



# Keeping IN TOUCH

Warm greetings  
from all our team  
at Beech House  
to our neighbours  
and friends  
in Thornbury.



Happy  
Anniversary  
to us!

We're celebrating 20 years  
of care at Beech House



# Welcome

## TO KEEPING IN TOUCH

**Welcome to our inaugural newsletter for Beech House.** We have been working hard through the coronavirus pandemic, doing everything we can to keep our residents and staff safe. This has been a challenge through the various lockdowns as we still have restrictions on visiting, our staff are having to work wearing PPE, and we are still following strict infection control measures.

We're really keen not to lose touch with our local community during this time when people and groups have not been able to come into the home. We've not been able to venture out and take part in the community events we usually do, like the Thornbury carnival, and we've missed seeing you all. So we hope this newsletter is a good way of staying in touch, keeping our existing friends updated with what is going on at Beech House, and hopefully make connections with some new friends and local community groups.

## Introducing **Beech House**

**For those of you who don't already know us, we are a 55 room care home on Prowse Close just behind Thornbury Hospital.**

We look after people with nursing and dementia needs, doing our best to give everyone a lovely home to live in with the best quality of life we can. We have an outstanding CQC rating, for the second time in a row, and we are working hard to maintain our journey of development and improvement all the time. We are a part of the Bristol Care Homes group who have a good reputation for providing high quality care. Beech House is lovely building with beautiful gardens, which has won gold awards in the Thornbury in Bloom competitions several times now.



*"We have a good reputation for providing high quality care."*



## What has been happening at **Beech House**

Despite the challenging times, we have been keeping our residents happy with as many social activities as possible.

### **Christmas was a little different this year, but Santa still managed to make an appearance.**

We have had entertainers set up outside to play to residents inside the homes, thanks to *Ruby Two Shoes* who came along and played lots of Christmas tunes for us, keeping smiling even during the heavy rain!

On the 17th January this year Beech House celebrated having now been open for 20 years! This is an incredible milestone for us, and whilst we weren't

able to really celebrate because of restrictions and the current situation, we did have tea and cake in the home to mark the occasion. There are actually five staff members who have been at Beech House since the start. They were all presented with a bottle of Prosecco and a garden voucher for their devoted service to the home. Karen Foley who started as a nurse and is now deputy nurse manager says *"It's always been a lovely place to work. There is a great friendly atmosphere amongst the staff and residents and the staff are dedicated to giving the best possible care."*



A visit from santa



Christmas activities



Enjoying the flower arranging



Beech House

# Community engagement

**Before lockdown we really enjoyed having community groups into the home and attending community events.**

Unfortunately, this hasn't been possible over the last year, but we are looking forward to a time when we can invite you back in, and keep these important community links going. We would be really interested in engagement with any other local groups or community providers who can offer some social engagement with our residents, particularly when they don't have friends or family of their own. At the moment while we still can't have lots of visitors into the home, we are holding visits in a 'pod', but we do have video calling facilities, so if anyone has anything to offer on this, we would be very happy to hear from you. Once we get through the coronavirus pandemic, we will be really keen to extend an invitation to everyone to come and visit us and our residents.

We are extremely grateful that despite lockdowns and restrictions there has been such amazing community support for Beech House. We have some incredible efforts and donations to make sure Beech House had everything we needed during this time. This has ranged from foot covers, masks, laundry bags for the staff uniforms through to a sundial from our lovely neighbours in Prowse Close in recognition of the hard work our staff have put in. Thanks so much for all of this.

**BEECH HOUSE  
PROWSE CLOSE  
THORNBURY  
01454 412266**

## Staying safe through coronavirus

**We are working really hard to keep our home safe from coronavirus.**

**We have excellent infection control measures in place, lots of PPE in stock, nurses on duty 24/7, and fully trained staff in place at all times.** We have risk assessments and infection control policies in place which our staff are following to keep the virus out. This means we are keeping Beech House as safe a place as possible to live for our residents. We have processes in place which ensure that any new admissions do not bring the virus into the home. We are testing all of our staff on a weekly basis and all of our residents once a month. This means we can identify really early if anyone has the virus, and we ensure any staff members with the virus stay away from the home and any residents are isolated from others very quickly. This meant that we had zero resident infections prior to vaccination, and we are really glad to report that all our residents have now had their first vaccination.

As many of you will know, we have had to strictly limit visits to the home, but we are working hard to make sure we can keep visits in place, and we are putting plans in place ready for when the government give us the go ahead to have more close contact visits in the home, whilst at the same time keeping everyone safe with rapid result testing for staff and visitors.

Thanks for taking the time to read our newsletter, we hope you found it useful and we look forward to being in touch again in our next newsletter. If you have any questions or requests in the meantime, just give us a call.

Best wishes from all our team,  
Marisa, Karen, Lesley and all the staff.