

## Year Of The Rabbit

### Chinese New Year is Celebrated with Chop Sticks, Fortune Cookies and... a Rabbit! at Reside Care Home

Reside Care Home, Stour Road, Christchurch



The residents of Christchurch Reside Care Home had a day of celebrations for Chinese New Year this month along with their pet rabbit, Roly, who has been the Home's pet for the last 7 months. The grey rabbit came out to play during the day to remind residents and staff that it was the new year of the rabbit, then they listened to Chinese music, ate Chinese food (with the option of chop sticks) and discovered their fortunes with fortune cookies!

Roly, the pet rabbit, was donated to the care home last summer and manager, Robert Paton was keen to take him in as interaction with animals can be a benefit for people with Dementia. Jane Fossey, a clinical psychologist and deputy chairman of the Society of Companion Animal Studies, says there is a lot of small-scale and anecdotal evidence that animals can improve the quality of life of people with dementia. The Reside care home staff say it's also nice for visitors, family and children when they visit.

Care Home Manager, Robert says:

*"Some of the residents absolutely love the rabbit and become more animated and happy around him. They like to stroke him and watch him move around. We often do bring the rabbit from his hutch outside into the home for their enjoyment. We were pleased when we heard the Chinese New Year was going to be the year of the rabbit, because we knew we could celebrate it all together!"*

#### NOTES TO EDITORS

[www.residecarehomes.co.uk](http://www.residecarehomes.co.uk)

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