

AveryTalk



Hello everyone, and welcome to the July edition of Avery Talk.

This month, we celebrated Care Home Open Week, which took place from the 27th of June to the 3rd of July and was a great success. We welcomed families, friends, and communities into our homes to get involved with activities and entertainment, offering them a tour of our facilities and a valuable insight into life within our homes. It was great seeing our staff and residents come together to welcome guests, with an array of refreshments provided by our talented culinary teams.

We are also delighted to announce that, having been shortlisted as finalists in nine categories for the Care Home Awards 2022, Avery Healthcare were the winner of Best Care Home Marketing, Advertising and PR Activities and the Best for Nutrition, Food and Dining. This is fantastic news, with our #OneFamily values shining through. Celebrating and recognising success, the Care Home Awards are an annual benchmark of excellence and innovation. Congratulations to our teams on their outstanding achievements.



A Day for Dads

Across Avery, we are fortunate to have so many fantastic dads and father figures residing in our homes, from dads/stepdads, grandfathers and even some great grandfathers. And on Father's Day this year, it was great to see many of them able to enjoy the day with their families and friends.

At Cliftonville, their male residents all received a little gift from the entire community to show appreciation for being their children's role models and for all the love and care they have given them in their lives. Staff at Merlin Court created some lovely hampers and all signed cards for their 'Superheroes', as described by Well-being Co-ordinator Sanya Munjal. The day was a fantastic celebration of the special journey of fatherhood.

In true Bourn View fashion, their lucky gentlemen were spoilt to a themed party where they enjoyed hotdogs, beer and a bit of the Welsh legend Tom Jones playing in the background. Well-being Co-ordinator Rosie Boshell said, "We would like to wish a very happy Father's Day to our amazing fathers, who never fail to put a smile on our faces."



CONGRATULATIONS MA'AM

Taking place between 2nd – 5th June, the Queen's Platinum Jubilee was a joyous celebration for the whole nation. The first British Monarch to celebrate 70 years of service, which is a fantastic achievement and one that the citizens of the United Kingdom can truly be proud of.

Since being crowned on 2nd June 1953, Queen Elizabeth II's reign has witnessed some remarkable events in British history. In the last 70 years as a nation, we have come so far, and at the forefront was Her Majesty the Queen. Some highlights include England winning the World Cup in 1966, Tim Berners-Lee's creation of the World Wide Web in 1989 and the 2012 Olympic Games.

As expected, our residents were more than keen to join in with the festivities throughout the celebratory weekend. Our homes were dressed from ceiling to floor in a sea of red, white and blue as they donned Union flags.

Our Well-being and Activities Co-ordinators were on top form, hosting some quintessentially British activities, including a traditional street party at Aran Court. At Seagrave House and St Giles, residents invited their loved ones over for a scrumptious afternoon tea, with scones, cream, and jam, of course. Over at Knowle Gate, their community had the pleasure of welcoming some beautiful Shetland ponies dressed for the occasion, which put a cheesy smile on their resident's faces. Alma Court was extremely excited to have received a thank you letter from the Queen herself in return for the Jubilee card which their residents made and posted to Buckingham Palace.

There was no slacking on celebrations at Edenbridge Manor as they hosted their very own Royal Variety performance fit for the Queen. With bands, dancers and singers, it was an entertainment-packed fun day for their residents and loved ones. They shared plenty of lovely images to their Facebook page with Well-being Co-ordinator Tina Muskett, quoting, "It was such a memorable day bringing family and friends together to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. Thank you to all that attended and for making this day extra special."



Reminiscence with a Borrow Box from The Royal Mint

Residents at Dukes Court were delighted to receive a Jubilee-inspired 'Borrow Box', loaned to them by The Royal Mint. In February 1971, Britain adopted a decimal currency, changing how we use money. The boxes contain replicas and original objects from around this time, giving those who lived through this chapter an opportunity to discuss their memories.

The items included coins such as a half-crown and a farthing, and residents Maureen and Richard told everyone how they were given a penny farthing to buy sweets when they were younger. Each item came with historical information, creating plenty of opportunities for discussion amongst the residents, who enjoyed spending time looking through them together.



Intergenerational Friendships

Across our homes, we are proud to have built strong community links including with young people.

Research suggests intergenerational interactions can increase well-being and improve children's social and emotional skills. Residents at South Lodge warmly welcome children from their local nursery, who visit bi-weekly. They performed their wonderful graduation song and dance this month, and the residents happily sang along.

Over at Loxley Park, residents enjoyed their second Ignite Imagination session with children from their local school. Making the most of the sunshine, they finished painting wooden spoons, helping each other with design ideas. Residents at Avalon Court were delighted to re-introduce their Grandfriends Group, which they run weekly. The children, fellow family members and residents enjoy craft activities, songs, and games together.

At Horse Fair, residents met with students from their local secondary school, who they have been exchanging written letters with. Resident Rita stated how lovely it was to be able to put a face to the name. Earlier this month, they also received a visit from local Primary School pupils, who performed several songs with sign language.

Residents at Spencer House also introduced a Reading Club with children from their local primary school. The first session was a great success, with residents saying how wonderful it was to hear the children read. Our residents are looking forward to continuing these sessions, and it is fantastic to see friendships being made between generations.





CARE HOME

Open Days

Avery's care homes across the UK were delighted to celebrate Care Home Open Week from 27th June to 3rd July.

Organised by Championing Social Care, the event is designed to connect care homes with their local communities. More poignant this year than ever after enduring so many Covid-19 restrictions in recent years, our homes embraced the opportunity in true Avery style, welcoming relatives, professionals, and local community supporters to celebrate with residents and staff.

The events proved an emotional come-back for some, with one relative visiting Rivermere Care Home in Sevenoaks commenting, "Thank you for the effort and welcome you put into today's open day. Mum has been with you for nearly 18 months and arrived traumatised, bereft and frightened in the middle of a pandemic. Although I knew this was the right decision, it felt as if I'd abandoned her on your doorstep at the time. It was almost three months before I could visit in person. During that time, you cared for her and communicated with me, reassuring me and making her life which was previously lonely and isolating, happier and more fulfilling. Today I felt we were part of a family. Watching mum interacting, it's plain to see she's happy and content and more than this, the love exudes from the staff towards her and all the residents. Such gentle kindness and affection. It's beautiful to witness it in action. Priceless. There are no words to express how happy this makes me, and quite obviously my mum. Thank you, thank you, thank you!"

Throughout the week, our homes opened their doors to serve copious pots of tea and delicious home-baked cakes from award-winning chefs and provided entertainment, activities, and celebrations. Activities have been shared across our social media channels and we hope these are the first of many more to come!



A MUSICAL DAY WITH GLYNDEBOURNE OPERA HOUSE

Residents at Milton Court were delighted to receive a visit from Jo, Melanie and Freya from the Glyndebourne Opera Company, accompanied by Maddie from the Creative Learning Team at Milton Keynes Theatre. Together, they delivered an interactive workshop for residents.

Melanie is the composer of a newly commissioned Chamber Opera, which explores the experience of loneliness and the paths we follow to join back together with others. Whilst this was a serious topic, the residents felt lucky to have an insight into the new opera. They enjoyed taking part in the singing workshop with the world class singers, describing it as beautiful and uplifting. In addition, the residents were lucky enough to have been invited to watch the final performance in the autumn! They are very much looking forward to this incredible opportunity.



Scholars Mews Celebrates 10th Anniversary

Scholars Mews celebrated its 10th Anniversary in style on the 31st of May with an afternoon tea party for staff and residents. They enjoyed fresh homemade cakes and scones with cream and jam, followed by Prosecco, Pimm's or orange juice.

A presentation was held for three long-serving staff members, including Team Leader Barbara Manktelow, who has worked at the home for over eight years. Barbara stated: "I am very fond of the residents; they make my day, and that is why I have stayed all these years."

Karen Lynes, Team Leader, has also worked for the home for over seven years. Karen said: "I enjoy working alongside amazing people, and seeing the residents happy makes it all worthwhile." Both Barbara and Karen received a basket of personalised gifts and flowers.

James Chamberlain, Maintenance Manager, has been with the home for over six years. James received a voucher for a meal out and stated: "I have worked with some amazing people and cared for some amazing residents who make it all worthwhile when walking in the door every morning."

In the afternoon, staff and residents enjoyed entertainment from singer Jessica Jaques, who performed a great selection of songs from the 20s to the 60s. Residents and staff danced and sang along, and all thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon - they were still talking about it several days later!



We are #OneFamily

April saw the launch of our new Well-being Performance model, underpinned by our #OneFamily culture. Our values underpin our daily work and how we interact with residents, relatives and each other. During the launch and since it has been great seeing our employees share these values and put them at the heart of every decision they make.

This month, staff members at Seagrave have enjoyed picnics in the garden, sitting together to enjoy some fresh air and sunshine. Even the rainy weather didn't stop staff and residents at Aran Court, as they enjoyed a picnic together inside. In addition, Stacey Wadlow, Unit Manager at Spencer House was surprised with a beautiful bouquet of flowers from staff members over at Ashurst Mews in recognition of the support and guidance she has shown to the fellow home during the past few weeks.



Celebrate Good Times: Milestones at Avery



Dorothy
Dukes Court
Care Home

101st Birthday,
13th June

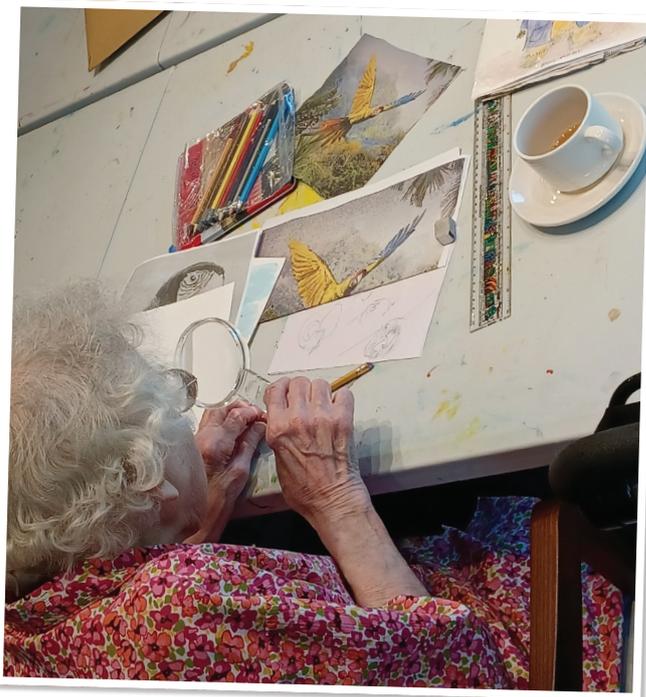


**Barbara
& Richard**
Pemberley House
Care Home

69th Wedding Anniversary,
20th June

PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Betty Russell, Miramar



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