



Praise for a Wirral Care Home with a 'Golden Heart'

A Wirral care home has been awarded the *Golden Hearts in the Community* award by YMCA Wirral for only the 25th time since the youth charity introduced the accolade 73 years ago.

The Hazelwell, a residential, nursing, palliative and respite care home in Heswall, which opened in the summer of 2016, has supported the organisation for the past two years. It has helped provide the YMCA Wirral with much-needed clothing parcels, such as hats, scarfs, gloves and other items to help people, without a home or shelter, deal with the cold temperatures in winter.

The care home has regularly raised money for the charity, including recently hosting a Christmas family day for residents and their families, staff and members of the community, with proceeds from a festive raffle donated to the YMCA Wirral night shelter at Birkenhead.

The YMCA Wirral was founded in 1874 and its mission is focused on helping young people to overcome homelessness and making sure that they feel like they belong and thrive in their local communities. The charity introduced the *Golden Hearts in the Community* award in 1946. Its first recipients were the Air Raid Patrol (ARP) who rescued residents from bombed-out houses – who were subsequently left homeless – during the blitz in the Second World War around Royal Albert Dock.

The Hazelwell becomes the 25th receiver of the *Golden Hearts in the Community* award, which is decided by an independent panel.

The organisation's Chief Executive Nigel Hughes said: "The *Golden Hearts in the Community* award is recognition that the staff and residents at The Hazelwell are a very special group of people in the Wirral community. It is not something which is awarded very often and only for an outstanding deed or gesture so it really is well deserved.

"No other care home in the Wirral has ever helped the YMCA Wirral. The Hazelwell contacted us not long after it opened and have supported us ever since. The staff and residents are fully behind doing all they can for us. You would think that when a person goes into residential care that they would be more concerned about their own lives so it's extremely heart-warming for residents to think about trying to help others."

The Hazelwell care home manager Kathryn McGuinness said: "It's a huge honour for us to be presented with this award by the YMCA, as it's only been given 25 times in its long history.

"We are extremely pleased to have been able to support the YMCA Wirral in any way that we can. This is a fantastic charity that does fantastic work in our local community, which our residents recognise and are appreciative of.

"I'm sure that our residents and staff will continue to support the YMCA Wirral in achieving their mission. We look forward to working with Nigel and the charity for years to come."

For more information about The Hazelwell, contact Kathryn on 0151 342 9654, email info@thehazelwell.com or visit www.thehazelwell.com

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HERE TO GET *you* THERE

Six ways to speed up the sale of your home

If you've decided to sell your home, your property must look, feel, and ultimately be perfect for many potential buyers to even consider it. Use this easy advice to attract new owners.

You need to be realistic about price. The market is competitive and the wrong price can cost you – quite literally. Price your home too high and you run the risk of putting potential buyers off, but price too low and people will begin to wonder if there is something wrong with the property. Take a look at the local market and be prepared for the asking price to be less than you had hoped.

It is important to be critical of your home and look at it through the eyes of a potential buyer. Try to imagine different tastes, needs and wants from different type of people. If your home is a family home, then you may want to consider a family-friendly layout. It is important that potential buyers can envision themselves living in the house, so 'de-personalise'! Remove anything that largely relates to your own family, and any religious or political items.

Even though some buyers look for a house with renovations, most people want to move into a house that is practically perfect. Neutral colours work well as they can often be seen as a starting point for potential homebuyers. A fresh coat of neutral paint will be beneficial to the sales process and if the flooring or carpet needs drastic improvement, you should do this before you put the property up for sale. Most buyers will also look for natural lighting, so make sure individual rooms are well lit.

Space is the untold saviour in any property so make sure that you make the most of it. Remove any unnecessary clutter, opening up the space, leaving room for imagination. It is important to make sure that your house is orderly, so tidy up shampoo bottles in the bathroom and children's toys in the living room.

It is important to make the property feel like home, so accessorise it appropriately. Adding flowers or the odd houseplant will inject colour and warmth into a room and glossy magazines on your coffee table will create a high-end, homely effect. In addition to this, investing in some sweet-smelling candles and a diffuser will also have a positive effect.

Finally, have a look over your whole home and for every viewing, ensure it looks like a show home. There shouldn't be any shoes by the door, dirty dishes in the kitchen or fresh washing in sight! Staging your house to perfection every time will allow people to feel that it is a home they would be proud to own.

Call Hunters Heswall on 0151 342 2444 and we will help you ensure your house is presented to its best potential, before we put it up for sale on your behalf.

Hunters, here to get you there...

**240b Telegraph Road, Heswall, Wirral, CH60 7SG.
Telephone: 0151 342 2444.**