

Weardale gazette



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NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE DALE

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Pony visits residents!

RESIDENTS at Crosshill Nursing and Residential home had a surprise recently when they received a very special visitor – a Dartmoor pony!

The pony, one of the assets of a company called K and L Pony Therapy, was brought into the home by its handler. Most of the residents were seated in a semi-circle in the living room and the pony stopped to spend individual time with everyone.

The residents were delighted to be able to stroke it and for those with more profound physical and / or mental problems, feel its presence. Staff, residents, their friends and family were thrilled with the visit. The handler, Katy Smith, even took the 12.2 hands high pony along to one of the bedrooms where a resident, who had worked with horses during his working life, was in bed. He too was over the moon with the visit.

Diana, the senior activities co-ordinator at Crosshill, organised the visit. She said, "The pony was brought in through the garden door and I was amazed by the joy it brought to each resident. They really enjoyed the experience."

She continued, "This is the first time in my life that I have seen a pony inside a building and it was amazing."

Every precaution was taken to ensure the visit complied with regulations. The pony's feet were cleaned before entering the home and all infection control regulations were observed during the visit.

"We sometimes don't realise what it is like to be a resident in a nursing home," added Diana. "And this visit brought the outside into the home. It also brought back lovely memories for some. The pony was very docile, very sweet and did everything

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Willie Bell.



Greta Wearmouth.



Ray Dent.



Nancy Patterson.



Elaine Milburn.



Marjory Carrick.



Lois Anstee.



Margaret Lindsey.

Pony visits residents

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asked of it. In fact, it seemed very interested in the residents – as interested in them as they were in it." Handler, Katy Smith, also spoke to residents, answering any questions they had. "Katy deserves a very special mention because she was fantastic," concluded Diana.

K&L Pony Parties and Therapy is based at Darlington and specialises in using

equine therapy and can provide ponies for parties too. They can be contacted on its Facebook page or by telephoning 07763 166 087.

The team at Crosshill has a number of activities and outings planned for the forthcoming year. If you would be interested in volunteering to support them then please contact Diana by telephone 01388526205.



Barbara Peart.



Edith York.



Edith Jones.



Jimmy Renwick.



Peggy Watson.



Sylvia Smith.