



NEWSROUND APRIL 2020

This is a very unusual Newsround as we are in this time of Social Isolation due to Coronavirus. As I write this we have only had 1 almshouse resident I am aware of who has had serious symptoms and she is getting better and another with mild symptoms so that is something to be thankful for. We are praying that we all (residents and staff) stay well!

For the first time I will be printing 2 different versions of the Newsround with information that applies to Yoakley House on one and information that applies to Drapers Homes on the other. Let's hope that it is not too long before we can meet together again as community.

HAPPY EASTER! We may be in isolation as we celebrate this special time of year but we must be thankful for the Resurrection New Life it reminds us of. Let's be grateful too to Paul & Chris for the beautiful gardens we can enjoy as long as we keep our distance from each other. No better place to be isolated! (Incidentally congratulations to Chris who has completed 5 years' employment with the charity this month).

STAFF: Thank you for all the lovely greetings for DiDi on her retirement. She is actually going to carry on for 2 afternoons a week for a couple of months as the lady who was employed to take her place Kim has a medical condition which means she must isolate for 12 weeks!

Carole has been unwell for some time with heart problems and is also unable to work for 12 weeks. She was due to retire in early July anyway. Ashley will be taking over as Head Cook. BB too will be unable to return due to her health condition.

Mandy and Donna both have medical conditions which mean they must stay home for 12 weeks but we have set them up with special laptops which mean they can work from home. This means staff will still get paid and things we need will still get ordered!

Chelsea (carer) must also be off for 12 weeks but apart from that all other staff are working as normal unless they or their family members become ill.

We have to say THANK YOU to them all as they are doing a brilliant job in very difficult times especially with the schools closed. When you clap for the NHS workers on a Thursday evening at 8pm remember our brilliant staff team too and say a prayer that they stay well! When this is all over we are going to have an enormous party and say a proper thank you including to those who have retired this year.

NEWSPAPERS: Those of you who received newspapers with the Yoakley delivery need to know that the paper shop is closed because of the virus until after Easter. If anyone happens to be going shopping we will do what we can to get you a newspaper but otherwise I am afraid it will be yet another sacrifice we have to make.

DRAPERS HOMES

Please continue to stick to the Social Isolation and only go out if it is absolutely necessary (such as for a medical appointment). We need to keep you safe and well.

We are able to order most things from our regular food suppliers including Tesco, getting deliveries about once a week. If you need anything just get a list to Julie the warden and we will do our best to get what you need. Some things are in short supply or are limited in the number you are allowed to have (remember the war rations) but if it doesn't come this week we will try again the next.

Hot meals continue to be delivered from Yoakley at lunchtimes. If you would like one, please call and ask. They will be left in your porch so you will need to leave your outside door open. Cost £6.

Bills for meals, shopping and other services you have will be delivered to you at the end of the month and you can pay by cash or a cheque as a staff member passes by. That way we will limit the times we handle cash especially while Yoakley office is closed.

If you do get symptoms of the virus or are unwell in any other way do let us know. We may not be able to come into the cottage but will support you as best we can with delivering what you need, especially if you have no local family members.

We are sorry that we cannot let you in to Yoakley House to join in the activities at the moment but as the weather gets warmer we are asking some of our regular entertainers and others if they would be prepared to perform in the grounds so you can all join in from a distance. We will let you know as soon as we can get this set up.

At the moment it is unlikely that we will be able to have a party for VE Day. We are working on a special treat you can enjoy even if we are still in isolation and the gardeners are cultivating a special tribute in one of the flower beds.

We are here to support you however we can during these difficult days. Keep smiling. We are in this together!

