

# Hickathrift House

## NEWSLETTER



## October Newsletter

### *General Manager Focus*

**"Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower."**

**Autumn has landed at Hickathrift! Inside our newsletter you'll find the latest and greatest plans for October. As well as catching up on what we've been busy with in September.**

I always like to start by welcoming all the new residents and staff to Hickathrift House Care Home. It's delightful to meet you all and we're looking forward to getting to know you. I truly hope you all enjoy being here and are excited to join in the celebrations.

What a fabulous month we've had here at Hickathrift House. It's been full of dancing at our Dementia Disco on World Alzheimer's Day and full of kindness at our Macmillan Coffee Morning. We've also had some fun, quirky themed days celebrating Oktoberfest and Become a Pirate Day. In September we also saw the launch of the Barchester annual survey Tell Barchester and have been gathering your valuable feedback. If you haven't filled it in yet, please do asap.

We have some great plans for October! We will be celebrating all things pumpkin and Halloween throughout the month with pumpkin flower arranging, pumpkin carving and a Halloween Party. Our open day is themed with a day in Italy, and we can't wait to celebrate the Barchester Care Awards.



Thank you for your ongoing support,  
**Paula Melerski,**  
**General Manager**

## Dates for your Diary

### OCTOBER

- 6<sup>th</sup> Pumpkin Flower Arranging
- 7<sup>th</sup> Dancercise Class
- 8<sup>th</sup> World Post Day
- 8<sup>th</sup> Reiki Session
- 10<sup>th</sup> Coffee Morning
- 13<sup>th</sup> Dementia Friendly Film Screening
- 16<sup>th</sup> Yoga Class
- 17<sup>th</sup> Knit and Natter
- 19<sup>th</sup> Pumpkin Carving
- 21<sup>st</sup> Virtual Bat Talk
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Barchester Care Awards
- 25<sup>th</sup> Open Day
- 25<sup>th</sup> A Day in Italy
- 26<sup>th</sup> Gentlemen's Club
- 28<sup>th</sup> Community Café
- 29<sup>th</sup> Barchester Goes Gaming Quiz
- 30<sup>th</sup> Residents' Meeting
- 31<sup>st</sup> Halloween Party





## WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO AT Hickathrift House

### BECOME A PIRATE DAY

**Ahoy there mateys!**

We had a swashbuckling good time celebrating Pirate Day with residents this week. From history trivia and sword fighting (all in good fun!) to crafting our very own treasure chests (memory boxes). The day was filled with laughter, creativity, and plenty of pirate spirit. Our staff truly went above and beyond, dressing up in their finest pirate gear and bringing the adventure to life.



### WORLD ALZHEIMER'S DAY

**Celebrating in true Hickathrift style with a groovy disco.**

The incredible KJ & The Catt filled the room with music, laughter, and energy, keeping everyone singing, clapping, and dancing along. It was more than just a party – it was a chance to come together, honour the day, and create joyful memories with our wonderful Hickathrift family.



### A DAY IN MEXICO

**We've had a fantastic day!**

We started the day by "travelling" to Mexico through virtual tours and videos, soaking up the sights and sounds of this colourful country. Everyone had so much fun dressing up in colourful accessories and shaking maracas to the lively beats of traditional Mexican music. We also got hands-on in our cooking club making tacos and burritos, while our brilliant Head Chef Nicci treated us to delicious homemade enchiladas. All the food was just delicious! And our hostess with the mostest Sandra, decorated her beautiful trolley with photos, sparking conversations.

### POST A WISH GRANTED!

This month our team has had the privilege to grant Pete's Post a Wish to Thursford Steam Engine Museum! It was an incredible trip full of reminiscing, learning and music. If your loved one has an aspiration or a wish, please get in contact with our Activities Team, who would love to make these wishes come true.







Join us for our events throughout October.

**Oktoberfest Celebration**

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> – All Day**

Come celebrate Oktoberfest with Gratitude 43 decoupage crafts, baking apple strudel and a delicious themed dining experience from our hospitality team.

**World Animal Day**

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> – All Day**

Celebrate all the incredible animals from around the world with a themed craft club, animal sound quiz and more!

**Pumpkin Carving**

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> – 2pm**

Time to make our amazing pumpkins for the pumpkin competition! Who will win?

**Virtual Bat Talk**

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> – 2pm**

Join us for a fun and informative talk all about bats with the Gwent Wildlife Trust.

**Barchester Care Awards**

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> – All Day**

Come cheer on Kat for Activities Co-ordinator of the Year and hope she wins the National Award. Specific time will be allocated on the weekly planner.

**A Day in Italy**

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> – All Day**

Ciao Bella! Welcome to Italy with our themed pizza making class, armchair travels and delicious dining experience from our hospitality team.

**Halloween**

**Friday 31<sup>st</sup> – 2.30pm**

Welcoming the fabulous KJ & the Catt for a spooktacular party!

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME – CONTACT US FOR MORE DETAILS.**

Hickathrift Care Home, 217 Smeeth Road, Wisbech, Cambs, PE14 8JB  
01945 430 636 • [www.barchester.com/HickathriftHouse](http://www.barchester.com/HickathriftHouse)





## UPCOMING EVENTS & NEWS AT Hickathrift House

### PUMPKIN ACTIVITIES

Get into the spirit of autumn with pumpkins.

Join us on the 6<sup>th</sup> at 2pm for pumpkin flower arranging or on the 19<sup>th</sup> at 2pm for pumpkin carving. These will be fun, hands-on afternoons where creativity blooms. These vibrant pumpkins will then be the perfect display of autumn charm around the home.

### BARCHESTER CARE AWARDS

Join us as we cheer on Kat at the company awards.

Join us on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October (time tbc) to cheer on our very own Kat Colangelo, for the Activities Coordinator of the Year Award. We will be watching and streaming live to the event where Kat and others can see us with our fingers and toes crossed. Delicious treats and bottles of bubbly will be available throughout the event.

### A DAY IN ITALY

Experience La Dolce Vita right here at Hickathrift.

Celebrate all things Italian on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October with Italian music, pizza making, a dessert master class and tasting and take an armchair tour around the top sights. The space will be transformed into a little corner of Italy, and you're invited. Our incredible chef will be making a scrumptious Italian dining experience also and if you'd like to book in, call us now to confirm space.

### HALLOWEEN

Have a spooktacular time with KJ & the Catt.

You're invited on the 31<sup>st</sup> from 2:30pm for good music and mischief. It's going to be a fang-tastic time and don't forget your costumes. Afterwards we'll be welcoming trick or treaters to our home with lots of goodies and games.

### OUTINGS

Wow! We have 9 outings this month!

1<sup>st</sup> – Children's Nursery

11<sup>th</sup> – Downham Market Museum

12<sup>th</sup> - Local Methodist Church Service

14<sup>th</sup> – Tour of Wisbech St Marys

15<sup>th</sup> - Coffee Morning at the local Methodist Church

24<sup>th</sup> – Local Pub Trip

26<sup>th</sup> – Outwell Artisan Fayre

30<sup>th</sup> – Worzals Pumpkin Patch

31<sup>st</sup> – Norfolk Knitters and Stitchers

**If you'd like to volunteer or join your loved one on our trips, please don't hesitate to get in contact with Kat, Head of Activities.**

**It is a pleasure for us to help create memories for residents with their loved ones!**





## PAST COMMUNITY EVENTS & NEWS FROM Hickathrift House

### MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

**A delicious time with residents and their loved ones.**

Residents and their loved ones had a wonderful time enjoying a delicious spread of cakes and sweet treats while catching up over a cuppa. We also had great fun learning coffee facts, tackling a word search, and even writing our own coffee-themed poems!

Most importantly, it was a fantastic opportunity for everyone to come together for a truly meaningful cause. A heartfelt thank you to all our amazing families, friends, and staff who joined us, donated bakes, and helped make the day so special—we couldn't have done it without you! 🍵



### UNDERSTANDING DEMENTIA

**Helping you understand dementia with our experts.**

We invited families, locals and loved ones to a special dementia awareness session, marking World Alzheimer's Day. The talk focused on taking a person-centred approach to dementia care, helping attendees gain a better understanding of how someone living with dementia may feel, and the many ways we can support them with compassion and respect.

### POPPY PROJECT

**Help us go bigger and better.**

This November, we're hoping to make our Remembrance display bigger and brighter than ever to raise awareness and funds for the Royal British Legion. We'd love your help! If you enjoy knitting (or would like to learn), why not join us? Every poppy, big or small, will be a special part of our tribute. Either post/drop off your poppies or join us at our next knit and natter club on the 17th of October at 2:30pm.







Join us for our community events throughout October

**Don't Dine Alone**

**Every Wednesday – 12:30pm**

We're inviting senior members of our community to indulge in a delicious three-course meal with bingo from 2pm.

**Coffee Morning**

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> – 10:30am**

We extend a warm invitation to attend our monthly Coffee Morning - make new friends, enjoy a slice of homemade cake and dive into the delicious hot beverages.

**Dementia Friendly Film Club**

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> – 2pm**

Enjoy our dementia-friendly film club for a relaxing film screening with refreshments.

**Knit and Natter Club**

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> – 2.30pm**

Do you enjoy knitting? Come along and make new friends at our monthly Knit and Natter group over refreshments.

**Gentlemen's Club**

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> – 2.30pm**

Come meet local gentlemen for a tippie and a game of dominoes.

**Community Café**

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> – 10:30am**

Come share experiences, make friends and meet our team at our café.

**Prosecco and Strawberries Morning**

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> – 10:30am**

Dive into the delicious strawberries and prosecco with our returning respite guests and locals in the Snug.

**All welcome!**

Everyone is welcome. Please call to book your FREE space to our events.

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## UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS & NEWS FROM Hickathrift House

### SUNNYSIDE ORCHARD

**A generous donation to make the most of.**

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October, the lovely local Sunnyside Orchard are donating an array of apples and pears to our care home for residents, loved ones, visitors and staff. Please feel free to take as much as you'd like of this incredible donation.



### DEMENTIA FRIENDLY FILM CLUB

**Do you love films? Sounds like our film club is for you!**

Join us on the second Monday of the month at 2pm for our community film club, watching and discussing a different film each time. On the 13th of October we'll be watching Breakfast at Tiffany's. The area will be decorated accordingly, and an assortment of snacks provided for your pleasure. Please call to book.

#### Dementia Friendly Film Club

**Join us on the Second Monday of the month for a dementia-friendly film screening experience.**

Join us in our snug for refreshments whilst you enjoy watching a timeless classic. Contact us to reserve your free place and for film information for the month.

**Second Monday of the Month  
from 2:00pm**

### PUMPKIN CARVING COMPETITION

**Our annual pumpkin carving competition is back!**

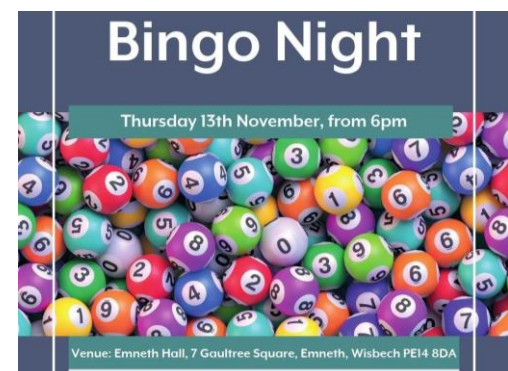
Our amazing prize this year is a glorious boo basket filled with everyone's favourite season treats and pumpkin decor. AND a £25 Amazon voucher! So send your snaps to [HickathriftHouse.Activities@Barchester.com](mailto:HickathriftHouse.Activities@Barchester.com) for a chance to win.



### BINGO FUNDRAISER NIGHT

**We need help with our annual bingo night!**

We are currently collecting great prizes and would appreciate any support. If you're a local group, business or individual and would like to donate please get in contact. It would be greatly appreciated! This amazing fundraising event helps to raise money for our incredibly special residents at Hickathrift House Care Home. All funds will go towards making spectacular activities and events for the residents, their loved ones and the community. Our future community events include Quiz Nights, Musical Parties and our Charity Events. Help us support residents to live life to the fullest!





# LET'S TALK *facebook*

Don't forget to follow us at  
@BarchesterHickathriftHouse

Our best story this month had  
44 engagements!

## World Alzheimer's Day Disco

The incredible KJ & The Catt filled the room with music, laughter, and energy, keeping everyone singing, clapping, and dancing along. It was more than just a party – it was a chance to come together, honour the day, and create joyful memories with our wonderful Hickathrift family.

Our Facebook page is updated every day with photos of life at Hickathrift House Care Home and we appreciate all your comments, likes and shares. Thank you!

## TELL BARCHESTER SURVEY

Our annual survey is ending soon!

The survey gives you the opportunity to tell us how you feel about your loved one living in Hickathrift House Care Home and your feedback helps us to understand how well we're delivering against your expectations and where we may need to improve, as well as to share with the teams any lovely comments you give. The survey closes on the 12<sup>th</sup> October, so make sure you have your say.

You can either complete the survey yourself using your own technology, or a member of the team at the home will be happy to help you. The survey will be closing in early October and only takes a minute or two to complete. We look forward to reading your opinions and sharing this with the whole team and company.



## Thank You

From all the team at Hickathrift House we'd like to say a big thank you to you all for all your support and understanding.

We'd love you to leave us a review if you haven't already at [Google](https://www.google.com) or [Carehome.co.uk](https://www.carehome.co.uk)

## CELEBRATIONS IN OUR HOME...

To start with we'd like to welcome Brian, Tony, Eileen, and Phil as well as welcome back Doreen for another respite break. We hope you have a superb stay. Congratulations to Chantelle, our incredible Head of Housekeeping for being awarded Employee of the Month! Chantelle has a keen eye for detail, is incredibly kind and thorough and a superb leader. Happy birthday to Sid, Anne, Gillian and Val this month.

Please don't hesitate to contact Kat, our Head of Activities who'll help arrange special moments, from anniversaries to birthdays and our Post a Wish initiative.



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 @BarchesterHickathriftHouse



BARCHESTER

*Celebrating life*