

Welcome to
Thistle Court Care Home's
Edition 7 2026 Newsletter

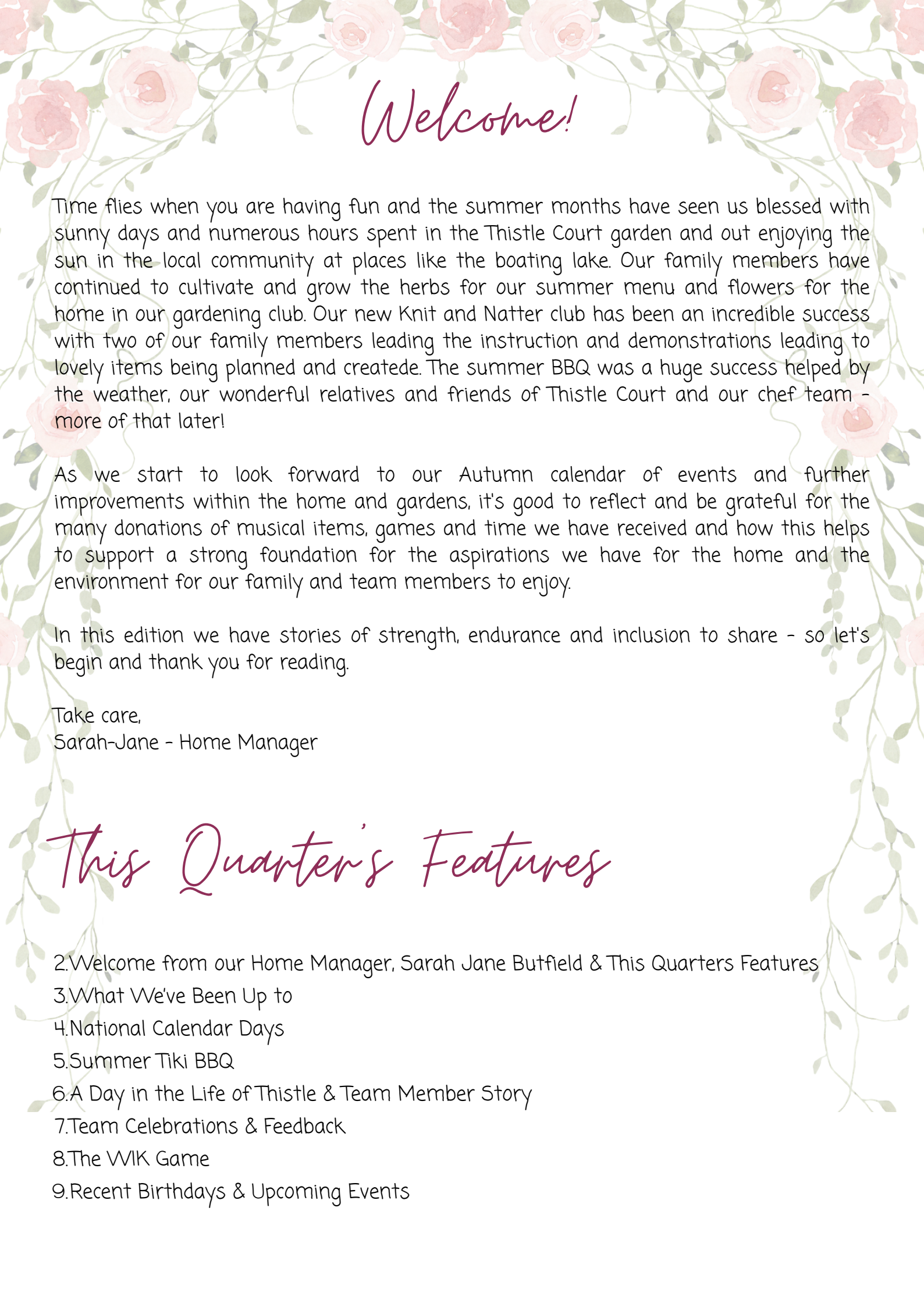
EXCELLENCE * PEOPLE-DRIVEN * INTEGRITY * COMPASSION



newsletter

EDITION 7 2026

EDITION 7



Welcome!

Time flies when you are having fun and the summer months have seen us blessed with sunny days and numerous hours spent in the Thistle Court garden and out enjoying the sun in the local community at places like the boating lake. Our family members have continued to cultivate and grow the herbs for our summer menu and flowers for the home in our gardening club. Our new Knit and Natter club has been an incredible success with two of our family members leading the instruction and demonstrations leading to lovely items being planned and created. The summer BBQ was a huge success helped by the weather, our wonderful relatives and friends of Thistle Court and our chef team - more of that later!

As we start to look forward to our Autumn calendar of events and further improvements within the home and gardens, it's good to reflect and be grateful for the many donations of musical items, games and time we have received and how this helps to support a strong foundation for the aspirations we have for the home and the environment for our family and team members to enjoy.

In this edition we have stories of strength, endurance and inclusion to share - so let's begin and thank you for reading.

Take care,
Sarah-Jane - Home Manager

This Quarter's Features

2. Welcome from our Home Manager, Sarah Jane Butfield & This Quarters Features
3. What We've Been Up to
4. National Calendar Days
5. Summer Tiki BBQ
6. A Day in the Life of Thistle & Team Member Story
7. Team Celebrations & Feedback
8. The WIK Game
9. Recent Birthdays & Upcoming Events

What We've Been Up to

Pictures are a thousand words...

Bastille Day



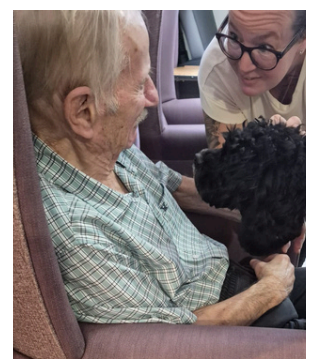
World Cup Fever



Gardening Club



Dora The Therapy Dog





National Calendar Days



National Cheese Day

For the love of cheese! Our cheese-loving family and team members were treated by Sarah Jane, as she served cheese, crackers and savoury snacks to celebrate National Cheese Day. This was a big ask for Sarah Jane, who is not a cheese lover, but she faced it head-on to ensure Thistle Court enjoyed a variety of cheeses from around the world.



National Sausage Roll Day



Sausage rolls are a traditional savoury pastry and represent one of the United Kingdom's most popular convenience foods.

At Thistle Court we celebrated national sausage roll day with a mixture of traditional sausage rolls and vegetarian pastries, some homemade and some purchased at a local bakery. Once again Sarah Jane was at the fore of this food-based event - just saying - wherever there is food you will find Sarah Jane!





Summer Tiki BBQ



Our annual Summer Tiki BBQ reached new heights this year as we had a record number of visitors, including 9 of our family members, relatives, friends, team members and health professionals who were treated to an array of food and drinks planned and prepared by our Group Catering Lead Neil Whalen and our new head chef, Andy Martin. The arrival of the local ice cream van playing its chimes brought smiles and numerous ice creams were enjoyed by everyone in the home and at the BBQ.

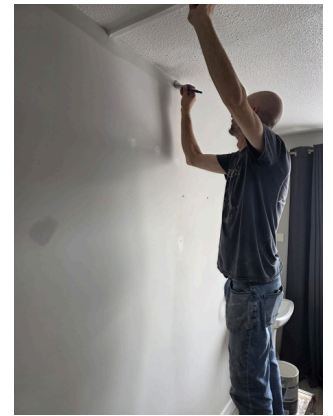


Home Manager Sarah Jane said, The turnout was incredible and it was lovely seeing the home so busy with family members, relatives, children and team members all spending time together. Neil's food was definitely one of the highlights. He put so much into preparing everything for us and it went down brilliantly.'

A Day in the Life of Thistle



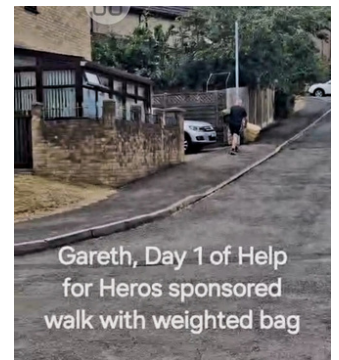
We started a project to use an at-home induction to show a day in the life at Thistle Court by capturing natural photographs of the team in action, their engagement and continuity of life with our family members - here is our first selection.



Team Member Story - Gareth Matthews



Gareth Matthews, one of our experienced maintenance team members, an ex-guardsman in the Welsh Guards' 1st Battalion, took part in the Help for Heroes challenge to accomplish a 150-mile weighted walk during the month of July. Gareth joined our team in 2024 and has played a pivotal role in the internal refurbishment at Thistle Court. The home team and visiting relatives sponsored and promoted his efforts and helped him raise £250 for the charity. This is the second year Gareth has taken part in and completed the challenge. To achieve the 150 miles in July, Gareth walked to and from Thistle Court on his workdays with his weighted bag - a 14-mile round trip in addition to mountain hikes in his time off.



HELP for
HEROES

Team Celebrations



Team of the Month Award

Our Maintenance Team were Team of the Month for all their efforts in improving our environment

Team Member Birthdays



Rachel, Tamara and Maria all celebrated birthdays this quarter

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Feedback

"Such a wonderful, welcoming family environment. We always feel so at home whenever we visit. We visit regularly with our therapy dog, Dora, who absolutely loves seeing everyone – and I think it's safe to say everyone loves seeing her too!. The staff are absolutely amazing with all the family members, treating everyone with so much kindness, care and respect. There's such a lovely atmosphere and it genuinely feels like one big, happy family. We always look forward to our visits!"

Abi Phillips, her owner/trainer, Dora Therapy Dog

"Where do I start to thank each and every one who has cared for Roy over the last 8 years with you. The dignity, compassion and love that was shown by everyone has made his passing so much easier for us to cope with and is a comfort to us all. You have been his and our family for so long and we will never forget you. Dad was truly loved by you all. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts once again."

Joanne Ayres

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The WIK Game: Test Your Knowledge

Think you know care inside and out? Prove it!

Learning doesn't have to feel like learning, and that idea began during a family game night when Shrien and Eve saw how much fun everyone was having while playing a trivia card game. It sparked a thought - why not create something just as enjoyable for social care?

From that spark of inspiration, Evolve's WIK board game was born. WIK (world of inescapable knowledge) covers six areas for those working in care. It's a great way to continue testing your knowledge while enjoying a little friendly competition!

We have all played the WIK game during our training days at the Evolve Care Academy, with some of you walking away with cash prizes of up to £100! Now available on Moodle so you can regularly test your knowledge and beat your last score!

The leaderboard is where it gets competitive. Shrien and Eve created the game, but they are no longer top the leaderboard, as our very own Beverley Wernham has knocked them off the top spot! Well done, Beverley!



Blue Light Discount £

Did you know that working in social care means you're eligible for a Blue Light Card? For £4.99, the card gives you two years' access to thousands of discounts across more than 13,000 retailers, including Jet2Holidays, Nike, Apple, Schuh and Hotels.com.

Whether you're planning a holiday, treating yourself to something new, heading out for a meal or simply doing the weekly shop, download the app and see what's up for grabs! Members can also access ticket ballots and launches for gigs, festivals, sporting events and attractions.



Register now at www.bluelightcard.co.uk or scan the QR code.



Recent Birthdays



Patricia
turned 85



Mavis
turned 90



Margaret
turned 92

Upcoming Dates for the Diary



17th September - Marcus, Local Singer

23rd September - Bedrock Alpacas

24th September - Ranntastic Toe Tappers

15th October - Marcus, Local Singer

23rd October - Pumpkin Decorating

29th October - Halloween Fun

5th November - Sparklers, Parkin and Toffee Apples

Thank you for reading, we hope to see you soon!