

JANUARY 2021 UPDATE

Dear Friends and Supporters

In October last year we reopened The Living Rooms for Renew Wellbeing sessions, with limited numbers attending to maintain social distancing. These were greatly appreciated by our visitors and we have received many expressions of thanks for the ways in which these have helped through some dark days. This has only been possible through the commitment of our volunteer hosts including those who opened for a session on Christmas Morning for visitors who would otherwise have spent the day alone.

With the help of a very generous donation from Northallerton Mowbray Rotary Club we were able to give a Christmas Gift Box to all those who attended (including a Carols CD), to each visitor as well as to others who were isolated. For most of the individuals who joined us on Christmas morning we were the only people they saw that day and the Gift Box was the only present they received.

One young gentleman, who had been reluctant to accept the gift in case somebody else needed it more, sent us a lovely message: *"I've managed to get pleasure from all your gifts both myself, plus people I've shown including my neighbour ((who you may remember as he has been to Living Rooms) and who is a HUGE Christmas fan, loves the Carols".*

Another of our regular ladies was bowled over by the fact she had received 2 bags of gifts, as she had not received a Christmas gift for many years!

Overall the feedback from all our visitors was overwhelming and the joy that was generated this Christmas was evident throughout the week. The current lockdown and increased Covid-19 infection rates sadly led to closure earlier this month. Although under current guidelines we would be permitted to remain open as a support group. The safety and protection of our visitors and volunteers is our number one priority. This was a difficult decision as we know how important The Living Rooms has been to many in our community. We will remain closed for the time being except for the work of Hambleton Foodshare which thankfully is able to continue working under strict Covid hygiene regulations.

We are doing our best to maintain contact by telephone with those who have been our visitors at Garthway and are offering Zoom sessions for those who are comfortable with that platform. For further information you can contact us by texting or phoning the TLR mobile – 07483426920 (Jo Swain) or Email: info@thelivingrooms.org.uk

Though we remain closed, the Trustees along with Jo Swain our Development Coordinator and lead volunteers continue to monitor the situation and make plans for future developments once restrictions are lifted. On their behalf I would like to say a very sincere thank you for your continuing support and encouragement which means a great deal to us.

Yours sincerely

Steve Cowie

Chair of Trustees

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