



*Birchfield*

*Luxury Residential Care Home*

# **Newsletter**

**Issue One**

**May 2011**

## ***Welcome to our quarterly newsletter***

Welcome to the first of many Birchfield newsletters in which we hope to interest and inform all involved with the Home about the various trips and “goings-on”.

In the future you may wish to suggest a topic that we could cover in the newsletter or ask us to announce a happy event so that everyone can share your good news.

We hope you enjoy reading the various articles and we welcome your feedback.

*Mark and Kirsty Taylor*

## ***Easter Fair***

On the day of the Easter fair we raised £168 for the Resident’s Fund which will be put towards their trips and events. We had lots of visitors including resident’s family members both past and present. It was very nice to see them all and we were happy that they wanted to support us.

As you can see from the pictures below, we had lots of fun including tombola, craft, cake and jewellery stalls as well as games of ‘guess the

name of the teddy’ and ‘how many chocolates in the box’. There was also lots of tea, coffee, chat and laughter.

The Summer Fair will be our next ‘open’ event and will be held on 20th August. You are all welcome!



## Staff News

Staff at Birchfield are encouraged to undertake additional training whenever possible in order to build upon their skills, knowledge and confidence and also continue the high quality care we provide to our residents.

Both Grace Collister and Janet Armitt have recently commenced their NVQ3 and Rachel Currie, Jennifer Collister and Lisa Wright have just begun their NVQ2. We wish them all well with their courses.

We were very sorry to see Janine Smith leave us but we wish her all the best for the future. She worked with us for many years and we will miss her very much!

## Regular Activities

The staff at Birchfield aim to bring as much variety and fun into the lives of our residents as possible. They are encouraged to continue with their long established hobbies as well as joining in with organised group activities which include: baking, card-making, crafts, bingo, dominoes, crosswords and quizzes as well as other 'one-off' activities.

We also have an 'in-house' hairdresser and Physio, Ray, comes in every Wednesday to do armchair relaxation and exercise sessions.

*More events are on the back page!*

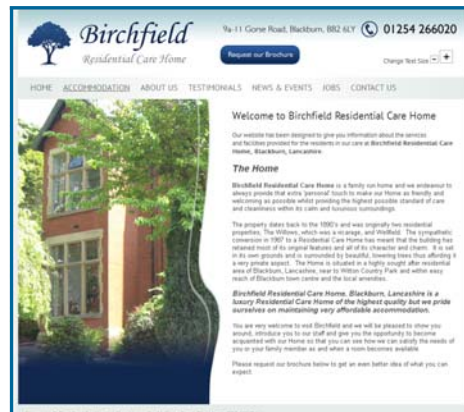
## New Website

We are pleased to announce that our new website is up and running and we are now telling the world wide web about the great things we do here at Birchfield.

As well as providing information about the care and services we provide we will also be using the website to publish our newsletters, provide details of any special offers and advertise any job vacancies we might have.

Find us here:

[www.birchfieldcarehome.co.uk](http://www.birchfieldcarehome.co.uk)



## Respite Care

At Birchfield we are keen to promote the provision of respite care and have a dedicated room for this purpose. As the holiday season approaches, please call us with any respite enquiries—we will be pleased to help in any way that we can.

## ***Introducing Margaret 'Joan' Mussenden***

Joan has been a resident at Birchfield for approximately 8 years. Before arriving here, Joan lived at Lancaster Place for 14 years however she felt she didn't 'fit in' there and spent most of her time in her bedroom.

Joan suffers from poor vision and has been diagnosed with Glaucoma and is also diabetic. However, despite her deteriorating health Joan is very independent.

Since moving to Birchfield, Joan is happy and content. She is a very sociable lady who enjoys talking to the other residents and staff. As much as possible, Joan is encouraged to maintain her high level of self care and independence.

Joan attends day centre every Tuesday and has previously been a member of the Blind Society. She likes to join in with the activities we organise with her friends.



## ***Cats and Dogs***



Our senior carer, Elise Brown has been bringing in her puppy, Annie. She has also been keeping us updated with her growth via pictures on the notice board. Our residents are thoroughly enjoying this as the majority are animal lovers and really look forward to Annie's visits.

We also have a resident cat, Bobby, at Birchfield who wanders around when not asleep!

In addition, we are very lucky to have a regular visit from a 'Pets As Therapy' (PAT) dog who is accompanied by Rachel's mum, Anne. PAT is a national charity and is unique in that it provides temperament assessed and vaccinated cats and dogs who visit hospitals, schools and care homes.



## ***Upcoming Events***

Remember to keep an eye on the notice board for events that are currently being organised. In the meantime, here is a list of planned events at Birchfield:

### **18th May**

Home Safari will be bringing snakes, skunks, tortoises, lizards and other creatures.

### **23rd May**

Local school, Wensley Fold are visiting to chat with our residents about their school days and experiences.

### **20th June**

A trip to Blackpool Zoo with lunch and afternoon ice-cream.  
Please let us know if you would like to join in.

### **28th July**

Donkey Sanctuary visit—real donkeys are house trained and will come in so that residents can stroke and pet them.

### **20th August**

Summer Fair—with tombola, raffle, craft, jewellery and cake stalls.  
All in aid of the resident's fund—everyone welcome!

### **6th September**

Trip to Clevely—shopping and lunch out.  
Please let us know if you would like to join in.

## ***Feedback***

We welcome all sorts of feedback. If you have any suggestions for improvements to the Home or the service we provide, do let us know. Also, please feel free to send in any articles, memoirs or photo's for inclusion in our newsletter.

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