



CareTech

It's officially
Christmas at Rowanside!

Rowanside are fully in the festive spirit after they organised an epic switch on of their festive lights.



Staff member **Steph Redshaw** said:

"My colleague **Nadia Whittle** and I were thinking about how we could make Christmas extra special for everyone, after the tough time all have faced during the pandemic.

We then thought about decorating the outside of the property as well. The discussion then led to, *how could we get a celebrity to flip the switch?* It was only a dream with lots of little ideas initially.

As these conversations took place on the 1st of November, we realised that timing was very tight, we only had a month to organise the whole event!

We spoke to our supported individuals, and asked if they wanted to make their own decorations with the staff team, they were all very excited. Supported Individual John Groake saved all of his daily newspapers for the papier mache, to make the baubles and each person then made their own unique bauble.

On the day itself, it all came together fantastically well - we had six Christmas trees in the carpark covered with lights and decorations, overhead lights across the car park with zip wiring elves and a Santa and grotto too.

We all dressed up in festive outfits, singing along to Christmas songs while putting the last finishing touches to the display.



Supported individuals, John Groake, Jean Napier, Stephen Lawrence and David Radcliffe.

Staff: Steph, Nadia, Julie, Jack, Andy, Hannah, Alison.

Our celebrity guest was the one and only **Michael Le Vell A.K.A Kevin Webster** from ITV soap **Coronation Street!** Everyone was amazed to see him there, especially one service user in particular. **Stephen Lawrence** was star struck when he met him and greeted him with: **"Alright Kevin".**

A local coffee van attended the evening, providing coffee and hot chocolate and mince pies for everyone to enjoy. Children stopped as they passed with their parents, looking at the display of lights, trees, elves and Santa in amazement at how magical it all looked.

North Region Operations Director, **Deana Whittle** said: 'I have worked with this staff team since 2010, and this breath-taking evening was not simply a one off, events such as these are celebrated throughout the year.

It really is a very special place to live and work - thank you Team Rowanside, you are really are worth your weight in gold.

For the grand finale, **Michael Le Vell** gave a short speech to officially declare Rowanside's Christmas lights on, the whole impact was just so amazing. Seeing the achievements of the whole team come to life was definitely an emotional moment and it was a very special evening for everyone at the home.

***Thank you to our VIP guest
Michael Le Vell, who could not
have been nicer!***