

Independent Living Group

# ILG NEWS



## A message from ILG's Chairwoman:



A very warm welcome to the first edition of ILG News - designed to keep you updated on the latest company news, as well as provide an insight on the achievements and events taking place at the homes in our group.

It has been an extremely busy period since the formation of ILG earlier this year. During this timeframe we have been working on new company-wide initiatives that focus on delivering ongoing quality to our service users. This includes establishing new relationships with Boots the Chemist and rolling out the Makaton education programme across the company. Further quality initiatives will be announced during the course of the following months.

I welcome feedback from our readers on both the content of the newsletter, and also on the service we offer. By receiving your views, we can continue to shape our services to suit your specific needs, and ultimately provide the best possible service available.

Many thanks,  
**Thelma Turner**  
Chairwoman

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## Harefield Lodge digs deep to win Gold Prize

Pippa Greenwood, BBC Gardener's World writer and horticultural personality, has presented Harefield Lodge Home with the Gold Award for ILG's first Garden of the Year Competition.

The residents and staff from the Southampton-based home worked tirelessly during June and July to complete its winning entry into the company-wide competition.

Pippa Greenwood was invited to judge the ten short-listed entries in order to select the winning garden. Confirms Pippa: "It was extremely difficult to choose the winner of the Garden of the Year Competition; all the short-listed entries showed huge improvements in their gardens and evidence of a lot of work but, I have chosen a first prize winner; Harefield Lodge.

The transformation achieved is phenomenal and really looks as if everyone was involved in what must have been a huge amount of work. The new garden, now including plenty

of annual flowers, a great new log-edged border and masses of containers looks great and even includes brilliantly painted walls and a massive rainbow - guaranteed to cheer up even the gloomiest day! A fantastic achievement, and what really clinched it for me, was the fact that it looked as if a lot of fun was had in the creation of this great new-look garden too!".

Harefield received a stone plaque to commemorate its achievement, in addition to a winning certificate. Pippa also presented the winners with a beautiful Passionflower for the garden. Silver Awards were presented to Holly Cottage and Northwood/West Dene and Bronze Awards to The Laurels and Ridgeway for their notable entries.



## ACE Ramblers head to Droxford

Another successful ACE Ramblers meeting took place recently, which gathered quite a number of service users from homes across ILG. This time, the group headed off to Droxford in Hampshire, where a sprightly walk took everyone over hills, through woodlands and across many stiles, before meeting back at the church for a well deserved break. The regular ACE Ramblers meetings are always enjoyed by many service users who enjoy the gentle exercise, fresh air and team spirit!



## Holidays are coming!

With Christmas fast approaching, the annual Christmas Card competition has begun. All homes have been invited to design the ILG Christmas Card for 2008. In total, six designs are needed: one for each of the five regions and then one for the main ILG card.

The winners of the regions will then go through to the grand final where the winning card will be selected and used as the main company Christmas Card for 2008. Last year's winner was Mark from West Road in Hampshire who designed a fun card with the three kings.

All entries need to be completed by Friday 4th January 2008 and we look forward to seeing the results! **Good luck!**

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## Competition Time!

In every edition of ILG News, we will publish a Competition for our service users. This month we have included a Word Search Quiz. Here, eight words have been hidden in the grid above. They could be listed horizontally, vertically or diagonally in the grid.

The competition is open to all service users who can either complete it unaided, or can ask a staff member for assistance. To enter, locate the hidden words and either email them to [info@ilg.co.uk](mailto:info@ilg.co.uk), or cut out the complete word search and post it with your name and address to: ILG Word Search Competition, 2nd Floor, St Georges House, Knoll Road, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 3SY.

Entries need to be received by Friday 1st February 2008. The winner of this competition will win £30 of Marks & Spencer vouchers.

The words you need to find in the grid are linked to the weather:

Sunshine   Breeze   Cloud   Rain  
Wind   Storm   Cold   Hot

Name:

Address:





Postcode:

We look forward to receiving your entries soon!

*Good luck!*

## We Want Your News!

ILG News aims to give readers not only an insight into some of the great events and initiatives taking place within the homes and across the business, but we welcome input from any reader who may be interested in contributing to a future edition.

- Are you planning an event soon that you would like publicised in the newsletter?
- Are you going on holiday and would like to send us some photos?
- Do you have a poem or story that you would like to share with us?
- Perhaps you have some great jokes that you would like to tell everyone?

Whatever you may have; we want to hear from you! If you are interested in featuring in a future edition of the quarterly ILG News, send your ideas to Carolyn.gale@ilg.co.uk or post them to Carolyn Gale, ILG, 2nd Floor, St Georges House, Knoll Road, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 3SY.



## Fun walk for the Fire Brigade

Service users from Alton's Oakcroft home, Jon, Michael and Wayne, worked hard to raise money for the local Fire Station by doing a six mile sponsored walk. The trio were able to raise £25 and as thanks the fire crew provided them all with a tour of the facilities, including the opportunity to sit in one of the engines. **Well done!**

## ILG launches two new homes

We are pleased to announce the launch of two new homes to the group's portfolio: Falcon Lodge and Hibernia House.

Both homes are located outside of Southampton and offer the very latest facilities to adults with learning disabilities, Autistic Spectrum Disorder and those with sensory needs. Falcon Lodge can accommodate up to five individuals, whereas Hibernia can house six.



## College success at the Acorns

Two service users from Crawley's Acorns home, Louise and Jennifer, has been awarded certificates from College for their hard work and dedication during the recent term. Both attended different courses, from pottery and creativity, through to living skills and getting ready to go out. Both were officially presented their certificates at a garden party and BBQ later in the summer at the home, and a great time was had by all.

**Congratulations Louise and Jennifer!**



## Mayor visits Four Nevill Park for commemorative ceremony

The staff and residents of Four Nevill Park in Tunbridge Wells recently welcomed the town's lady Mayor to the home for an unveiling of a new garden bench with plaque and an ornate cherry tree.

The ceremony marked the life of Matt Brownbridge, who sadly died in January. Matt had worked as a senior support worker at the home for over ten years. Donations were collected by the staff for the commemorative bench.

# Summer Round-Up



## End of Summer Party

Tracey and Kelly from the activities team organised an excellent End of Summer Party at the Reading Rooms in Curdrige, Southampton at the end of August, with service users from a number of the local homes coming along for some fun, including several people who have recently moved in to homes across the South region.

Great fun was had by all, which included the service users preparing the party food and Luis, ILG's resident DJ, encouraging everyone to make some moves on the dance floor!



## Africa comes to Hastings!

Susan and Keith from Edmund House were delighted to feature in a production the Phoenix Theatre in Hastings earlier in the summer.

The show, called Active Arts, featured a range of interesting acts including African drumming, creative dance and music. The audience were certainly impressed by the spectacular show with a rousing round of applause received at the end of production.

Photos and a video from the production are being displayed at an exhibition by Hastings & Bexhill Mencap during early September.



## Grange Court excels at the Rushlake Green Flower Show

The residents and support staff of Grange Court were pleased to be awarded a number of prizes at the recent Rushlake Green Flower Show, after a lot of hard work and preparation. A prize was awarded from every class in the competition, including 'Best Eggs in the Show' for their free range eggs, best Tomatoes, best Hydrangeas, best Three White blooms, third with their carrots, second with their Marmalade, third with Lemon Curd and third with the Carrot Cake. The residents were there on the day to see all of their hard work being admired by the public.

## We welcome your feedback

If you wish to comment on any of the stories we have covered in this issue or discuss possible news stories, please contact Peppa Sheridan on **01420 83206** or email: [peppa@peptalkcommunications.co.uk](mailto:peppa@peptalkcommunications.co.uk)

Independent Living Group provides residential care and support to adults with learning disabilities and associated needs. ILG has 43 community-based homes located in Hampshire, East & West Sussex and Kent. [www.ilg.co.uk](http://www.ilg.co.uk)



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