



Bluebird Care Wakefield & Kirklees

A Better Life Lived Longer

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The Values We Live and Work By:

Always here for our customers

We support people to live the life they want.

We're the experts

We support and train all our staff to the same standards.

More than care

We go above and beyond.

Trust in us

We put our customers first.

Welcome to Our Newsletter

A Word from Our Director

Happy New Year! We hope you had a great festive break. Although it has been a rather challenging time for us recently – as it has been for everyone – we feel that we have continued to provide an outstanding quality of care throughout Wakefield and Kirklees. Our recent CQC inspection recognised the quality care we always aspire to deliver and provide to our customers.



Welcoming New Staff

In recent months there have been many changes to our office, including several new arrivals. We welcomed our new Care Manager, Sarah Hudson, as well as our newest Field Care Supervisor, Sharon Ucar. We also welcomed Charlene Calcutt to our office team as Employee Engagement Officer, and Abigail Fowler as Social Media & Admin Support. On top of this, our former Field Care Supervisor, Janice Hislop, has been promoted to Care Coordinator. Amidst all these changes, we have continued to provide our usual high standards of care.



Proud Moments

Awards



We are delighted to announce that we were awarded **Employer of the Year** by Wakefield Express Business Excellence Awards! Our Director Narinder Gill, and our Operations Manager Jessica Gaskell, attended the ceremony with our accountant Chris Smith, and accepted the award on behalf of our team. We value every one of our team members and we are so grateful that we have been recognised for this.



We would also like to share that one of our hardworking Bluebirds was shortlisted for the **Compassionate Care Award** in October – and she *won*! We are so proud of **Melanie Davies** for her dedication to our customers. Even though our Bluebirds are trained to provide the highest quality of care every single day, during the COVID-19 pandemic Melanie – along with all our care staff – has shown great strength and determination. For this we are extremely proud.



Another one of our dedicated Bluebirds, **Julie Barker**, was shortlisted for *two* awards this year! Julie was nominated for the **Unsung Hero Award** last October, and for the **National Care Award** in November. What an accomplishment!



Prince of Wales Hospice



We participated in the 'Bring a Bag to Work' fundraiser for The Prince of Wales Hospice, a charity that is very important to us as a homecare company. We raised **£560!** We also raised **£300** at **Junction 32 Shopping Outlet**, where we hosted a tombola with homemade cakes. This makes our total **£860**, which we are proud to announce has funded a hospital bed.



Supporting Our Community

Our Own Little Piece of Yorkshire

To support The Prince of Wales Hospice, in partnership with Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust and White Rose Forest and Heywood partners, we planted a broadleaf tree – because trees are one of our best hopes for a better sustainable future. We are committed to working towards COP26 sustainable goals.



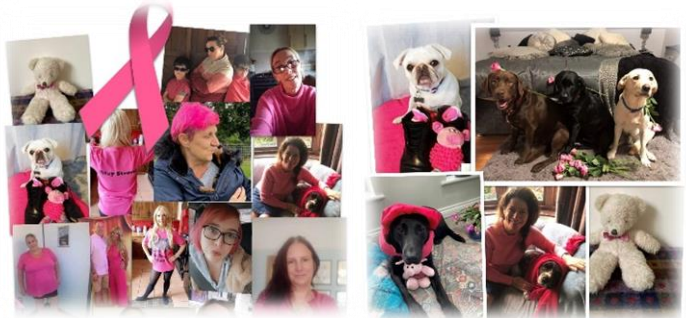
Silver Sunday

On October 3rd, we attended Silver Sunday at The Ridings Shopping Centre. Silver Sunday is an event created to help overcome loneliness, particularly in elderly people. More recently, it has become an occasion full of fun activities from tea dances to bake sales. During the event we met lots of kind and interesting people – it was a great day! We spoke with many people about the benefits of live-in care and got involved in all the fun activities – including a wonderful art show dedicated to everyone that was affected adversely by the pandemic.



Wear it Pink

Every year, we support the #wearitpink campaign for Breast Cancer Awareness. All our staff were asked to wear something pink to help spread awareness of breast cancer. In total, we raised over **£100** for this. Even our pets took part!



Christmas Bake Sale

We celebrated Christmas early this year by hosting a Bake Sale event at St Michael the Archangel Church in Emley. We played bingo, sold homemade cupcakes and Christmas cake, and drank cups of steamy hot chocolate. The event was a great success, with many attendees throughout the day. We raised to **£88** for Kirkwood Hospice!



'Thoroughly enjoyed the Bake sale and raffle. Lovely staff and ambassadors, all for a good cause.' – Cath Mallinson



A Poem by Stephanie Rowley

A poem for my dad, my gentle giant, bless him

*I often wondered how much of you were still
in there, aware, but trapped.*

*Grieving for you started earlier than usual...
you were still with us, but not with us.*

*The way you shouted and swore, the way you
smashed the door.*

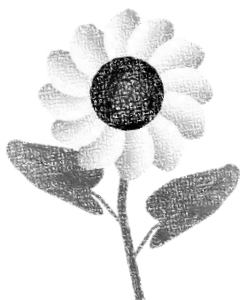
*No longer interested in crosswords, but often
speaking with crossed words.*

*This wasn't the man we all knew and loved,
but yet we would never give up on you.*

*I felt the guilt and pain within me as I
reacted with frustration and anger at times.*

*Feeling helpless, but still full of hope, and
hoping for a sign that you knew I cared.
That sign came on your final day, when the
last squeeze of your hand was shared.*

Stephanie Rowley



This poem expresses the grief of losing a loved one to dementia. It digs deep into the mind of someone who knows just how painful and scary it is to watch someone they love suffer from such an awful illness. However, this poem also shares the hopefulness that still shines brightly no matter how bad things might be.

A Short Thank You

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our staff and our customers alike. It is because of all of you that we can continue to provide excellent care. We are very proud of how our care staff have conducted themselves during such uncertain times, and we are grateful that our customers have adapted to the changes we have had to make recently. Thank you all for your wonderful support.



If you wish to discuss anything, please do get in touch with me:

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