

James Hirons Care Home Charity Bi-Annual Report, June 2023

Firstly, a warm welcome to our new residents and staff who have joined us since the beginning of this year. We also welcome Nicky Sawdon and Marie Kirwan, new members to our Board of Trustees. We were sorry to bid farewell to our former chair Rose Ruddick in July 22 and, more recently, our long-standing board clerk Elaine Mallender, and we thank them for all their collective years of service.

James Hirons is a charity; it never aims to make profit and has always endeavoured to keep residents' fees and annual increases as low as possible, whilst carefully looking after its investments which are there to support and protect the home. However, as we all know, the last year has been very difficult economically, and we continue to face unprecedented challenges and major increases in our operating costs. Even allowing for income from investments we are continuing to see appreciable overall losses in income over expenditure. Therefore, with effect from the 1st April 2023 we reluctantly increased our room rates, details of which are available on our website and from our Home and Office Manager.

We continue to ensure that we hold ourselves to account, and are always open to constructive criticism, and scrutiny. We strive to be Well Led and have sound and effective accountability and governance arrangements in place, to comply with all statutory and regulatory requirements, including those of the Charity Commission, Care Quality Commission, Health and Safety Executive, Local Authorities, Commissioners and many more.

The Covid pandemic exposed us and many other care environments to significant challenges and lessons, and we continue to build on these as an absolute priority.

A lot has happened over the last year, and we have excitedly, but safely, opened our care home for our residents, families, and staff to regain opportunities to share life with each other, their families, trustees and our local communities.

This has resulted in a range of activities for our residents to enjoy including Christmas festivities, Easter, and, more recently, the Coronation of King Charles III, in honour of which our chef produced an amazing Coronation lunch for all to enjoy.

We are now looking forward to celebrating our 70 year Anniversary, with a garden party to be held in the grounds on Saturday 1st July, 3pm-5pm. The charity was first established in June 1953 due to the generous legacy of James Hirons (1854 – 1940). Initially a “convalescent home for male poor persons being resident at the time of admission within the boundaries of the cities of Birmingham and Coventry”, it was known then as ‘The James Hirons Memorial Convalescent Home’.

Much research has been undertaken, working closely with Lillington Historical Society, Warwick Archives, our former chair Rose Ruddick, and many more, to unearth our charity's fascinating history. Our findings will be included in an exhibition for our residents, families, and staff, and to all those attending our forthcoming garden party.

There was great excitement at the Home when one of our longest serving senior carers was invited to the King's Coronation Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. She had a wonderful experience, and was able to share her photographs and memories with the residents and staff. We are so proud of her, as we are of all our team.

Our registered Home Manager, Allan Fairweather, former Deputy Manager, new Deputy Manager and our staff continue to strive to provide high quality care in a safe, respectful, caring and nurturing environment. This is validated by the Care Quality Commission monthly review and assessment of our care home. However, we are all committed and striving to continue to build on and improve further the provision of a care environment to enable our residents to live full and satisfying lives in 'their home'.

We continue to maintain and invest in a rolling programme of improvements throughout the Home and our beautiful gardens to 'make every day a day worth living' for all our residents.

The majority of our residents come from the surrounding area and we have recently distributed leaflets to invite local people to get to know James Hirons, as, surprisingly, there are still some who do not know we are here. Please help to spread the word, and support us in achieving the next seventy years!

Please do get in touch if you have any queries and, of course, we always welcome your feedback. Telephone: 01926 422425. Email: info@jameshirons.org.uk

Barbara Beal
Chair, James Hirons Board of Trustees