

## **Newsletter May 2021**

Welcome to this spring newsletter.

I write as restrictions are beginning to ease and there is the real prospect of a return to some normality for all of us before too long. This will of course be very welcome at James Hiron. Understandably, our residents and staff have found the last 15 months extremely difficult and have been impacted very directly by them. Nevertheless Allan Fairweather with his deputy Pauline Riley and all our staff have managed very well keeping the home Covid free and coping with onerous restrictions and often last minute instruction and guidance from government and the local authority.

Visiting rules are starting to ease and I thank you and the residents for all for your patience and understanding in this respect. I sincerely hope that these will continue to ease so that this vital aspect of our residents' lives and welfare improves.

We now have the "Pod" on the bottom lawn in the garden where it fits in very well. This will help with visiting and be useful for residents' enjoyment of outside visiting. I would like to thank my fellow trustee Andy Givens and Allan for all their work in obtaining planning permission and managing the building of the Pod.

As I have mentioned before we now have the additional ipads, which are being used for remote visiting - many thanks again to all who contributed to the "Lockdown Fund" part of which was used to buy these.

The home is now open for new residents and for respite and I am pleased that two new residents have recently joined us. Unfortunately the restrictions residents must be subject to for the first two weeks of their stay make this a much more difficult time for them than would have otherwise been the case. Again I am hoping that these will be eased soon.

The gardens at the home are enjoyed by many of our residents, relatives and friends. They are starting to look wonderful. Unfortunately our gardener/handyman Malcolm Stock has been away ill for some time so trustees have been helping to manage these. We hope that Malcolm might return soon but in the meantime we are seeking to employ temporary gardeners to keep on top of things.

Our other key employee who is currently away from the home is Sarah Drysdale our Office Manager. We wish her well in her recovery and are looking forward to her return before too long.

Finally, after over 5 years as Chair of Trustees I am handing over this role to my colleague Rosemary Ruddick on 1 June. I know that Rosemary will take the home forward in the next few years supported by our strong board of trustees and I will continue as a trustee. I would like to thank my fellow trustees together of

course with Allan and Pauline and staff for all their support and help to me during my chairmanship.

David Owen: Chair of Trustees