

Nine ways to connect your care home with the community

Care home residents benefit from getting out, building relationships with other citizens beyond the care system and contributing to wider community life and this is the focus of the [Time to Connect](#) project. For some, this begins when care homes invite members of the community in, but the initiative is only complete when the relationship becomes reciprocal and people go out too. The following real-life examples have come from 76 care homes¹ and they illustrate a range of ways for a care home to connect with its community. You might like to:

- Print this document and highlight the items that residents you know engage in.
- Write down a brief summary of any activities that you offer but I have missed. Send it to me at peter.bates@ndti.org.uk, so I can update the online version of this document.
- Check your activities programme to see if you have at least one activity under each of the headings.
- Check whether your focus is entirely on inhouse activities or whether you provide real opportunities for residents to build relationships with citizens beyond the care system and to make a contribution to the wider community rather than just receiving help from others.
- If you want to start a new activity, you might try contacting a care home that has already given it a go to see what you can learn².

The paragraphs below combine what everyone is doing into one big list, so it is obvious that no individual home can do everything that appears here. Moreover, just because an opportunity is provided, it does not mean that it is necessarily what an individual resident wants to do, so it remains vital to strive for a person-centred approach. Finally, just as any of these activities can be done in a way that adds enjoyment, confidence and skills (or not), so each activity can be done in a way that reinforces the residents' isolation from the wider community or that builds bridges and connections with people beyond the perimeter wall.

¹ An email was sent to 500 homes in February 2020, and some care home websites were briefly reviewed to collect these examples. Most examples illustrate the start of the journey as they show how the public are invited into the home and await the fulfilment that will occur when the residents go out and connect with community life. Notice that only a few activities from each care home appear on this list. Each home has a much fuller programme which cannot be represented here, so the quality of an individual home should not be inferred from either the frequency with which it is mentioned, or the activity itself, whether mundane or remarkable.

² You can find which home provided each example by looking at the endnotes. If there are no endnotes on this version of the 'Nine Ways' document, click [here](#) to get to it. To go to the shorter, uncluttered version, click [here](#). The text in the body of the document is the same in both versions.

1. Make the most of your site and...

Your home may have a feature that is in demand in your local neighbourhood which can be used to draw people in, such as a meeting room, a kitchen, a garden¹ or a woodland². You may have space to keep Shetland ponies³, breed chickens⁴ or build an aviary⁵.

2. Trade with local businesses and...

The home trades with many local businesses, from sales of individual toiletries to mass catering supplies, replacement of white goods, repairs and transport providers. Each of these businesses can be encouraged to show their human face and link with residents rather than rely on remote deliveries to the kitchen entrance⁹.

3. Bring in visiting services and....

A host of occasional visitors to the home provide services, such as:

- Health and personal care offered by the doctor¹², nurse, counsellor¹³, hairdresser, chiropodist, masseur¹⁴, optician, audiologist¹⁵, dentist¹⁶, aromatherapist¹⁷
- People bring in animals such as an alpaca¹⁸, dog¹⁹, donkey, falcon and other birds of prey²⁰, goat²¹, guinea pig²², lamb²³, parrot²⁴, pony²⁵ and snake²⁶.
- Performances such as flower displays²⁷, lectures, theatre²⁸, dance²⁹ and musicians³⁰.
- People bringing leisure activities - library³¹, the local Knit & Natter group³², pottery painting³³
- Fitness trainers³⁴ such as Tai Chi³⁵ and Let's Get Active³⁶

Make the most of your community

There may be venues close to your home⁶ that would be willing to link up with you or a local community project that you could support⁷. There may be ways in which you can connect with the people using the street or bus stop nearest the home⁸.

Work with local businesses

Some residents may enjoy a tour of the workplace, especially if they worked there in the past, while others may want a job there. Local businesses¹⁰ may offer raffle prizes¹¹ to go alongside those donated by friends of the home or community partners.

Use community services

Wherever possible, use universal services made available to all citizens in the mainstream community rather than relying on services brought into the home. After all, the library has a bigger selection than the van or book trolley.

- Visit the City Farm or a petting zoo and meet up with other citizens who share the same interests.
- Attend places of worship as well as receive pastoral visits from Anglican³⁷, Catholic³⁸ and Salvation Army³⁹ groups.
- Shopping in the usual way can offer a richer experience alongside the range offered by pop-up shops in the home selling clothing⁴⁰ and shoes⁴¹.

4. Cherish the skill and motivation of residents and...

At the heart of community lies the idea of contribution. Staff and others can look out for the resident's skill, interest or hobby which is the starting point for linking with others⁴². Does the resident like to keep a pet?⁴³ Birthdays provide an opportunity to focus on individuals⁴⁴. It may simply be a common interest that connects one citizen to one resident for one conversation⁴⁵.

Cherish the skill and motivation of local citizens

An external charity⁴⁶ or neighbourhood development project may capture the imagination of one or more residents and so could be supported, alongside supporting the comforts fund at the home. A village festival may be run by local people or the founder of an interest group may live nearby.

5. Support residents to host their own guests and...

Individual residents or small groups can invite friends in⁴⁷ for a particular activity such as playing a game⁴⁸. The care home can make space available for a resident to welcome their own relatives and friends to their party, shared meal or wake⁴⁹.

Support citizens to host residents

Part of the fabric of civil society is hospitality, whereby a citizen invites a care home resident, who may be an old friend or a new acquaintance, into their home.

6. Create a brilliant events programme and...

A good events programme based on what residents enjoy will be attractive and draw in relatives, friends and community members - if they are invited and welcomed⁵⁰. Events can include:

- Social events and activities, such as coffee morning, reminiscence⁵¹, quiz night, bingo⁵², darts⁵³, open day⁵⁴, garden party⁵⁵ or a tea dance⁵⁶.
- Craft activities such as making pottery⁵⁷, candles⁵⁸ and greeting cards, glass painting⁵⁹, flower arranging⁶⁰, baking⁶¹
- Pamper sessions and nail care⁶².
- Exercise such as keep-fit⁶³, ball games, walking, quoits, hoopla⁶⁴, table tennis⁶⁵, indoor bowling⁶⁶, golf⁶⁷, skittles⁶⁸, Wii video gaming⁶⁹, yoga⁷⁰, as well as watching sports together⁷¹.

Utilise the brilliance of community-led activities

Reach out to other stakeholders, such as hosting a carer's support group⁷² or offering day care to citizens who may later need to move into your care home⁷³. Sometimes a broker helps to bring activity providers together with care homes⁷⁴. Don't forget to allow for the 'no thanks' option for people who don't wish to participate.

Link with community groups and organisations that arrange performances such as concerts⁷⁵, choir⁷⁶, artists⁷⁷, karaoke⁷⁸, storytelling⁷⁹, poetry reading⁸⁰. Attend their events as well as inviting them to perform in your care home.

7. Strengthen existing contacts and...

Relatives and friends can be included in all kinds of social events⁸¹. People celebrate Chinese New Year, Valentine's Day⁸², Pancake Day⁸³, Mother's Day⁸⁴, Eid-al-Fitr⁸⁵, Seder⁸⁶, Hallowe'en⁸⁷, Bonfire Night⁸⁸, Diwali⁸⁹ and Christmas⁹⁰. Guests can be deliberately invited to join in with activities⁹¹ and their skills may be harnessed⁹². Relatives and friends can eat alongside residents⁹³, stay overnight⁹⁴, and be invited along on trips⁹⁵, either sharing the transport or meeting at the destination. Payments⁹⁶ and other 'rules of engagement' can be clarified⁹⁷, so everyone knows how the relationship between care staff and visitors should work⁹⁸. When relatives and friends can't visit in person, care staff can help with communication with relatives⁹⁹ or ensure that Postcards of Kindness¹⁰⁰ get through.

Beyond the care home, beyond the circle of extended family and old friends lie the rather more nebulous 'communities' of strangers and acquaintances, people who are not yet friends of the resident but could become so in the future¹⁰¹.

8. Set up a project and...

Your organisation may be a registered charity that engages local people as Trustees¹⁰⁹ or you may have a Friends group or involve residents in managing the programme through a regular residents meeting¹¹⁰. Garden space can be shared with members of the community so that schoolchildren or gardeners create and maintain an allotment together¹¹¹. Training provided for staff, such as how to create a dementia-friendly service, can be offered to community members so everyone learns together¹¹².

Reach out to make new friends in the community

Care staff can find out where friendships start in their area by doing some Community Mapping¹⁰². On the way, a link might form with a specific organisation, such as the Parish Council¹⁰³, Brownies, school or conservation group. You may also establish a connection with a key individual in the community who will lend their ongoing support, such as the mayor¹⁰⁴. Surviving relatives of those residents who have died can be invited to continue their link with the home¹⁰⁵. Do not neglect the value of informal communities and connections in favour of people whose conduct is regulated by policies and written agreements, such as staff, Volunteers or a League of Friends. As a back-up, volunteers can be recruited by the home or looked after by a volunteer centre¹⁰⁶ and join in with activities, share a cup of tea and chat, go out in the garden or go for walks¹⁰⁷. Buddies may develop 'befriending' relationships with isolated residents¹⁰⁸.

Join a project

Pre-school children from a nursery can visit and sing nursery rhymes¹¹³, while residents may enjoy a return visit. Schoolchildren can visit to read with the residents¹¹⁴, while residents may be able to visit the school to talk about the old days or judge a painting competition¹¹⁵. Older schoolchildren¹¹⁶, students, interns or jobseekers¹¹⁷ can come to the home on a work experience placement¹¹⁸.

9. Connect with other care providers and...

The home can arrange joint activities with other care homes in the group¹¹⁹ or similar health and social care services¹²⁰, thus widening the circle of connection between residents and others who receive health or social care¹²¹. The home could host meetings for the Activity Coordinators working in the area, develop theory, collect evidence and showcase the talent of freelance performers¹²², while residents can compete in sector-wide competitions¹²³.

Connect with neighbourhood forums

Keep in mind that many people want intergenerational and diverse networks of friends and acquaintances and do not wish to be confined to a segregated world, however caring. Links can be established with individual community groups and organisations¹²⁴ as well as neighbourhood forums where many coordinators of these groups meet together.

¹ A group of adults with learning disabilities visit weekly to tend the garden at [Tynwald](#).

² [Deerhurst](#) have made a beach in their garden, and now children from the local playgroup visit to play there. [Birtley House](#) has woodland which is used by a forest school and others, thus offering a dozen or so educational, outdoor activities on site from bee-keeping to charcoal making; stone carving to boat building; cider apple orchard; woodland adventures; willow weaving; and hurdle-making. About 80 person days per month of young people with learning difficulties work in the gardens and cook the produce. All of these share experiences with the residents and there is also a Day Club of older people who join the events.

³ [Hallaton Manor](#) host Shetland ponies in the spring and summer.

⁴⁴ [Hallaton Manor](#) set up the Cluckability project to rear and sell rare breed chickens.

⁵ [Meadow's Court](#) has an aviary.

⁶ [Hatley Court](#) is near to Denny Abbey, an English Heritage site, and staff from the Abbey visit the home with reminiscence resources and invite residents to visit the Abbey and participate in their projects.

⁷ [Hatley Court](#) have got involved in their local community association and help with the annual village festival.

⁸ [Bushell House](#) is in a village and the annual festival procession passes by the home, so residents sit out and cheer them as they go by. They also create an art installation to enter in the festival competition. Bengtsson and Carlsson spotted the potential for care homes to use outside space to stimulate connections between residents and passing neighbours – see Bengtsson A & Carlsson G (2005) Outdoor environments at three nursing homes: focus group interviews with staff. *Journal of Housing for the Elderly* 19 (3/4):49-69.

⁹ [Highgrove House](#) actively engages with the local business community.

¹⁰ Local traders contribute to the annual Strawberry Tea at [Tynwald](#).

¹¹ [Kibworth Court](#) receive donations of raffle prizes from local businesses. Donations include both goods and services.

¹² [Hillsborough](#) is visited regularly by a General Practitioner

¹³ [Birtley House](#) has a visiting counsellor who can work with residents and family members.

¹⁴ [Birtley House](#) offers massage sessions.

¹⁵ [Highlands Borders](#) are visited by an audiology service.

¹⁶ [Mauricare](#) residents are visited by the hairdresser, chiropodist, optician and dentist.

¹⁷ [Mallands](#) has an aromatherapist visit regularly.

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- ¹⁸ Summerfield is visited by [Thornwood Alpacas](#).
- ¹⁹ [Nicholas James Care Home](#) is visited by a PAT Dogs Service and [Bushell House](#) enjoys pat dog visits. [Mallands](#) host an annual dog show. [Kibworth Court](#) has a member of the community who brings a dog into the home, and this has prompted a staff member to bring their dog to visit the residents too. In passing, note that the 'staff' dog adds value for residents and the action might reduce the social distance between residents and staff, but this does not increase the number of visitors to the home from the community. The Guide Dog Association visit [Hatley Court](#).
- ²⁰ A local falconry brings birds into [Pinewood](#) and birds of prey visit [Eothen](#) at Wallsend..
- ²¹ Pet Pals bring goats in to visit residents at [Alfriston Court](#).
- ²² [Cuddly Cavies](#) bring guinea pigs into [Holly Lodge](#).
- ²³ Lambs from neighbouring farms are brought into [Mallands](#).
- ²⁴ [Parrots in Need](#) care for rescued parrots and take them to visit residents at [Springwood House](#).
- ²⁵ [Overseal](#) is visited by a Pony Therapy service. Donkeys visit [Mallands](#) from the donkey sanctuary.
- ²⁶ [Bupa Arkley](#) care home arranged for reptiles to be brought into the home, including a boa constrictor.
- ²⁷ At [Bushell House](#), the lady who runs the flower club comes often to do floral displays with the residents and some residents go out to the flower club.
- ²⁸ An open air theatre company performed A Midsummer Night's Dream at [Alfriston Court](#). The local children's theatre group bring a show to [Hatley Court](#).
- ²⁹ The Irish Dance Society from the local university perform at [Hatley Court](#). [Peterborough Care](#) is visited by belly dancers.
- ³⁰ The Band of Ukeles perform a concert at [Hatley Court](#). [Peterborough Care](#) welcomes a group of bellringers.
- ³¹ [Mallands](#) is visited by a regular library service. A volunteer based at the local library brings in books and Talking Books to [Hatley Court](#).
- ³² At [Deerhurst](#), the local Knit and Natter group visit the home, work with people and also make twiddle muffs and activity blankets. At [Bushell House](#), the Knit & Natter group is made up of residents and local people.
- ³³ [Valerie Manor](#) residents were visited by Miss Potts who brought pottery and paints for everyone to use.
- ³⁴ [Deerhurst](#) have history lectures and fitness trainers.
- ³⁵ [Mallands](#) has a regular Tai Chi session but it may be run inhouse or brought in by visitors.
- ³⁶ Let's Get Active UK visit [Springwood House](#).
- ³⁷ [Heathfield](#) have appointed a chaplain to the home.
- ³⁸ [St Joseph's](#) offer Catholic Mass.
- ³⁹ [Sycamore](#) has the Salvation Army visit to run a service, and residents go out to their evening Songs of Praise each month and attend a coffee morning and toddler group at their hall. [St Gabriel's](#) is the local Anglican church and they hold a communion service at the home.
- ⁴⁰ [Mallands](#), [Langley Haven](#) and [Hatley Court](#) have a clothing shop visit from time to time.
- ⁴¹ [Chapel View](#) holds regular shoe parties.
- ⁴² [Avery](#) invites residents to share their skill and interest with others.
- ⁴³ [Hunter's Lodge](#) considers itself pet-friendly and may welcome pets along with the resident.
- ⁴⁴ [Eton House](#) make 100th birthday celebrations a black tie event and celebrate it like a wedding.
- ⁴⁵ [Fairfield](#) has Oxford dons amongst its residents and current students and academics will often visit and chat over afternoon tea.
- ⁴⁶ [Eton House](#) have arranged BBQs and garden parties, attended by residents, family and friends and raised £5,500 for charities such as Great Ormond Street. Residents might choose the charity. [St Andrew's House](#) arrange coffee mornings, cake sales, craft fairs, gala dinners to raise funds for charity. [Birtley House](#) grow food and also collect contributions for the local foodbank.
- ⁴⁷ [Blakesley](#) and [Seven Gables](#) encourage residents to invite family, friends and acquaintances into the care home.

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- ⁴⁸ Residents at [Bushell House](#) invite friends in to play bridge.
- ⁴⁹ [Ascot](#) host wakes following a funeral and feed their guests. A resident at [Lakeview](#) is hosting a family party in the home's library and [Kiwi House](#) has a private family dining area.
- ⁵⁰ [Woodford House](#) says "Families are encouraged to get involved with all of the events."
- ⁵¹ [Ventry](#) subscribes to the [Daily Sparkle](#) reminiscence newspaper.
- ⁵² [Grace House](#) and [Pinewood](#) offer bingo.
- ⁵³ Residents at [Tynwald](#) play darts.
- ⁵⁴ [Bushell House](#) holds regular coffee mornings, quiz nights and open days that welcome the whole community.
- ⁵⁵ [Deerhurst](#) have garden parties.
- ⁵⁶ [Gold Care](#) has tea dances.
- ⁵⁷ [Bowbrook House](#) offers pottery.
- ⁵⁸ Residents make candles and greeting cards at [Hallaton Manor](#)..
- ⁵⁹ [Holly Lodge](#) offers glass painting.
- ⁶⁰ [Highgrove House](#) offer flower arranging.
- ⁶¹ [Tynwald](#) offer baking sessions.
- ⁶² [Hendra](#) offers weekly pamper sessions and nail care.
- ⁶³ [Bowbrook House](#) offers exercise classes run by [EXTEND](#).
- ⁶⁴ [Hendra](#) offers hoopla.
- ⁶⁵ [Valerie Manor](#) offers table tennis.
- ⁶⁶ [Ventry](#) offers as ball games, walking, quirts and indoor bowling. [Hendra](#) offer boules.
- ⁶⁷ [Langley Haven](#) play indoor golf.
- ⁶⁸ Residents at [Valerie Manor](#) play skittles.
- ⁶⁹ [Pinewood](#) offers video gaming.
- ⁷⁰ [Eton House](#) has two yoga sessions each week.
- ⁷¹ Residents at [Highgrove House](#) enjoy major sports events.
- ⁷² [Deerhurst](#) run the local carer's support group.
- ⁷³ [Deerhurst](#) offer day care.
- ⁷⁴ [Lakeview](#) work with [Boogie Beats](#) who bring pre-school children in to sing nursery rhymes and hand out props to the residents to give them a means to join in.
- ⁷⁵ The local primary school visits [Rose Lodge](#) to perform a concert at Christmas and Easter. The Brownies come in to sing to residents at [Little Oaks](#). [Pearlcare](#) hold musical shows and invite family and friends. Schoolchildren visit [Bushell House](#) to sing carols..
- ⁷⁶ [Langley Haven](#) runs a dementia community choir.
- ⁷⁷ [Pearlcare](#) invite guest artists into the home and invite family and friends.
- ⁷⁸ At [Abbey Lodge](#), the fortnightly karaoke nights welcome learning disabled people from the local community. [Glendale](#) is a specialist dementia home that offers karaoke sessions.
- ⁷⁹ [Cornelia Manor](#) offers story telling sessions.
- ⁸⁰ [Highgrove House](#) offers weekly poetry readings.
- ⁸¹ [Apple Tree](#) invite relatives and old friends into the home for social events. [Inspirations](#), [Lister House](#), [Oak Park](#) and [Pearlcare](#) welcome family and friends on all their activities.
- ⁸² [Holly Lodge](#) celebrates Chinese New Year and Valentine's Day.
- ⁸³ [Hendra](#) has a pancake flipping party.
- ⁸⁴ [Holly Lodge](#) host an afternoon tea for Mother's Day.
- ⁸⁵ [Andrew Smith House](#) celebrates Eid-al-Fitr.
- ⁸⁶ [Bushey House](#) celebrated the Jewish festival of Seder
- ⁸⁷ [Gold Care](#) hold Hallowe'en parties and other fancy dress events.
- ⁸⁸ [Hedges House](#) have a bonfire party.
- ⁸⁹ [Emberbrook](#) celebrates Diwali.
- ⁹⁰ [Lakeview](#) invites isolated people in their neighbourhood to join them for Christmas dinner. Some homes must surely celebrate the festivals connected with other faiths...

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- ⁹¹ [Barton](#) invites friends and families to join in with activities. [Chadderton](#) coproduces a monthly newsletter advertising events, which may be circulated to relatives, friends and community. See also Lewinson T, Robinson-Dooley V & Grant KW (2012) Exploring 'home' through residents' lenses: assisted living facility residents identify homelike characteristics using photovoice," *Journal of Gerontological Social Work*, vol.55, no.8, pp.745–756, Available at https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/01634372.2012.684758?casa_token=S16-Ky0Rv1kAAAAA:U71gNaQMcoYh8LV603uXsRj0sQQiggcUUsDflRcFk_VvMJOUmwFJoeF9cYMCKErLt1HCt9puusl1w. Also Bland M (2005) The challenge of feeling 'at home' in residential aged care in New Zealand, *Nursing Praxis in New Zealand*, vol. 21, no.3, pp.4–12.
- ⁹² Family and friends at [Oakdale](#) step in as a dance partner or serve food at one of their pop-up restaurants. At [St George's Taunton](#), family and friends help with donations of time, items (perhaps for auctions?) and help with transport.
- ⁹³ The [Hallaton Manor](#) says that 'residents can entertain their guests in the café' but this means that they can help themselves to a free coffee from the coffee machine and also get one for their guest. When they have a garden party, they charge visitors for coffee as a fundraiser.
- ⁹⁴ [Belong](#) has a guest room that is booked like a hotel room by visiting relatives and friends.
- ⁹⁵ [Apple Tree](#) welcome relatives and friends to join residents on outings. [Beulah](#) welcomes relatives on their trips.
- ⁹⁶ [Inspirations](#) include the cost of all social activities in their fees.
- ⁹⁷ [Ascot](#) do not charge relatives and friends anything for food. Their fees are above local authority rates. This is never abused.
- ⁹⁸ As well as practical procedures, attitude is important. [Lister House](#) welcome family and friends into all their activities and say, 'the more, the merrier!'
- ⁹⁹ At [Lakeview](#), the Activity Coordinator asks distant relatives to send messages to the person at Mother's Day, birthdays and other special occasions. She then prints them out in large font, laminates them and gives them to the person in an envelope. Staff at [Bowbrook House](#) support residents to use email to stay in touch with relatives.
- ¹⁰⁰ [Little Oaks](#) recently joined [Postcards of Kindness](#) where kind people write letters or send postcards to care homes all over the world. Residents look forward to reading their correspondence and the cards are displayed for all to see.
- ¹⁰¹ [Bournemouth Care](#) host social events and activities to which they invite family, friends and the community. [Burgh Heath](#) encourage people to maintain contact with family, friends and the community.
- ¹⁰² To find out more about training in Community Mapping, contact [NDTi](#).
- ¹⁰³ [Clann House](#) are partnering with the Parish Council to put on celebrations for VE 75 Day.
- ¹⁰⁴ Celebrities may visit once, such as Angela Rippon who opened the refurbished [Augustus Court](#), but a local dignitary might form an ongoing connection. The mayor of Ely has attended several community events at [Hatley Court](#) and the mayor of Banstead attended an Open Day at [Royal Alfred Seafarers' Society](#) care home, where she also is a trustee.
- ¹⁰⁵ At [Lakeview](#), relatives of residents who have died are invited to social events, while at [Hatley Court](#), such individuals volunteer at the home or stay in touch informally.
- ¹⁰⁶ [Deerhurst](#) have corporate volunteers from local businesses. [Tynwald](#) engages volunteers from the community.
- ¹⁰⁷ Volunteers at [Nicholas James Care Home](#) have a cup of tea, go for a walk or spend time in the garden with residents. [Westwood](#) has volunteers.
- ¹⁰⁸ [Olive House](#) has established a buddy scheme.
- ¹⁰⁹ [Kolbe House](#) is a charity that engages Polish and British Trustees and serves a predominantly Polish community in London.
- ¹¹⁰ [Hendra](#) and [Langley Haven](#) have a regular residents meeting.
- ¹¹¹ [Deerhurst](#) have an intergenerational garden group. [Rose Lodge](#) works with the children of a local school to grow vegetables with the residents under a community landshare arrangement. In 2019,

they established a relationship with Exmouth In Bloom. As well as entering their gardens in the competition, the residents have also volunteered to plant out communal spaces in Exmouth.

¹¹² [Deerhurst](#) offer dementia awareness training to community members.

¹¹³ At [Eothen](#), Whitley Bay, the nursery visits the care home twice a month. A mums and toddlers group has been set up by [Brambles Care Home](#), open to the public.

¹¹⁴ Schoolchildren read with residents at [Bushell House](#). [Abbey Lodge](#) runs a homework club where schoolchildren can bring their school read book into read to residents.

¹¹⁵ At [Bushell House](#) the theme for the painting competition in 2019 was 'What summer means to you' and residents judged and awarded a book token prize to the winners. Sadly, residents were unable to attend the prizegiving assembly at the local school.

¹¹⁶ A 10 year old schoolboy did a week's work experience at [The Chase](#) and became a Dementia Friend. Young people visit [Grace House](#) and [Tynwald](#) as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. Teenagers involved in the [National Citizen Service](#) programme visit [Langley Haven](#).

¹¹⁷ [Cedars](#) welcome jobseekers for a work experience placement if they are aiming for employment in social care in the future.

¹¹⁸ [Deerhurst](#) offer work experience placements. Dance students from Liverpool John Moore University are offering six sessions on dance and evaluating the effect as a research project with [Age UK Wirral](#).

¹¹⁹ [Ryedowns](#) arrange joint social events between the residents of their homes.

¹²⁰ [Hatley Court](#) arrange joint activities and outings with the local Day Centre.

¹²¹ [Cygnet Manor](#) hosts a disco for adults with learning disabilities.

¹²² [Lakeview](#) have worked with the local authority to create and host a regular meeting for activity coordinators where ideas are shared and freelance performers showcase their offer.

¹²³ [Holly Lodge](#) is part of Forest Care and the group organises and hosts its own quarterly artwork competitions for residents.

¹²⁴ [Bushell House](#) has negotiated with the local church who now arrange a Founder's Day service for residents and staff who wish to give thanks for their home. After the service the whole congregation is invited back to the home for sherry and buffet lunch.