

EUROPEAN CARE GROUP NEWSLETTER

January 2011



A Welcome note from the Vice Chairman

This newsletter contains some extraordinary stories of achievements - both by residents and staff. These successes are a terrific tribute to the commitment dedication and sheer hard work of everyone included. On behalf of European Care Group—many congratulations!

- **David Perry**

Winners of Wales Care Awards 2010

Eileen Clewes, Manager of Ty Porth Care Home, won the gold award for the category '**Excellence in Housekeeping and Hospitality**', while **Barbara Walker**, Senior Carer at Rhondda Care Home, took the bronze award in the category '**Promoting Fulfilled Lives**'.

Speaking shortly after the award Eileen commented "I am proud to have received this prestigious award both for myself, the Home and European Care. Without support from my colleagues I would not have been able to achieve the successes of the past year. I wish to thank everyone for their continued hard work and commitment over the past 6 years and hope we continue to maintain our high standards in the future".

Barbara commented "The nominees that I met are all special people and champions of care in Wales. I felt very humble and honoured to receive the bronze award. I am grateful to all my colleagues at the Rhondda Care Home, European Care Group and my manager for giving me their support. I'd like to thank all the people who work hard to



Eileen Clewes with her Gold Award

put the awards together for making it such a special evening".

Shaun Morrissy Programme Manager (Grwyp Gofal Cymru) stated "It was a pleasure to see such caring and devoted staff receiving such well earned recognition for their continuous hardwork and dedication to their residents. They are a credit to their homes and the caring profession and typify the high standards our company is always striving to deliver."



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Residents in a sponsored walk

The Cabrini Children's Society is a Regional Social Care Agency that provides adoption and fostering services primarily to disadvantaged communities, helping to improve the emotional wellbeing and outcomes for local children, young people and families.

European Lifestyles' staff member Barbara Barnes, from our supported living services in Stakes Road, Waterlooville also works for Cabrini Children's Society. Barbara is a respite foster carer providing support to children whilst their foster

carers have a much needed holiday.

During a visit to Stakes Road, Rob Gillespie (European Lifestyle's Regional Director of LD Services) and Barbara had a discussion about the forthcoming sponsored walk and some Service Users indicated they may like to take part in the fundraising event. Rob offered European Lifestyles' sponsorship to those taking part to rely upon our support.

As a result of this, 3 service users completed the 5km sponsored walk around Staunton Country Park, with the support of the Stakes Road staff. Another Service User decided to



The participants

give sponsorship as he was not going to be there for the walk itself.

Everyone who participated felt proud of their achievements as they raised money for Cabrini Society's children, with also some of the money going to Starlight, a charity which supports terminally ill children.

New COO, Barbara Cotman



European Care Group would like to welcome Barbara Cotman as the new Chief Operating Officer of European Care Homes, England.

Barbara has replaced Mr. David Davis and will have overall operating responsibility for the European Care Homes division in England.

Barbara is a qualified Nurse and specialist practitioner holding management qualifications in strategic operations and an MBA. She has over 15 years of Senior Executive experience across various segments of the Long Term Care industry in both public and private sectors and has managed teams working with special needs,

LD with mental health, Physical Disability, Brain Injury/Neuro-rehab and elderly & EMI/Dementia care. She also has substantial knowledge of all quality and regulatory requirements, including EHO, Health & Safety and HR Management and Compliance.

Previous roles have proved her to be successful in the field of acquisition and development of new services to provide growth and stability within an organisation. Prior to joining European Care Group, Barbara held a Deputy Managing Director position for a medium sized provider and prior to that she was Managing Director for a large successful operator.

Our Staff do the Memory Walk

Memory Walk is the Alzheimer's Society's flagship fundraising event. Since 2002, Memory Walk has raised over £1,700,000 for people living with dementia.

During September this year, thousands of people took part in walks across England, Wales and Northern Ireland and everyone enjoyed a fantastic day out.

The money raised through Memory Walk will be used to fund the local services, which will be supporting people affected by dementia in their community.

On Sunday, 12th September, Nichola Stephens from Dovecote Care Home, did the 6 mile memory walk for the Alzheimer's Society and raised £600.



Nicola Stephens and the other walkers

During the first part of the walk she wore a t-shirt advertising Dovecote and in the second half the official Alzheimer's t-shirt.

Lake & Orchard Summer Fair buzz

Lake and Orchard Care Centre organised a Summer Fair, in Kelfield, York. About 100 people visited the centre, helping to raise a grand total of £674.33. There were lots of traditional fun and games organised during the afternoon.

Guests could try their luck on the raffle, which had 30 great prizes up for grabs, as well as dip into the tombola. There were two tombolas, one for adults and another specifically for children. A number of stalls also offered a host of goodies, from cakes and preserves to vegetables and chutneys. There was also a fascinating wood carving display.

The Summer fair also included competitions, where the "creative types" were given the challenge of trying to construct the best scarecrow they could. One of the day's stars was Kate Stephenson, who got things buzzing by creating garden ornaments with her chainsaw.

Activities organiser Sandra Thornton said: "It was very impressive, she just gets a lump of wood and carves an ornament out of it. Its very skilful and very interesting to watch."

Leading up to the event, the residents had been busy in their allotment growing a huge range of vegetables which were on sale on the day. The cash raised on the day will go towards paying for days out, buying Christmas presents and expanding the centre's allotment. Three of the local papers published articles on the Summer Fair.



Kate Stephenson with her chainsaw

New Therapy suite at Pirton Grange

Last month Pirton Grange Specialist Service, Worcester, was delighted to announce the opening of the new Therapy Suite. We had the pleasure of Mr Paul Beresford, as the master of ceremonies. Paul is an ex-premiership footballer, who played for both Newcastle United and England.

He spent considerable time with both people living in Pirton and the staff. He specifically complemented all persons present on the positive feeling he enjoyed during his day with us and also on the care standards delivered; he described our staff as being "forgotten heroes of the community".

The finance for the therapy suite was raised in a rather special way by organising a charity ball.

The idea of charity ball was proposed and championed by Brigitte Robertson, with the help of the "Friends of Pirton Grange".

The Ball was held at Tewkesbury Park Hotel, and included a 9 piece swing band, buffet style dinner, raffle prizes and auction items which were very successful with a huge list of very good and attractive items and events.

Brigitte was helped by many of her friends and family especially her daughter Leanne, not to mention Emma and Eve who were of great help and very supportive all the way through the project. A total amount of £8,000 was raised during the event.

Brigitte said, "I am very proud to know that I have contributed, albeit in a small way, to providing a relaxing Therapy area for the residents at Pirton to have Beauty & Holistic treatments. I do hope that it will be maintained and be available for many years to come."



The Therapy Suite

Gillingham Grange's Success Story with Dementia Resident

A prospective resident was assessed in a different specialist dementia care home.

The pre-admission assessment reads:

“J.B is unable to communicate. Very little spoken words, unable to articulate a sentence/respond verbally. Usually seemed lost/vacant look in her eyes, not willing to engage in social contact with us. Met J.B wandering around reception area unable to identify her room location. Little attention span, not focusing on us or anything in particular. Would not initiate conversation or respond to questions. Did not smile. She was padded by day and night. Was not able to use knife and fork.”



Residents at Gillingham Grange

Current Assessment (within one month of being at Gillingham grange):

‘J.B is able to communicate with appropriate answers to questions asked by staff and family. She is much more out going in her mood and behaviour. Her reading and attention span has improved greatly, and enjoys participating in activities. Cheerful and happy facial expressions. Likes to wear make up which improves her mood and self esteem. Able to locate her room by herself. J.B does not wear a pad by day or night. She eats all meals with a knife and fork. ALL this has been achieved through hard work by the entire team. J.B 's mother and husband cannot believe the progress. In fact they come every Sunday to have lunch with her.’

Justin's Kilimanjaro Challenge

After successfully finishing the Three peaks Challenge- UK, Justin decided to set his sights higher to conquer the highest mountain peak in Africa, Kilimanjaro (height – 5895 meters).

Justin and Team Daws flew to Tanzania on 27th September 2010. The team started the climb on 3rd October at 23:00 hours and reached the summit at 05:30. It was an extremely tough climb and Justin reached the summit with only 60% oxygen left.

The combination of miles covered and the altitude made this an extraordinary challenge. We are very proud of Justin for this incredible achievement - Many congratulations!

Justin would like to thank everyone for their support and generous donations. All your efforts are greatly appreciated.



Justin at Mount Kilimanjaro



For more information please visit: www.europeancare.co.uk or email: info@europeancare.co.uk

The European care group is one of the leading elderly care service providers in the UK. We are a dedicated and highly trained team of 5500 professionals, taking care of more than 4500 people at 120 locations across England, Wales and Scotland.