SANDMERE
CARE HOME

RESIDENTIAL | NURSING | DEMENTIA | RESPITE CARE

INTRODUCTION

Message From Our Manager

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter, everyone! We are excited to share what has been happening in our home as we welcome new residents, new team members and the longer, sunnier days of summer.

Life at Sandmere continues to be colourful and vibrant, with everything from our ever-growing sunflowers and vegetable garden to day trips and musical visitors creating a warm and uplifting atmosphere. We were delighted to welcome Syd the Therapy Greyhound and Victoria for their first visit in July, and we can't wait to see them again in August. We have also continued to enjoy regular visits from our talented musical guests, Jon, Tara and Laura, as well as weekly seated exercise sessions with Mark Hawridge.

As a community, we are also very grateful for the support of Alan's Transport Thanet, whose accessible taxis have enabled our residents to enjoy several outings, including visits to the cinema and the RAF Manston History Museum. We have even more exciting trips planned over the coming weeks, so please keep an eye on your emails and our Facebook page for the latest updates.

As we continue to grow and welcome new residents and team members over the summer months, we would like to say a heartfelt thank you to all our staff, residents' families and friends for your continued support and engagement. Sandmere Care Home is such a welcoming and supportive place because of each and every one of you.

If you know someone who would like to receive our email newsletters/updates just let us know, or forward them the newsletter sign up link below:

Newsletter Sign-Up

Best wishes,

Sally

Sally Wheeler
Home Manager

COMING UP...

DATES IN THE Sandmere Diary

We have another exciting few weeks ahead with plenty of opportunities for residents, relatives and friends to enjoy.

Saturday 8th August –
Margate Pride Community Family Event (10:00am – 1:00pm)

Sunday 9th August –
André Rieu Live: Viva Maastricht! at the Carlton Cinema (2:00pm – 4:30pm)

Sunday 16th August –
RAF Manston Psychic Fayre (from 10:00am)

Please keep an eye on your emails, our Facebook page and the home's activity schedules for confirmation of future outings and any additional events.

RECENT ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Exploring Our Local Community

Getting out into the local community is always something our residents look forward to, and thanks to our local accessible taxi service we have enjoyed several memorable outings throughout late spring and summer.

One of the highlights was a visit to the Carlton Cinema to watch EPiC: Elvis Presley in Concert. Residents, families and staff thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and the excitement continued long after we returned home with plenty of singing and reminiscing together.

We also enjoyed fascinating visits to both the Spitfire & Hurricane Memorial Museum and the RAF Manston History Museum, where residents explored local history, shared personal memories and rounded off the day with delicious cream teas.

There is plenty more to look forward to throughout August, including visits to Margate Pride's Community Family Morning, the RAF Manston Psychic Fayre and the much-anticipated cinema screening of André Rieu's 2026 Summer Concert – Viva Maastricht! We are looking forward to creating even more wonderful memories together.

The Dogs of Sandmere

Having a ruff day? Sometimes the best therapy comes on four paws!

We were delighted to welcome Syd, a six-year-old retired racing greyhound who has now found a new career as a therapy dog. Alongside his owner and music therapist, Victoria, Syd spent time with residents offering cuddles, companionship and plenty of smiles.

His calm and gentle nature quickly won everyone over, and there was lots of laughter as residents and staff enjoyed spending time with him. We're already looking forward to Syd's return visit on 25th August.

Our residents are also fortunate to regularly enjoy visits from their own beloved pets. Seeing familiar dogs arrive with relatives always brings huge smiles, sparks happy memories and creates lovely moments of connection. Thank you to Tilly, Lottie, Cody, Oscar and Lucy for becoming honorary members of the Sandmere family over the summer.

Keeping Everyone Smiling

Olivera and Donna wanted to give a big thank you to all the entertainers and staff who have kept us all laughing, dancing and relaxing into the summer.

Residents have enjoyed a fantastic variety of activities and performances, with something for everyone to take part in. Zoolab brought along some fascinating animal visitors, including Cleo the Royal Python, giving residents the chance to meet creatures they never imagined they'd encounter.

Weekly seated exercise sessions with Mark Hawridge have encouraged everyone to stay active in a fun and supportive environment, while regular performances from Laura, Tara and Jon have kept everyone singing, dancing and reminiscing. Jon's interactive dementia-friendly music sessions continue to be especially popular, encouraging participation and bringing people together through familiar songs.

We would also like to recognise the incredible support provided by so many members of our care team. Staff including Ruta, Chloe, Julie, Emma and many others regularly help alongside the Activities Team, ensuring residents can enjoy the garden, join in games, take part in creative activities and, above all, continue making happy memories every day.

Building Community Connections

Sandmere is proud to remain an active part of the local community. In June, residents Irene and Olivera attended an Intergenerational Cream Tea Afternoon at Hartsdown Academy in Margate. The event brought together local residents and Year 10 students studying Catering and Hospitality, creating a wonderful opportunity for different generations to learn from one another.

Irene shared stories from her career in education spanning more than 20 years, along with her passion for indoor bowls. Having chaired bowls committees, competed in championships and remained actively involved in her local community throughout her life, her experiences fascinated the students and inspired some wonderful conversations.

Inspired by Irene's enthusiasm, Olivera has decided to learn indoor bowls herself and hopes to organise a taster session for Sandmere residents at Thanet Indoor Bowls Club. Together, they hope to encourage other residents to get involved and perhaps even form a Sandmere bowls team. Further information will be shared via email, Facebook and our activities programme.

World Cup Fever

Football fever certainly reached Sandmere as residents came together to support England during the FIFA World Cup 2026.

The excitement built with every match as residents proudly followed the team's progress through the tournament. There was plenty of discussion before each game, lots of cheering during the matches and great conversation afterwards.

Although England's journey came to an end in the semi-finals, residents were incredibly proud of the team's performances and thoroughly enjoyed following the tournament together.

RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT

Jim's Story

When Jim moved into Sandmere Care Home in October 2024, his stay was only meant to last four weeks.

At the age of 95, he had been struggling with a leg wound that had affected both his mobility and independence. After settling into life at Sandmere, however, it quickly became clear that he had found somewhere he felt comfortable and supported. Six months later, Jim made the decision to stay permanently, joining his younger brother Ray, who also lives at Sandmere.

Jim was married to his wife Jean for 63 wonderful years before her passing six years ago. He is a proud father of four and grandfather to nine, and his family continue to play a very important role in his life, visiting him regularly.

Outside family life, Jim has always had a passion for farming, gardening and growing vegetables. Although he still remains involved with his fully operational farm, it is gardening that has always brought him particular enjoyment.

Since moving to Sandmere, Jim has rediscovered that passion. His room overlooks the gardens, and he has become actively involved in helping with the home's gardening projects, offering advice on planting schedules, choosing flowers for the raised beds and sharing his wealth of gardening knowledge with both residents and staff.

Last year, Jim successfully grew tomatoes in the greenhouse for the kitchen to use, and this year his efforts have continued. At the end of June, the first tomato of the season was ready to harvest. Fittingly, the first person to enjoy it was his younger brother Ray.

Jim's family have shared how reconnecting with gardening has given him a renewed sense of purpose and enjoyment. His story is a wonderful reminder of how important it is to continue supporting the hobbies and interests that mean so much to each individual resident.

STAFF NEWS

Congratulations to Our New Unit Leads

We are proud to celebrate the achievements of two valued members of our team who have recently taken on new leadership roles.

Rosie – Dementia Unit Lead
Rosie has been promoted from Senior Carer to Dementia Unit Lead, an achievement she is incredibly proud of.

"Being promoted from Senior Carer to Unit Lead for the Dementia floor is a milestone that I am very proud of. I am excited for the opportunities ahead and look forward to progressing in my role, growing as a leader, and continuing to provide compassionate, person-centred care to those we support."

Shauna – Nursing Unit Lead

Shauna has also been promoted from Night Nurse to Nursing Unit Lead, while continuing to support the night team each week.

Her calm leadership, kindness and dedication have made a positive difference to both residents and colleagues, and we wish her every success in her new role.

Congratulations to both Rosie and Shauna on these well-deserved promotions.

Congratulations Kelly-Ann!

We are delighted to share some wonderful news with everyone. Our Care Assistant, Kelly-Ann Hodges, welcomed her beautiful baby boy, Leighton, into the world on 24th June 2026.

Baby Leighton arrived weighing a healthy 5lbs, and we are pleased to hear that both mum and baby are doing very well.

Everyone at Sandmere sends Kelly-Ann and her family our warmest congratulations and very best wishes as they begin this exciting new chapter together.

A Warm Welcome to Our New Team

As Sandmere continues to grow, we are delighted to welcome several new colleagues to our team! Please join us in welcoming:

- Deborah Cuthill – Care Assistant
- Marta Strycharczyk – Care Assistant
- Tracy Lovett – Housekeeping Assistant
- Elsie Moyo – Care Assistant
- Denise Proctor – Care Assistant
- Israel Bile – Care Assistant
- Oana Romasc – Care Assistant
- Ebrima Ceesay – Care Assistant
- Stacey Reddock – Care Assistant
- Bimbo Amore – Care Assistant

Each new member of our team brings their own skills, experience and enthusiasm, and we look forward to seeing the positive contribution they will make as part of the Sandmere family.

GET TO KNOW THE TEAM

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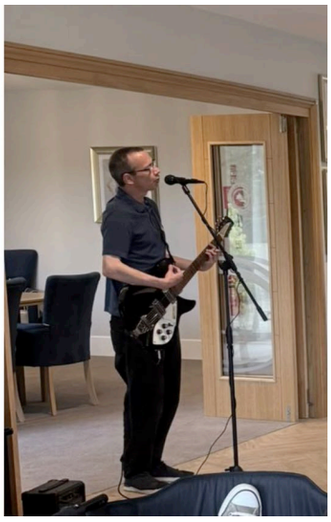
Staff Spotlight - Rob!



Staff Spotlight – Rob

This edition's Staff Spotlight goes to Rob, one of our talented carers who has been lending a helping hand with activities throughout the summer.

Many residents will already know Rob for his fantastic musical ability. Whether leading music groups, encouraging everyone to sing along during karaoke or performing live, Rob has a wonderful way of bringing people together through music. His special Saturday performance was such a success that residents have been asking when he will be back for an encore.

Thank you, Rob, for sharing your talent so generously and for helping create so many enjoyable moments for everyone at Sandmere.

EXTERNAL LINKS

Social Media

Make sure to check out the Sandmere Care Home Facebook Page for all our latest photos!

Don't Forget To 'Like' Us!

Leave A Review

We would be very grateful if you could spare a few minutes to write a review for us:

Carehome.co.uk & **Google Reviews**

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