

### A message from our Managing Director Sharon O'Connor

Dear Colleagues

Can you believe it – it seems like only yesterday that I was writing to wish you all a Happy Christmas, and now Easter has come and gone! It has been a very busy few months for our homes, with us looking at shift patterns, focusing on marketing and the environment and of course promoting our Dignity project. I have been delighted to see the Dignity initiatives in our homes, which have had the most positive effects for our residents. I was recently speaking to a resident in one of our homes, who was busily helping the laundry lady fold the washing – she was happy, busy, contented and fulfilled, something that all of us want to achieve in our lives. Years ago, as carers we would not have encouraged our residents to take part in this sort of activity, but now we realise how important it is for our residents to be a part of the day to day activities in the home and to maintain the activities that they used to do when they lived in their own homes. I was also recently at a party in another of our homes, and was speaking to the daughter of one of our residents – she was watching her Dad dancing, dressed up in 1960's clothes (long black wig, round glasses and flowery clothes). She was absolutely overcome by how he was enjoying himself and told me that she hadn't seen him like this for years – her words were that "this was her old Dad back again". For me these two examples show me how we always have to remember that we are caring for individuals who have led fulfilling and contented lives prior to them coming to live with us, and our role is to encourage and promote that, despite any physical or cognitive limitations they might have. Keeping busy and occupied is vital for all of us and that doesn't diminish when we go and live in a care home!

I have been out and about in our homes a lot over the past few months and it never fails to move me when I see the interaction between our residents and our staff – this is a credit to all of our staff and on behalf of the company, I would like to thank you all. As you know, we now have the "Mimosa Care Stars" on our website, where residents and relatives can nominate members of staff – it does my heart good to read the lovely and moving testaments to our staff who go about their day to day role in the most caring and compassionate way.

Best wishes to you all

*Sharon*



### MIMOSA MARKS ITS 300th CHAMPION

June Whitehead, Senior Carer at Longlands Care Home in Middlesbrough was recently made the company's 300th Dignity Champion. The special ceremony took place at Longlands and was attended by Sharon O'Connor, Mimosa's Managing Director, who presented June with flowers.

Mimosa is passionate about Dignity in Care and in the past year has introduced many initiatives into its care homes, such as Protected Mealtimes and Care in Progress signs for residents' bedroom doors. Each of the groups' care homes has a Dignity in Care information board in reception areas and the company now has just over 300 Dignity Champions.

Dr Ashok Kumar MP also recently visited Longlands to join in the celebrations to mark Dignity Action Day. He was so pleased to be invited and was so well informed about Mimosa's dignity campaign that he said he was going to mention Longlands in his session at Parliament.





Residents at White Ash Brook are pictured here making the most of the snowy weather earlier this year!

## WARREN PARK'S GALLERY OPEN DAY

Warren Park in Chapeltown, Sheffield recently held a Gallery Open Day. This was the opportunity to exhibit all craft work done by residents, staff and relatives for the Creative Arts in Dementia exhibition which will take place at Sheffield Hallam University in April. James Cranmer, Home Manager said, "I am extremely proud of the fantastic artwork the residents have done. Everyone who took part really enjoyed themselves and it was a wonderful chance for them to express themselves!"



(pictured from left to right: Margaret Bradley, Pat Bates, Carol Harris, Raffit Wazarat, Maxine Griffin, Danielle Harding)

## NETHERCREST RESIDENTIAL ACHIEVE 5\* KITCHEN AWARD

Nethercrest Residential in Dudley are delighted to have received a 5\* rating in their recent Food, Safety and Hygiene inspection. Donna Baker, Home Manager said, "I would like to congratulate all members of the kitchen team. They have all worked extremely hard to improve their grade. I hope we will continue to work as well in the up and coming year and continue to maintain this excellent level of quality".

## DIGNITY IN CARE - a message from Sharon Gatus

"I just wanted to say a huge thank you to those of you who worked so hard to make the awareness day a success, it is fantastic to see so many of our homes represented on the Dignity In Care website with pledges and examples of what you had planned. This promotes the good levels of care we provide to our residents, and shows the passion we have for that level of care and as a happy consequence it also promotes Mimosa in a positive light to other professionals.

Please keep the good work going and continue to share your initiatives on the website, for those of you who have not done this yet please look at the dignity website for some inspiration.

We are also delighted that Minister of State for Care Services, Phil Hope MP, has congratulated Mimosa for its highly successful Dignity in Care campaign. Phil Hope wrote to Anthony Massouras our Chief Executive, expressing his gratitude for Mimosa's outstanding work and for being an inspiration to others!

*Well Done to you all!*



## MAHOGANY IS 20!

Mahogany Care Home in Wigan celebrated its 20th birthday on 2 April. The event was marked with a Swinging 60s bash! Staff, Relatives & Residents wore and entertainment included singing and dancing. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the event and staff were delighted that it was such a huge success. Kath Barnett, Home Manager said, "I am so proud of all my staff who all work so hard to provide an excellent quality of care for our residents. They have put so much effort into organising this party and I am so pleased it's been such a wonderful day!"

## BUSY HANDS, BUSY MINDS AT THE WILLOWS

Residents at The Willows in Codsall, Wolverhampton, are thoroughly enjoying a new initiative recently introduced by staff. 'Busy Hands, Busy Minds' is designed to make residents feel more at home by encouraging them to do the kinds of activities they have done all their lives.



Helen Wilcox, Home Manager said, "we're really proud of our Busy Hands, Busy Minds initiative. Residents love doing tasks like peeling potatoes, dusting, folding washing, shoe polishing, cake baking and washing up. It keeps their minds active and helps to give them a sense of purpose".

Staff at The Willows have had really positive feedback from both residents and their families since they started the Busy Hands, Busy Minds scheme earlier this year.

*Sylvia Good is pictured helping to put away a delivery.*



Jodie Cham, Dignity Co-ordinator at Clarence has encouraged staff, residents and relatives to create a Prayer Tree which has appropriate poems for families, friends and relatives to say a prayer for a loved one.

