

# Whitgift Care NEWS

Autumn 18 | Edition 9

A newsletter for all residents and staff, families and friends of the Whitgift Almshouses, Whitgift House, Wilhelmina House and the 1596 Club.

## Whitgift Care welcomes new Chaplain and Governor

**Whitgift Care is delighted to welcome Croydon Minster's new Priest in Charge, Revd Canon Dr Andrew Bishop, as Chaplain and Court Governor to The Whitgift Foundation.**

Canon Andrew was licensed at the Minster on 3<sup>rd</sup> September and took up his roles at the Foundation the following day. His role as Chaplain will involve providing support and pastoral care to residents at Whitgift Care, as well as students and staff at the Foundation's three schools: Whitgift, Trinity and Old Palace of John Whitgift. As Court Governor, he will sit on all three school governing bodies and our Care Committee. Andrew was previously a Residentiary Canon of Guildford Cathedral and Chaplain to the University of Surrey.

The Revd Canon Dr Andrew, Vicar of Croydon, said: *"I am both delighted and excited to be taking up the role of Chaplain and Court Governor for The Whitgift Foundation. I am truly amazed by the breadth of the charity's work in supporting the local community*



*and I am looking forward to promoting Archbishop John Whitgift's vision across the town to provide education to young people through one of the largest bursary schemes in the UK, as well as caring for the elderly and supporting the borough's carers. In my role as Chaplain, I see myself as the spiritual heart of the Foundation by providing support and pastoral care to all staff, residents and students."*

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## Message from Martin

With winter fast approaching, it is now even more important to take part in the wonderful activities on offer at the homes, particularly over the festive season, and share in the companionship of others. Activities are now on offer seven days a week at Whitgift House as we welcome two new activities co-ordinators, Angela and Ann. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all new residents

to Whitgift Care and I look forward to meeting you at forthcoming Christmas events.

**Martin Corney**  
Chief Executive,  
The Whitgift Foundation



## Whitgift Care gets spooky for Halloween

Creepy skeletons and spooky spiderwebs transformed the Van Horne Suite at Wilhelmina House for Halloween.

The whole community had the opportunity to carve a pumpkin and dress up in their scariest fancy dress costumes.

Meanwhile over at Whitgift House, the afternoon was spent competing in a gruesome themed word search and baking spider biscuits and witches' fingers. Whilst enjoying their cakes, residents listened to spooky tunes such as Thriller by Michael Jackson and the Ghostbusters theme tune.

*"The activities have brought back treasured memories of when we used to go trick or treating with the children",* said 1596 Club member.

*"I've never carved a pumpkin before, it's been great to try something new!",* said Wilhelmina House resident, Sheila.



## The Whitgift Foundation Annual Journal 2017/18

The Whitgift Foundation is delighted to present its latest 2017/18 Annual Journal themed *Connecting a Community*.

Featuring achievements and experiences collected across the Foundation's education, care and carer support services, this year's Journal highlights the importance of its communities, particularly in bringing the old and young together. It also showcases the varied range of work the Foundation does to help and support the local community from outreach at our schools to events for the public to enjoy. Request a copy from a Care Officer or ask at reception.

## Fabulous florals filled Whitgift House for Flower Day

An assortment of vibrant flower arrangements filled the Whitgift House Chapel for the annual Flower Day on Thursday 27th September.

Whitgift House residents and 1596 Club members thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to produce magnificent floral arrangements, using bright bold carnations, roses and freesias supplied by Blooming Lovely in New Addington and donated by JB Shakespeare Ltd.

In keeping with tradition, the

arrangements were displayed in the Chapel ready for judging by a willing panel of Whitgift Almshouses residents and JB Shakespeare's, Manager Director, Chris. The winners were awarded a bunch of beautiful flowers. A special life time achievement bouquet was awarded to Sheltered resident, Gwen, for her commitment to Flower Day for over 30 years.

Whitgift House Flower Day winner Doreen, said: *"It was a total surprise I didn't think I would win. I've always enjoyed flower arranging."*



## Activities now seven days a week at Whitgift House

Thanks to the arrival of two dedicated activities co-ordinators, Ann and Angela, Whitgift House is now able to offer its residents activities every day of the week.

The pair joined the home over the summer and have settled in brilliantly.

*"I feel like I've been part of the Whitgift House family for years",* commented Angela.

Since joining, they have already introduced a variety of furry friends to the home – guinea pigs and a clutch of chickens.

They love arranging events and have a person-centred approach to the activities they plan having recently introduced a wishing tree where residents can pick one wish and they will try their best to make it come true.

They are excited to organise day trips and adventures out and about in the mini-buses.

Ann really enjoys music and dancing so plans to arrange exercise classes accompanied by music performed by Foundation Schools' students.

They welcome all ideas and suggestions for forthcoming activities and we wish them all the best in delivering fantastic events for all to enjoy at Whitgift House and across the Whitgift Care community.



Angela



Ann

## 1596 Club visit Theatre on the High Street

1596 Club members were thrilled to take part in a spot of acting when they participated in a reminiscence workshop as part of a new initiative in Croydon – Theatre on the High Street.

The initiative led by a local theatre company, Zoo Co, transformed a disused shop unit in the Whitgift Centre into a community performance space.

The workshop was specially organised for older people and led by Arts4Dementia trained actors who gave the audience an opportunity to create stories through memories of past events such as holidays or places visited. Great fun and laughter was had by all as the actors engaged their audience by using nostalgic props, songs, smells and tastes to prompt their imaginations.

1596 Club member, Brian took a starring role: *"The afternoon was so much fun, I loved taking part and meeting new people."*



Here is a selection of the events keeping our residents busy...

*Almshouses residents enjoyed a trip to Standen for Dora's Day*



*Whitgift House staff walked 13 miles for Cancer Research UK*



*The Almshouses opened its doors for a U3A tour*



*1596 Club took part in flower arranging at Wilhelmina House*



*1596 Club supported local veterans Armed Forces Week 2018 celebration*

*Wilhelmina House residents enjoying a trip to a local coffee shop and a craft afternoon*



*Young adults from the National Citizen Service visited Whitgift House to volunteer and entertain residents*

*Whitgift House say hello to new furry friends*



*Whitgift House residents enjoyed the annual croquet match against Whitgift Foundation staff*



# Summer Garden Parties

Whitgift Care celebrates summer



The summer garden party season is always a high spot in the year where family and friends across the generations can join our communities and socialise in our homes' beautiful grounds. Thanks to the hard work of our staff in organising the events, the homes collectively raised more than £2,200 towards charitable causes and their own social funds.

Here are the highlights:

## Whitgift Almshouses

**The annual Whitgift Almshouses Summer Garden Party was a great success on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2018 where £600 was raised through donations and activities.**

Our CEO, Martin Corney, welcomed Mayor of Croydon, Cllr Bernadette Khan, guests and relatives to the historic Almshouses. Care officers and residents organised a variety of fantastic stalls selling delicious homemade preserves and activities included a tombola, raffle and craft table. Guests and residents found shade in the picturesque quadrangle to enjoy a glass of Pimms and a delicious cream tea.

The money raised has been shared between the residents' social fund and the Orpheus Centre, an independent specialist college, inspiring young disabled people to greater independence through performing arts.

Care officer, Jovita, said: *"The atmosphere around the courtyard was very relaxed and guests enjoyed our hospitality."*

One Almshouses resident commented: *"It has been a wonderful afternoon. We really appreciate the help from all the care officers, they have made the party such a great success."*



## Whitgift House

**Bright bunting, beautiful flowers, fantastic stalls and live music brought smiles and cheer to everyone who attended the annual Whitgift House Garden Party on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2018.**

The plant stall was popular once more with beautiful hanging baskets, busy lizzie, lavender, bright floral arrangements and shrubs on sale. Guests and residents took part in the tombola and raffle, winning prizes including wine, chocolate, pamper sets and cosmetics.

The event raised a fantastic £1,187 for the residents' social fund to pay for various activities and outings throughout the year.

A resident living in the sheltered flats, commented: *"Every year I anticipate the garden party. It's such great fun to get everyone together to enjoy the summer weather and to socialise."*

*"It's so lovely to see everyone sitting outside in the lovely garden enjoying time with their family and friends. The annual summer party is always a great time together",* said a Whitgift House nurse.



## Wilhelmina House

**The glorious summer sun shone down for the Wilhelmina House Summer Garden Party on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2018.**

Guests were entertained by a talented magician, Robbie Gold, who performed magic tricks and pianist, Nicky Chambers, played beautifully throughout the party.

The garden looked spectacular with an abundance of colour thanks to the hard work of Whitgift Care's gardener, Ann. The new pergola was adorned with fabulous hanging baskets, and with the water feature trickling in the background, the garden made an idyllic spot to rest and relax on a hot summer's afternoon.

Activities Coordinator, Frankie, organised a brilliant and busy tombola and book stall, whilst the raffle was as popular as ever with a splendid array of donated prizes including a pamper hamper. A delicious spread of sandwiches and finger food was enjoyed by

guests, washed down with a glass of refreshing Pimms or ginger beer.

One guest added: *"We could be in the middle of the English countryside, the garden is beautiful. What a lovely garden party."*

The afternoon finished with strawberries and cream along with tea and coffee.



*Creative melon table center peices*



Here is a autumn themed quiz for you to enjoy:

**Question 1:** The famous poem, Ode to Autumn, was written by each famous poet?

**Question 2:** What date is Halloween usually celebrated?

**Question 3:** Glen Moy and Autumn Bliss are varieties of which fruit?

**Question 4:** Which autumnal farming practice has been banned in England and Wales since 1993?



## Whitgift Care keeps up with the digital age

The Whitgift Care website is increasingly becoming a popular way for prospective residents to find out more about our homes before they contact us to visit. So, we have launched brand new virtual tours to enable prospective residents and their families to view all three homes online. Through the click of a mouse, each tour enables viewers to explore the homes' communal, dining and garden areas, as well as several bedrooms. A special camera was used to 'scan' these areas which took several days to complete. Do take a look for yourself at [www.whitgiftcare.uk](http://www.whitgiftcare.uk).

For those of you that use social media, Whitgift Care is now on Twitter and you can follow us using @whitgiftcare. Our Twitter feed features the latest news, events and activities from Whitgift Care.



Facebook: [www.facebook.co.uk/whitgiftcare](http://www.facebook.co.uk/whitgiftcare)



Twitter: @WhitgiftCare

## Review us

Carehome.co.uk is a popular online directory guide for all UK care homes. Many prospective residents and families browse through the site when looking for a home as it includes reviews by current residents, families and friends about their first-hand experiences of care services, facilities, atmosphere and staff.

You can review us by picking up a card available from the reception in both homes, or directly at: [www.carehome.co.uk](http://www.carehome.co.uk)

## Feedback

We always welcome your feedback. If you have something you would like us to know, or a suggestion such as a new activity you would like to try, or tell us that a member of staff has made your day, please let your Care Home Manager know.