



NEWSROUND JULY 2021



END OF COVID RESTRICTIONS:

We are praying that 19th July will truly be the end of restrictions and we hope this means we can welcome you, our neighbours, back into Yoakley House. If “freedom day” goes to plan we will let you know the events and activities being held at Yoakley which you are welcome to join in with – the programme has changed a bit since March 2020. We may also be able to invite you in for prebooked meals in the dining room again.

THANK YOU PARTY. We are so proud of our amazing staff team and want to honour and thank them for everything they have done this past 15 months. Do please join us on **Tuesday 20th July from 12.30pm** for our party. A few “old faces” who retired without a proper send off will also be joining us and we will be rewarding those who missed out on key anniversaries of long service. Lots of fun, food and entertainments are planned.

CONGRATULATIONS to Lisa Groom (Deputy Manager) who has been with us 25 years on 22nd July and has the added honour of having done almost every job in the building in that time. Special presentation will be to her at the July party. Congratulations too to Lynn Nevard (Night Carer) who has been with us 5 years on 18th July.

22nd July is a special celebration in Yoakley: Betty Thompson will be 101. She is incredible for her age! Mavis Wigfield, who has recently joined us in Yoakley from the almshouses, will be 90. A Very Happy Birthday to both!

MAINTENANCE: Steve has done a fantastic job keeping on top of all the maintenance jobs in the cottages and in Yoakley, especially this past year when he has been on his own. We are blessed and grateful to have him and pleased that Dino has now joined him.

A few reminders:

- **Please please do not stop the maintenance staff** directly asking for “little jobs” to be done. They have so much to do and must prioritise their work to keep everyone safe. Sometimes they do forget! If you need something done, you should either tell the warden or phone Yoakley where the jobs go into the maintenance book so they can be prioritised. If after 3 weeks the job has not been done, please contact the Yoakley office again where

management can look into it. If your job is not in the book, we will not be able to help you. Thank you.

- **Interior decorating** of your cottage is your responsibility (after the initial painting before you move in). If you need them, we can suggest decorators who may be able to help you.
- **The upkeep of the garden area and rear patio area** adjacent to your cottage is your responsibility. Please keep these areas clean, tidy and safe from hazards – especially along the back alleyways which are a fire exit. If you need help with this, we can suggest gardening services that may be able to help you.

NEW ALARM SYSTEM: The fitting of the new alarm system for the almshouses begins on 5th July. It is likely to take around 2 weeks but access to your cottage will only be necessary for an hour or two at a time. We cannot be more specific about dates and times yet until they get started but our own maintenance staff will be on hand to make sure everything is done safely and your property is kept secure. (This does not include Drapers Close properties who have a different system).

COTTAGE FRONT DOORS: From 26th July Jodie will be working on wood staining the front doors of the cottages in the quad and car park. Doors that need repair or replacement will also be sorted out.

NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME: On **Sunday 18th July from 2.30pm – 4.30pm** the gardens will be open to the public under the National Garden Scheme. The event will be fully outdoor this year (no refreshments) and we will make sure that visitors maintain social distancing from each other. This is a chance for the general public to see the gardens that you get to enjoy all year round. If your own family and friends visit that day they may be charged £5 for a ticket and the money all goes to NGS. The car park will also be busy. Please ask anyone who wants to visit you to come on another day.