



Press Release

Immediate Release

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### **Bishop Auckland Care Service Creates Powerful Remembrance Display**

Residents and staff at Thornfield Grange, a residential service in Bishop Auckland, joined together to create a powerful remembrance display to honour those who have lost their lives in service.

Thornfield Grange, on Etherley Lane, is part of the Cygnet Social Care division and is a specialist residential service with nursing for up to nine adults with autism, learning disabilities and complex needs.

The display, unveiled on Remembrance Weekend, has a special meaning as a number of colleagues at Thornfield Grange have a military background or armed forces connections.

The display of handmade poppies was made from recycled plastic bottles and spray painted and placed onto a green netting around one of the trees in the service's garden. The project began as far back as July when posters were put up asking people to collect and save plastic bottles for the display.

In the end, more than 100 plastic bottles were collected and the bottoms painted to look like poppies. Maintenance manager at the service, Fred Collier, drilled out all the holes in the plastic bottles bottoms to fasten the poppies to the netting.

Cygnet Social Care Support worker Claire Sugden also made a poppy wreath for the front door, this was made with pompoms, fabric flowers and buttons.

The original idea for the project came from another support worker, Victoria Mouatt.

She explained: "It took us time and thought, but we wanted to make our poppies and decorate our tree so that at 11am, on 11 November, we could stand by the tree and remember the end of World War II and all the fallen soldiers that have served in combat for our country.

"Many of our residents do not like crowded places or a lot of noise so this gave us the opportunity to remember our fallen heroes our way."

Thornfield Grange is accredited by the National Autistic Society's Autism Accreditation programme. This is an internationally-recognised process of support and development for all those providing services to individuals with autism.

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