



Contents

Resident life stories – Ken Taylor

James's legacy garden

Sharing songs and poems at our third birthday party

A lesson in culinary expertise at Ellenborough Park

A lifelong love of books

Fun with Miniature Music

Wentworth People – an interview with volunteer Tom

Welcome to the fifth edition of our newsletter

We are very proud of the caring and safe dementia community we have created here at Wentworth Court, which is down to our wonderful team of dedicated staff who genuinely care about their work and the residents they are privileged to look after.



We choose staff who have a natural empathy and caring nature as much as for their experience and qualifications. We also take a 'whole home' approach, so all our team members, regardless of their role, undertake full training in topics that include understanding dementia, safeguarding and dignity.

Our approach is proving successful, and we've included just a small sample of the testimonials from families and health care professionals that we receive every month in this newsletter.

If you'd like to find out more about the high-quality care we offer at Wentworth Court, then please drop into the home on Village Road, Cheltenham or give us a call on 01242 263334.

We'd be delighted to meet you.

Gez Ossai
Home Manager

PS We host an 'open house' community coffee morning on the last Friday of every month, you are welcome to come by and try some of our legendary cakes!



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Resident life stories – Ken Taylor

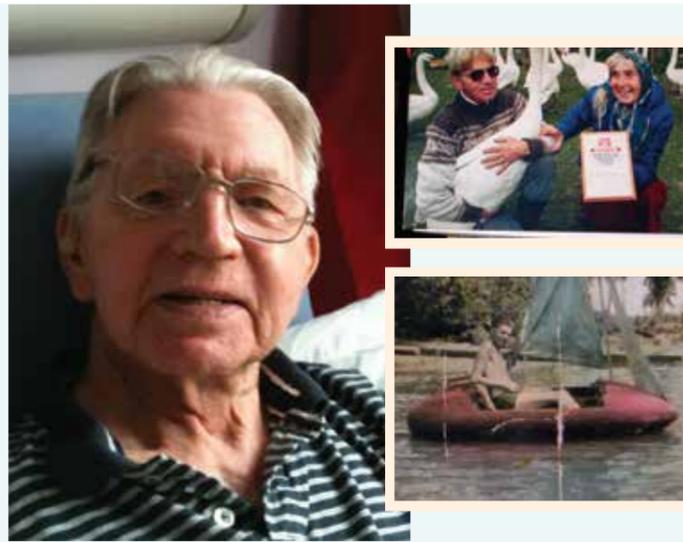
Ken was born on 12 September 1928 near Faringdon with the family moving to Cirencester soon after Ken was born.

In the 1940s, Ken became a trainee engineer and surveyor with the local authority. In 1948 he was called up for National Service and joined the RAF where he worked as an aircraft engineer and fitter, including a posting to Singapore.

Back on civvy street, Ken married Rosemary and they had their first son, Julian in January 1953. Ken became the Diocesan surveyor for Gloucestershire, based out of offices by Gloucester Cathedral and with responsibility for all the church residential properties such as vicarages in the county.

Ken and Rosemary always had a love of animals and wildlife and their compassionate nature led them to set up the Cotswold Swan and Wild Bird Rescue charity. Ken and Rosemary found a site just within Cirencester Park where they developed lakes and outbuildings as the sanctuary grew, until they were providing care for more than 300 birds every year.

The sanctuary had the support of esteemed ornithologist and bird health expert, Clifford Christie, mute swan expert, Dr Jane Shears and Martin Brown from Slimbridge Waterfowl and Wetlands Trust. In 1990, the Cotswold Swan Rescue Service won a national community award organised by Woman and Home magazine and Ken and Rosemary received their prize from Judith Chalmers.



Ken's health began to deteriorate in 2014 and despite help at home and daily visits from his family, he struggled to cope and came to live at Wentworth Court almost two years ago.

His son Julian says, "I'm not sure if Dad has 'dementia' as such – it's not really been diagnosed. Dad was always so sharp mentally that I find it hard sometimes to just sit and talk with him and not really get much response back – I know he is listening and taking things in.

"I guess it must be very hard for Dad as well as I'm thinking he still has 'insight' and wants to engage but is unable to...that must be so frustrating and upsetting for him.

"We are so grateful for the care and support that Dad gets at Wentworth Court – it's such a relief."

Sharing songs and poems at our third birthday party

Residents, families, friends and special guests enjoyed a summer garden party to celebrate Wentworth Court's third birthday party. The highlight of the event was the performance of songs and poems created by children from Hester's Way Primary School working with our residents as part of a project led by the Everyman Theatre.

Residents took part in 10 weeks of workshops including song, drama, writing and crafts and lots of reminiscing on the theme of 'An English Country Garden'.



A lesson in culinary expertise at Ellenborough Park

Our kitchen and operational management teams spent an afternoon with Head Chef, David Williams and his talented team at the five-star Ellenborough Park hotel learning secrets of quality food preparation and kitchen management from the experts.

The team had a very enjoyable time and were buzzing with ideas and enthusiasm afterwards with ideas that they could bring back to make mealtimes a real treat at Wentworth Court!

James's legacy garden

In 2017, we were humbled to receive a donation of £10,000 in memory of James Simpson, who lived latterly at Wentworth Court. James was always happiest in the garden, and some of his legacy has gone towards creating a new patio area with seating for residents to enjoy a coffee or cooling drink. Surrounded by raised beds, residents can enjoy growing and harvesting vegetables in the attractive new space, something James would have approved of.



A lifelong love of books

Residents who enjoy reading have been enjoying trips to the local library to choose books and get out and about in the local community. Some of our ladies and gents have joined the Library Club which meets once a month, with special guests and themes.

We've also enjoyed a history session identifying objects such as old sheep shears and butter pats and using them as a stimulus for discussion.



Fun with Miniature Music

Our residents have been enjoying musical sessions with babies and pre-school children who take part in a Miniature Music session hosted at the home every week.

While the children are around, there are lots of smiles from residents as they focus on having fun through music with the children. The tiny tots invite residents to play music and sing with them and seeing the residents singing is wonderful to see!

Wentworth People – an interview with volunteer Tom

Visitors to Wentworth Court may have been served a cuppa and slice of cake by our smiley volunteer, Tom Larsen, who is a favourite with residents and staff alike.

Tom has been volunteering with Wentworth Court for two days a week since the Spring. From helping to bake cakes to washing up and serving in the café bar, Tom is an asset to catering colleagues as well as helping out with trips and activities.

Tom, who has additional needs, has been supported all his life by carers and is very happy to be giving something back by helping others at Wentworth Court.

“It’s like a family to me,” says Tom. “I feel really welcome and really appreciate being here.”

Home manager Gez added, “Tom is a real asset to the home, he’s a very special person.”



Do you have a few hours to spare each month? We have many opportunities for volunteering to fit with your skills and interests. We’d love to hear from you if you could help with activities from reading to residents to helping with our garden or driving our minibus.

Please get in touch with Suzanne by emailing suzanne.meadows@wentworthct.com or call 01242 2263332.

Kind Words

Every week we receive kind words and compliments from visitors, family members and health professionals. Here’s just a snapshot of the type of comments we receive. We keep a feedback file at our reception if you would like to see more, or check out our reviews on Facebook and www.carehome.co.uk

“Thank you is not really a big enough word to describe the dedication and level of care all of you demonstrate daily.”
– family member

“There is a happy buzz around. Staff are friendly, approachable and welcoming... staff also treat their residents with diplomacy, dignity and respect...” – social worker

“Although we were only at Wentworth Court for a few days, that was long enough to realise that you have created something very special at the home...I will sing your praises whenever I can.” – family member

“The care dad received throughout his stay was exceptional, delivered with compassion and empathy.” – family member

“This is the first time I have visited Wentworth Court and I have been very impressed by the staff and ambience. All staff and residents appear happy and cheerful, staff are very helpful.” – CHC nurse assessor



Some of the team at the first Gloucestershire Volunteering Festival

If you would like to find out more about dementia nursing or respite care offered by Gez and the team at Wentworth Court, please get in touch by calling 01242 263334 or emailing reception@wentworthct.com

Would you like to develop your career at Wentworth Court? We are always keen to hear from people who share our passion for providing high-quality care. Check out our Facebook page for the latest vacancies.