inspire
wellbeing, ability, recovery

THE CLOSE

Winter Edition Jean Todd Close E-zine/News Letter Issue Twenty Four Jan 2024

Welcome to Winter & 2024

This edition of the Jean Todd Close (JTC) e-zine will focus on what has happened at JTC over the Winter months and the Christmas period of 2023. As the New Year is here we can say that we at Jean Todd Close have had a very busy time over the last 365 days, the staff team and the service users, who' live here are looking forward to the next 365 days with anticipation. We wish you all a warm welcome for 2024.

Meet The Team

As in previous editions we will continue to meet some of the staff team

We would like to welcome and introduce Patricia O'Connor, who joined the team at Jean Todd Close in Aug 2023 in a support worker role.

We would like to welcome and introduce you all to Jordan Rock, who joined the team at Jean Todd Close in Aug 2023 in a support worker role.

Visiting Belfast Christmas Market

Staff arranged a day out via train to support some of the service users to have a day out at the Belfast Christmas Market, with lots to see and do a cold, but great day was had by all.

Inspire Recruitment Events

The team at Jean Todd Close continue to actively support our colleges in HR at recruitment events across Northern Ireland. In recent months this has seen us send staff to recruitment events at Mid and East Antrim Jobs Fair in October 2023 and Antrim and Newtownabbey Job Fair in November 2023.

Halloween at Jean Todd Close

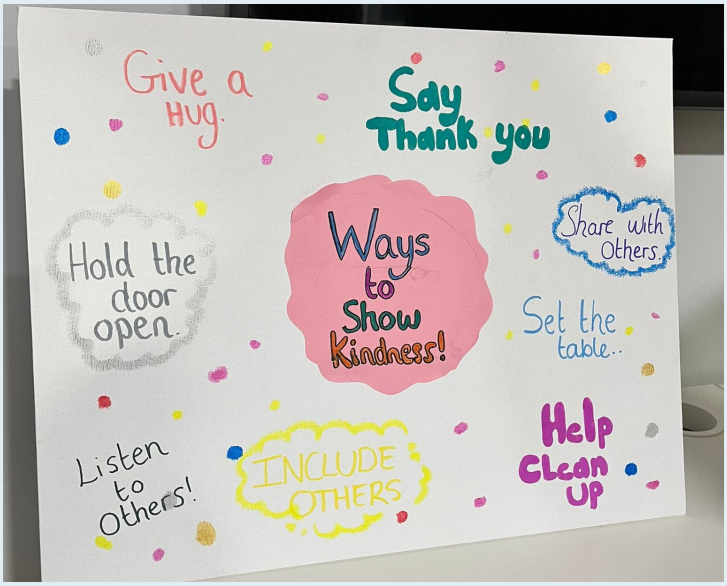
Halloween also known as All Hallows' Eve or All Saints' Eve falls every year on October 31st. As always service users and staff from Jean Todd Close were keen to get fully involved with this fun event

Jean Todd Close Staff & Service Users Supporting the Northern Ireland Hospice World Kindness Day/Kindness Movement NI

The service users and staff at Jean Todd Close supported the Northern Ireland Hospice World Kindness Day/Kindness Movement this year by coming together and raising awareness for this movement.

The Kindness Counts campaign is focused towards and around world Kindness day which was Celebrated on the Monday 13th November. After discussing this with the service users and staff at JTC, who all thought it was a great idea, and in support of a fantastic charity (Northern Ireland Hospice), which is close to so many hearts. NI hospice are promoting 'Kindness Counts' and have been since Covid 2020. Given that one of Inspires values is 'We are kind', we also thought that this would also be fitting to support this.

Through a contact we have on scheme we made contact with the NI Hospice, who took the time to come to JTC and meet with the staff and service users, who had all participated in discussions around what it is to be kind and in making some Kindness posters. We as a service also handed over a cheque for £150 in support of Northern Ireland Hospice


Give a Hug.
Say Thank you
Ways to Show Kindness!
Share with Others.
Hold the door open.
Set the table..
Listen to Others!
INCLUDE OTHERS
Help Clean Up

Everyone Should Respect Eachothers Religion
Beeches
in a
WORLD
Where you can
BE ANYTHING
BE
KIND
Hold the Door open for Someone
Encourage Someone
Set the table for Dinner
Make Someone Laugh
Give A Hug
Everybody Desserve's A Present come Xmas Time
Everyone Should have A good heart

Saying Good Morning to people you meet.
Being nice to people.
Saying please and thank you.
Helping people when we can.
use our manners
Kind
Sharing with people.
DP
AMCL
Telling people that they are nice.

Activity Schedule
BREAK

Jean Todd Close Supports Woman's Aid PJ Appeal

JTC's local council were calling on the public to support women and children in need this Christmas by donating to the Women's Aid pyjama appeal. Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council are supporting the appeal for the fourth year. These donated pyjamas will be passed to Women's Aid ABCLN, who will then distribute them to women and children in need across the Borough.

This appeal was discussed with al the service users at JTC, who were more than happy to support this cause within their local community. The donations collected by JTC were given to Leah Smyth councillor on behalf of Woman's aid.

Time for some Christmas Facts and Fun:

Christmas Fun:

What athlete is warmest in winter? - A long jumper!

What did Adam say on the day before Christmas? - It's Christmas, Eve!

What do elves learn at school? - The Elfabet!

Fun Christmas Facts

1. The tradition of putting tangerines in stockings comes from 12th-century French nuns who left socks full of fruit, nuts and tangerines at the houses of the poor.
2. It's technically illegal to eat mince pies on Christmas Day in England. In the 17th century, Oliver Cromwell banned Christmas pudding, mince pies and anything to do with gluttony. The law has never been rescinded..
3. Christmas crackers were invented to encourage children (and their parents) to buy more sweets. London sweetmaker Tom Smith created the first Christmas crackers in 1847.

In-

Christmas Jumper Day @ Jean Todd Close

Inspire Winter Wonderland 2023

Inspire held its annual Winter Wonderland in December 2023 at the Seagoe Hotel in Portadown. The event itself is a celebration event, a chance for service users and staff from across Inspire to come together and celebrate the wonder of Christmas.

Service Users Christmas Party

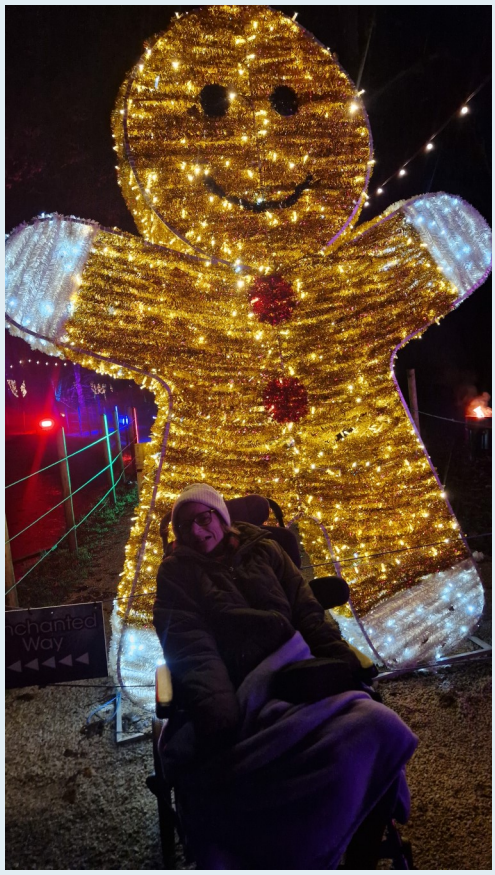
Staff at Jean Todd Close supported the service users to have their Christmas party this year at the Ramble Inn, Santa was in attendance and all who came along had a jolly old time.

Merry
Christmas

Merry

Enchanted Winter Garden—Antrim

As the winter sun sets over Lough Neagh, Antrim Castle Gardens has come to life with a magical Christmas experience for all the family . Some of the service users at Jean Todd Close took full advantage of the many magical sights within these gardens,.



Christmas Panto (Jack and the Beanstalk)

The service users at JTC had the opportunity to attend a Panto at the Courtyard Theatre, Ballyearl and a great time was had by all

Staff Christmas Dinner 2023

Jean Todd Close staff held their Christmas dinner night at the Tullyglass Hotel in Ballymena. As can be seen by the photos everyone looked well and those that were not working and attended had a great night out with their colleagues.

The Close has been reliably informed that on the night the craic was mighty, and by the photos taken on the night it can be clearly seen that the three wise men were no where to be seen.

Christmas Day at Jean Todd Close

Christmas Day at Jean Todd Close saw the service users who had decided to remain at home start the day by opening their presents. All the service users, with the support of the staff on duty come together for festive food, fun and treats.

Looking Forward

- **Visits/Interactions with Family and Friends**
- **Being out in our local community**
- **Family & Carers face to face meeting**
- **Local Government official visit/coffee mornings with Local MLA's & councilers**
- **Charity Coffee morning**

Reflection of 2023

At Jean Todd Close, it is always important that we as a team reflect on what we do. The team leader team at JTC were ask to take part in a reflection exercise, by choosing a postcard that best reflected how 2023 had went for them and to share their reflections with one another and their hopes for 2024.

The postcards can be seen opposite, and everyone took time to explained/shared their reasoning for choosing their own post-card that reflected their year.

Final Note: - The staff team and all service users would like to send their congratulations to Roseanne Magee, (Staff Member at JTC) and her husband on the birth of their daughter Lucy Anne Magee, Born 1st of December at 8.18am, 9lb

Jean Todd Close

Jean Todd Close is a Supported Living Service, which also incorporates a Positive Behaviour Support Service, in four multiple occupancy homes and a number of single and double occupancy flats, houses and bungalows, which are situated within a modern, well planned and laid out site just minutes from Antrim town centre. It is operated by Inspire Intellectual and Autism Services which is the Intellectual and Autism services of Inspire Wellbeing. The service provides high quality care and support for individual members of the community on a 24 hours basis with Intellectual disabilities, physical disabilities, complex health and behaviour needs as assessed by their respective Trust. This service can also provide these services in other locations within the local community

Contact Us

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