**Millbank care home in Newark wins**

**‘Crafty Christmas Challenge’**

**(16th December 2020)**Christmas looks very different in Nottingham care homes this year. The pandemic has meant that all of the usual Christmas activities, days out and visits from local groups have been cancelled.

To boost moral and raise the Christmas spirit amongst its residents and care teams, national charity, [Ambient Support](https://www.ambient.org.uk/), who provides care in a number of settings, launched a festive ‘Crafty Christmas Challenge’ competition.

Care teams and residents across the country dusted off their tinsel and shined their baubles to decorate their Christmas trees and create imaginative festive crafts to go head-to-head in a most spectacular fashion.

All entries were judged by a panel of service users, many with complex learning disabilities, in the safety of their care homes using Zoom.

Millbank care home in Newark, that provides care and support for older people including those living with dementia, was one of the lucky winners and received £100 supermarket vouchers to spend on special Christmas goodies.

***Davina Sellick, Director of Sales, Marketing & Communications was delighted with the response:***

 *“Christmas decorations bring joy and help raise the Christmas spirit but having a focus and a challenge across the charity has been a really lovely way of bringing everyone together. It has been wonderful to see the fantastic efforts of our brilliant care teams and residents.*

*“Millbank spectacularly decorated not one but three Christmas trees, each with festive characters by their side including reindeer, Father Christmas and snowmen. The residents also designed some gorgeous colourful paper decorations- these especially caught the eye of our judging panel.”*

**Manager of Millbank care home, Diane Dunn, says:**

 *“It’s been wonderful to see our care team and residents coming together to create our beautifully decorated trees. It sparked lots of lovely memories for our residents and it was wonderful to hear their stories of Christmas and decorating trees when they were children, or with their own families. Now all they have to do is choose their favourite festive foods to add to the menu!”*

***PHOTO CAPTION: The residents of Ambient Support’s Millbank care home in Newark designed their own colourful decorations to adorn one of their trees***

***PHOTO CAPTION: Ambient Support’s Judging Panel decided on the ‘Crafty Christmas’ winners from the safety of their care homes***

**About Ambient:**

Ambient Support (formerly known as Heritage Care and Community Options) is a registered UK charity with over 25 years’ experience in providing care and support services for older people, people with a mental health need and people with a learning disability. Ambient believe that everyone is unique, and they should be able to lead valued lives in their communities, treated with dignity and respect no matter their age, health condition or disability. To find out more visit [www.ambient.org.uk](http://www.ambient.org.uk)

[@ambient support](https://twitter.com/ambientsupport)

***~ENDS~***

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**About Ambient Support:** [www.ambient.org.uk](http://www.ambient.org.uk)

* One of the Top 20 generic Not-For-Profit Health & Social Care Providers in the UK Ambient Support (formerly known as Heritage Care and Community Options) is a registered UK charity with over 25 years’ experience
* They deliver services that meet the needs of some of the most vulnerable adults in our society. Operating in over 130 locations, they provide over 30 thousand hours of care to people on a weekly basis to support a range of needs due to the ageing process, learning disability or mental illness
* Their wide range of quality specialist services are delivered by dedicated, professional, and passionate staff and their success is built on supporting people to live a full and meaningful life.
* Ambient currently employs around 1,400 people across the UK in a number of settings
* Ambient can also help young adults who are transitioning from Children’s to Adult Learning Disability Services
* The Charity has an above industry average with 85% Registered Services rated as Outstanding and GOOD by CQC.