



Newsround

August 2020

Welcome to our fifth Covid 19 Newsround. We are slowly coming out of Social Isolation but still taking care and aware that at any time we may need to tighten things up again. There are still 2 different versions of the newsround as information that applies to Yoakley House is different to that for the almshouses.

Covid19: Whilst it may seem that everything is “back to normal” and the streets are busy again, the virus still remains a very real threat especially to those of the older generation. You should not yet be welcoming anyone into your cottage other than from the one household which is your “social bubble” for example the household of your closest family member. You may meet up with friends and family in the garden **as long as you stay 2 metres apart**. When you go out you must wear a mask in all shops and on the buses. It is advisable to wear one in any places where you cannot be more than 2 metres apart from everybody. Please be very careful. We have been so blessed not to lose anyone to the virus and we don't want to start now.

Almshouse Alarm System: You will be delighted to know that having raised the significant sum (over £20,000) for the installation of a new alarm/emergency pullcord system for the almshouses (except those on the Close which have a different system already), it has now been ordered. We are hoping that the threat of the virus will be reduced sufficiently for it to be installed in early September.

Almshouse Cleaning Service: The almshouse cleaning service will begin again from Monday 3rd August. The cost is now £12 per hour. Sue will check the day and times for those who previously used the service. **Please can you make sure you give the housekeeper plenty of space so that they can keep safe distance from you whilst in your property – if it is warm enough for you to sit outside that would be best.** Thank you.

Thelma (from cottage 27) is now resident in room 2 at the front of Yoakley House where she can see the garden. Give her a wave as you pass by!

Bob Stoten has moved into a care home which specialises in dementia care. Our thoughts are with Jenny at this difficult time as she makes plans for her future.

Staff: After Trustee consideration, Dan Holdman is no longer working for the Charity and we wish him well for his future. You can be assured that maintenance jobs will continue to be dealt with as quickly as possible with emergencies taking priority. Please report them in the usual way by speaking to the warden or calling Yoakley.

Mandy, Donna, Chelsea and Kim should be back with us working at Yoakley when shielding ends on Monday 3rd August. It will be great to see them. Big thanks go to other staff who have made sure everything has continued to run smoothly while they have been at home. Trudy will be joining us as a carer.

Activities at Yoakley: We are not yet allowed to invite visitors inside Yoakley House so I am afraid we cannot yet open activities to almshouse residents. Following government guidelines and as soon as we feel that it is safe to do so, we will let you know. When we can persuade entertainers to sing outside please do join in but remember to keep a safe distance from each other while you are watching.

Crafty Items for Sale: With the social distancing regulations still in place we do not know when it might be safe and sensible to have any public events such as our fair. For that reason we are looking into opening an online shop where we could put up photos of items for people to buy and we would then post to them. That way we could make money for the charity from all the lovely things you make without people actually coming onsite. If you know anyone who would be willing to help set up and run an online shop on a voluntary basis, Julie Wickenden would love to hear from them. Thank you.