

LAWRENCE HOUSE NEWSLETTER

February 2019

“Lawrence House is like life with stabilisers”

Lawrence House is run by local charity Hinckley Homeless Group. It is a supported hostel for young homeless people. At Lawrence House we can accommodate 12 young people aged 16-25 for up to 2 years each. It is a safe, friendly place where, with the help of project workers, young people can start to turn their lives around and learn to become independent.

Although Christmas is a distant memory for us all now, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our supporters and donators who step-up every year to ensure our residents are remembered and have a festive season filled with joy and hope for the year ahead.

All residents and staff enjoyed a full house Christmas meal on 21st December. The residents were treated to a 3 course lunch cooked and served by the staff. Steve, our weekend evening worker, spent the whole day creating a magnificent traditional roast turkey, with all the trimmings plus more and Lisa, our administrator, supplied the chocolate orange dessert. Everyone rolled out the door and the leftovers were enjoyed for days.



During the meal residents were treated to a surprise guest.....Santa! All residents received a present bag with gifts donated

by the Sixth formers of Hinckley Academy, Nursery and Junior students of Dixie Grammar School and Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council. These were incredibly well topped up by individual donators. As well as the many goodies donated for residents to eat and enjoy throughout the Christmas period.



Unfortunately, the lead up to the Christmas period for staff and residents at Lawrence House wasn't completely stress-free. In the early hours of Wednesday 12th December we had an attempted break-in at the property. Where a man who had visited 2 nights previously tried to smash the front office window, alarming the project worker on sleep-in duty. As the police were unable to arrest the suspect straight away we had to employ the help of a security firm to protect both property, staff and residents. Local firm Fosseway Security were fantastic in providing emergency security cover, and helping us to develop security

support on an on-going basis. The man has since been to court and sentenced.

We have bid a sad farewell to one of our neighbours. Mr Craythorne, lived opposite Lawrence House for longer than we have been here. He was an amazing supporter of ours and often popped in, staff all knew him and many of the residents over the years too. Our project worker Linda and Mr Craythorne often swapped cakes and recipes. We were a recipient of the donations from his funeral. He will be sadly missed by all here, he was a true gentleman and neighbour.

Fundraising Events

The younger generation have been showing their empathy and citizenship for those at Lawrence House. The Cub pack of 1st Britannia Scouts and the 2nd Hinckley Scouts have donated their Christmas fundraising money to Lawrence House.

Twycross House School have also donated their Christmas stamp money, we were invited to give an assembly to the sixth form helping them to understand the challenges young people their age may face.

Other News

The trustees of Hinckley Homeless Group have taken the exciting (and if not slightly scary) decision to develop. Many residents struggle with moving-on at the right time due to a lack of affordable homes. We are hoping to get a move-on property of our own, where residents who no longer need high support can live together in a shared house with a lower level of support and greater independence.

Thank you to all our Friends who give regularly to Lawrence House. *Friends* commit to giving Hinckley Homeless Group at least £10 per month by Standing Order. If you are not yet a *Friend of Lawrence House* please consider it. To show our appreciation we will send you two newsletters per year, an invitation to a special *Friends* social event at Lawrence House and our AGM. Please contact Lawrence House on 01455 890688 for a Standing Order Form.

We could not take such a step if it hadn't been for the continued support of our amazing community.

Resident News

A number of residents have attended the Prince's Trust Programme which helps with confidence, work skills and experience. They have recently completed the course and undertook work placements within Hinckley, from tea rooms, hairdressers and the parks team at HBBC. Well done all!



Two of our residents have secured employment. Both are enjoying their work in local companies – now for the challenge of budgeting that money!

The beginning of January brought a lot of change for 3 residents, as they all secured their first homes. All 3 have now moved out, 2 have moved with great success, but 1 has had issues with the state of the property and with getting items needed. Project workers have worked alongside them to talk to the housing provider and to ensure that over time this will become a positive move-on.

One of the residents who has moved into independence said "Lawrence House is the best place for young people with nowhere to go!"