to retain these whilst joining our care home community.



## Recent Events:

### Tiki BBQ

The Thistle Court summer BBQ this year was a Tiki themed event and was held in our decked rear garden. The area was decorated with Tiki/Hawaiian bunting and we all had Hawaiian skirts and lei (Hawaiian garlands) to wear. Our refreshments kiosk was also decorated and many of our family members attended. It was lovely to also have relatives and friends joining us. Some team members chose to come in on their day off to support and brought their children to enjoy the fun.

There was a Tiki themed bean bag toss game; cactus hoop throws and Hawaiian music playing. The BBQ was busy with the cooking of burgers and hotdogs, with delicious cakes and desserts on offer. Mocktails were made by our Administrator Tracey, and the strawberry daiquiri was a favourite with not a drop left! The raffle to win a selection of goodies was a huge success and there were lots of smiles and the laughter, it was so heartwarming.

To finish the day, a surprise for everyone, a local ice cream van reversed right up to the decked garden area with his chime playing so that the family members who were able to, could go and choose their own ice creams for themselves. All family members and the team each had an ice cream to end a fantastic afternoon.



## Thistle Court Care Home Celebrations!!



### Chloe and Morgan Become Mrs & Mrs Erickson

Chloe and Morgan have been part of our care and clinical team for many years and have finally tied the knot on the 8<sup>th</sup> June at West Usk Lighthouse, St Brides, Newport. The ceremony took place on a beautiful cliffside overlooking the water followed by a reception under the stars in a decorated Marquee. The team were invited to join their special day involving a celebration of love, commitment and the start of new beginnings for them both. As a thank you from the home we were able to provide them with a personalised gift which was received with happiness by the happy couple.



## Sarah Butfield's 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Our lovely Home Manager, Sarah, turned 60 in May and had a belated party in June. We celebrated Sarah's special day by hosting an afternoon tea and invited local professionals as well as friends, our family members and their relatives to join in with the fun. It was a complete surprise to Sarah, and she was overwhelmed by the love she received. The event was also shared by a local events page on social media and has been a talking point since then, as some of the artwork created by our family members remains on show as they are proud of their work. Our local healthcare team Dr Sian Morgan, Amanda Morgan, ANP attended as did Mr Prince, Ms Kudsai, and the team on and off shift. The party was a huge success and produced an array of beautiful photographs to capture the memories for everyone to enjoy.



## Team Achievements:

Each month our team members and leadership team select an employee of the month, someone who goes above and beyond for our family member community and deserves recognition. The winner is given a gift voucher, a badge and a certificate and they are recognised within the home with a poster.

### Congratulations Abdul Shamri!

One of our experienced and ambitious overseas team members Abdul, has successfully completed the Care Practitioner training programme ahead of International Nurses Day, therefore it was a great day to celebrate his hard work and academic achievement.



### Employee of the Month

Our employee of the Month for July was Helen Hales, who is a part of our Nursing Team and always goes above and beyond for our family members, Helen is an integral part of the team at Thistle Court.

## Educational Achievements

Congratulations Racheal Morgan! In July, Racheal Morgan our Lead Care Practitioner, successfully completed her NVQ 3 in Health and Social Care Practice (Adults). Due to progression in her Evolve Care Group career pathway, Racheal commenced the course in July 2024 and completed in July 2025, which is huge achievement in addition to her full time role within the home. Racheal has demonstrated and completed her NVQ with the following six modules:

- ✓ Promoting core practice
- ✓ Supporting individual to manage pain and discomfort
- ✓ Promoting care and support for individuals in a care home setting
- ✓ Promoting support for individuals with a Dementia
- ✓ Supporting individuals with physical impairment
- ✓ Supporting individuals with dysphagia



## Team Member Temporary Farewell

On the 31<sup>st</sup> July one of our team Members, Chiral, who has worked with us at Thistle Court since 2022, has left to start her maternity leave. We organised a collection and were able to buy some lovely gifts for both mum and baby. We wish Chiral well and look forward to meeting her new bundle of joy.



## A New Volunteering Partnership with Crane Co from Cwmbran

We are looking forward this quarter to meeting the corporate volunteers from Crane Co who are generously giving up their free time to help make environmental changes within our home and communal garden. In our next newsletter there will more updates and photographs of the projects in progress. We can't wait to share these with you!

**Just sharing some more fabulous images with you:**



## Feedback:

“Joy’s room is full of things that were her hobbies, collages, pictures etc. staff are always so caring when we visit - not just to Joy, but to ourselves as well during this stressful time.”

*Relative of Family Member*

“My dad is well cared for, the staff are wonderful to him, they realise his needs and are always caring and cheerful to him and are always polite and attentive to him whenever I visit.”

*Relative of Family Member*

“Home is warm, friendly and smells amazing.”

*Victoria, Bauer Media*

“It’s been a year since I was last here, the home is unrecognizable, it feels light, airy and homely, well done everyone.”

*Visiting Social Worker*

“You are very supportive of Colin as you let him be himself and let him sing and walk as much as he likes. I have a friend who visits and tells me the home is neat and tidy as well. Colin seems to be very happy and that is the most important thing to me.”

*Relative of Family Member*

“I love how welcome and relaxed everyone makes me feel even on what I can see is a challenging day.”

*Relative of Family Member*

## *Birthdays*

Here are the birthdays we've celebrated over the past few months:

<b>June Birthdays</b>	<b>July Birthdays</b>	<b>August Birthdays</b>
Bernadette turned 87 Patricia turned 84	Mavis turned 89 Margaret turned 91 Janet turned 83 Derek turned 83	Marilyn turned 83 Vera turned 78 William turned 89

## **Upcoming Events & Activities**

### *Date for your Diaries*

<b>September</b>	<b>October</b>	<b>November</b>
<p><b>15<sup>th</sup></b> – Bookaversary, 10 Years of “Ooh Matron” book signing by our in-house published author, Sarah Jane Butfield</p> <p><b>17<sup>th</sup></b> – Name That Tune Quiz</p> <p><b>24<sup>th</sup></b> – Rantastic Toe Tappers</p> <p><b>26<sup>th</sup></b> – Marcus Singer</p> 	<p><b>3<sup>rd</sup></b> – Rantastic Toe Tappers</p> <p><b>7<sup>th</sup></b> – Bread Making Day</p> <p><b>20<sup>th</sup></b> – Marcus Singer</p> <p><b>30<sup>th</sup></b> – Halloween Spooky Ball</p>	<p><b>5<sup>th</sup></b> – Sparklers and Hotdogs</p> <p><b>7<sup>th</sup></b> – Rantastic Toe Tappers</p> <p><b>25<sup>th</sup></b> – Marcus Singer</p> 

**Thank you to Lisa, our Domestic Lead who shares with us her thoughts on our home improvements...**

“As a domestic lead you never know how your day will go! It can start with a mop in hand and finish with a cup of tea and a chat with our family members. Throughout the home the ongoing environmental changes can be challenging but as a team we work together to ensure infection control is a priority whilst maintaining the safety of all throughout. Each individual refurbishment can add a little stress to our roles, but the completed outcome is worth it. I have seen so many smiles on family member faces and relatives have been overwhelmed by the amount of improvements within the home. There is great satisfaction in cleaning the new areas! It's their home and we want to make it as nice as possible with a homely feel! My team and I strive to achieve this daily!”

*Lisa Topley - Domestic Lead*