

BRACKENLEY NEWS!

Winter 2025/26 edition!

Another year over, a new one just begun!

Greetings to all our families and best wishes for 2026! This edition of the newsletter will include some of our Christmas Activities, as well as a look back into the Autumn. It seems a while now since the Summer Newsletter, but we are already looking forward to Spring and some more hours of daylight.



Our Home Manager says...



Jan Wright

Hello again, I would like to wish each and every one of you a very happy and healthy new year!

As we eagerly look forward to the longer days we have been looking back at how busy we have been over the last few months.

Leading up to Christmas we had a culinary treat each Saturday as we 'ate around the world' introducing national dishes from many countries which the clients helped to prepare.

We are now planning 'Friday night Fakeaway' where our clients will be helping to prepare healthier versions of their favourite takeaways.

We have been tentatively looking at things to do in the coming year, we look forward to sharing the outcomes with you in our next newsletter.

AUTUMN ACTIVITIES!

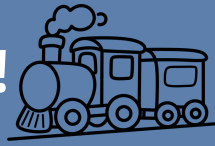


Inspired by the seasonal mushrooms outdoors at this time of year, Laura embarked on a beautiful mushroom making project indoors. Definitely for looking at, not for eating!

Halloween presented its usual opportunity for pumpkin carving and other spooky delights, greatly enjoyed by our residents at Brackenley.



A TALE OF THREE CITIES!



Adam visited three of the country's leading cities – Leeds, York and London, enjoying the rail travel along the way.

Can you work out which photo is which?



FESTIVE FUN!

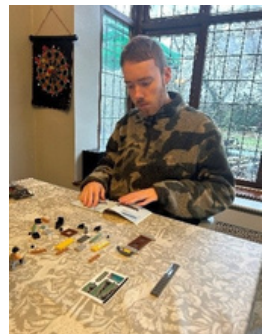
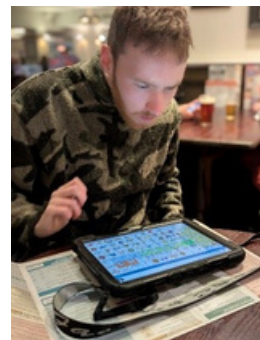
At the start of the Christmas season, some of our residents went together to Monk Park Farm near Thirsk to enjoy the Great Yorkshire Christmas event. A lack of Christmassy weather didn't stop the Elves helping Santa to prepare for the big day! We had a lesson in stuffing cuddly toys, which returned with us to Brackenley, sat on a model steam train and posed with a nutcracker. Of course, one of the highlights of the trip was visiting Santa in his grotto.

Somewhere amongst the sparkly outfits and the Christmas jumpers, a great deal of fun was had by all at the Annual Christmas Party! Santa made another appearance, and there was food, dancing and games to enjoy.



WELCOME TO NEW RESIDENT...JACK!

Jack joined Brackenley in October and has settled in very well; he is a gentle soul and is very popular with the clients. Jack is attending Henshaws College until he graduates in July 2026 and is currently looking at lots of options for the future. We are very much enjoying getting to know Jack and building a caring and trusting relationship with him.





AUTUMN TERM AT THE DAY CENTRE!

The autumn term was packed with activities which were enjoyed by all the Brackenley residents who attend the Day Centre.

Dianne and Pippa worked hard harvesting food at the allotment and even cooked some of the potatoes on site – jacket potatoes with cheese! There was also a chance to make homemade mincemeat and mince-pies. Lots of arts and craft sessions were enjoyed by Dianne, Paula and Pippa. Chrissie was hard at work in the Baking Enterprise group and a highlight was Dianne playing the bongos in Dan’s Rhythm Rebels. Peter enjoyed taking part in Wii Bowling in the Friday Games group and also smashed his personal best of 1km in 25 mins in his Gym and Fitness sessions. Well done Peter!

Chrissie was thrilled to help produce the latest copy of the Believe and Achieve Newsletter and enjoyed a well-earned end of term trip to the Harrogate Chocolate Factory Cafe! Dianne also had lots of outdoor fitness sessions in the fresh air with Billy.



A SPANISH HOLIDAY FOR LAURA & PIPPA!



Despite less than ideal weather conditions, the trip to Benalmadena was a resounding success, offering a great mix of activities. The time was well spent sightseeing in both towns of Benalmadena and Torremolinos and enjoying some local shopping. A major highlight was the evening experience, where we thoroughly enjoyed sampling the different cuisines each night and taking advantage of the diverse entertainment options available after our evening meal. Ultimately, we made the most of this great opportunity to holiday in Spain!



ITALIAN THEMED ACTIVITIES!

The Italian themed night was one of many theme events; the clients had a passport which they got stamped each week where they visited Italy, France, Mexico, Germany, Spain, Switzerland, Greece and Turkey, sampling their national dishes.



A NEW TRANSITION GUIDE!

HS4L has a newly published Transitions Guide, aimed at supporting young people with a learning disability and/or autism to navigate the change from childhood to adulthood. Although much of the content is aimed at those between the ages of 15 and 25, there is plenty of information pertinent to adults of all ages. Follow the QR code or visit our website to find out more.



TOGETHER WITH COOK!



Cooking and eating good food is an important part of life at Brackenley and the residents enjoy being part of the cooking process as well as the eating. From January 2026, Harrogate Skills for Living launched a new project via their website called 'Together we Cook' to build on this foundation of promoting healthy, affordable and seasonal cooking; it is hoped that all those connected with HS4L will find it useful. 2 new recipes are added every month in both standard and easy read formats. Follow the QR code to find out more!



OUR INTERIM CEO SAYS...

As we step into 2026, I want to wish all our friends, families, and partners a wonderful year ahead. Many of you will already know that Hadyn took a well-earned early retirement in September after years of dedicated leadership. We're incredibly grateful for everything he contributed, and I'm honoured to be leading the organisation as Interim CEO for the foreseeable future. It's an exciting challenge, and every time I look back over the activities in this newsletter, I'm reminded of what a brilliant service we continue to run together.



Julia Moor

Brackenley has been delighted to welcome Jack into the family this autumn, and we're looking forward to a year filled with growth, creativity, and achievement. We're also excited to launch our new healthy eating project, encouraging everyone to build on their culinary skills and enthusiasm as we explore fresh, nutritious ideas together.

With January's unpredictable weather – and the real possibility of a snowy day – it might just be the perfect excuse to pause with a hot chocolate in hand and take five minutes to enjoy both this newsletter and the attached copy of Believe and Achieve, proudly created by our students, about our students, and for our students at our brilliant day service.