

AveryTalk



Hello, and welcome to the December edition of Avery Talk. This month, you can read about how residents across our homes honoured our heroes as we commemorated Remembrance Day. You can also hear from residents at Birchmere House and Acorn Lodge, who came together to celebrate International Men's Day and enjoyed a visit to Coventry Transport Museum.

Having recently joined Avery Healthcare as Director of Marketing and Communications, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. The team and I are committed to supporting everyone across the business. We have recently introduced Live Chat to our website, ensuring enquirers receive the assistance they need with ease.

The marketing team are here to support each of our homes with events, social media, and photography and produce a range of marketing collateral including home brochures, leaflets, and marketing cards, to name just a few. We also support group-wide events such as our internal Avery Healthcare Awards, enhancing the recognition that our hard-working staff deserve. Looking ahead, our ongoing projects will include a focus on internal communication, ensuring that areas such as our Vision and Values are embedded successfully across the group.

Sadie Deveraux, Director of Marketing and Communications

Showing our Support

The Children in Need Charity is committed to improving the lives of disadvantaged children, supporting and inspiring them to ensure they have opportunities and can reach their goals. Keen to show their support, our homes joined in with a range of *spot-tacular* fundraising activities. At Ashurst Mews, residents Margaret P, Margaret D and Gina completed a sponsored Big Cycle alongside Well-being and Activities Co-ordinators, Georgina and Sarah, rode 64 miles and raised over £200 in donations. Fellow residents Gill and Pat cheered the team during the day, stating, "Everyone did so well. We like activities like this; it makes us feel like one big family."

Staff and residents at Aran Court dressed up for the occasion, raising over £100 through their fundraising raffle. Head Chef Louise stated, "It's very important to me to put a smile on the residents' faces. The happiness and laughter our costumes bring are priceless, all while raising money for a good cause #OneFamily." Over at Wandsworth Common, much to the delight of residents, staff members took part in their legendary annual egg and spoon race.



A Colourful Diwali Celebration

Avery Healthcare is committed to celebrating cultural diversity and inclusivity, and it was wonderful to see so many of our homes participating in this year's Diwali celebrations. Diwali is a colourful and vibrant five-day festival in November, a celebration of new beginnings and the triumph of light over darkness.

Residents savoured a mouthwatering array of Diwali treats, such as roti and samosas, lit candles and made unforgettable memories with loved ones. Elstree View welcomed a talented dance duo who performed beautiful traditional dances and encouraged everyone to get on their feet and learn some moves.

Meanwhile, the team at Virginia Water prepared a delicious spread of Indian cuisine. Resident Val stated, "The dinner was excellent. A lot of hard work had gone into preparing it. I also enjoyed the side dishes. Afterwards, I had the mango pudding; it was tasty and refreshing."



The Great British Care Awards

On 17th November, Brentwood Arches Care Home were delighted to be recognised for their outstanding Workforce Development at the Great British Care Awards for the South East region.

Hosted by Care Talk Magazine, the awards ceremony was a collaborative affair, bringing together various sectors, including statutory, independent, and voluntary organisations and unpaid carers. The focus was on promoting joint work and highlighting the best practices in the industry.

The Workforce Development Award specifically acknowledged the crucial role of team development within the care service. It sought to identify a team with exceptional enthusiasm and determination in recognising their care staff's training and development needs. Brentwood Arches Care Home stood out among 11 finalists, selected from a pool of 3000 entries of care homes across South East England. Their dedication and commitment to workforce development earned them the prestigious 'Highly Commended' title, securing the second position, which serves as a testament to their unwavering commitment to providing exceptional care and investing in the growth and development of their staff.

Remembrance Day

This Armistice Day, our communities demonstrated that the spirit of honouring heroes spans generations, bringing together young and old to pay respects to those who served and fell during wartime. Residents at Aran Court showcased their creativity, crafting poppy displays for troops and purple poppies to remember the animals lost during the war. Meanwhile, Acer House transformed egg boxes into beautifully crafted poppy wreaths, and Birchmere Mews decorated their surroundings with decorations honouring the soldiers.

Amarna House paid special homage to their veterans, including Wally, a former Cold Stream Guard, and George, a former Red Cap, who engaged in reflective activities like making plane models and exploring war memorabilia. In Edenbridge, a march through town to the War Memorial Hospital saw homemade poppy wreaths laid in tribute to those who served the nation.

At Aire View, the celebration took a personal turn as resident Geoff received his war medal, capturing the presence of the British Royal Air Force and ITV News Calendar. Crispin Court's Lt Col Smith shared his military experiences with the Trinity Scouts, proudly displaying his medals, including the prestigious OBE.





A Perfect 10 for Middleton Lodge

Middleton Lodge joined the prestigious Avery Carehome.co.uk elite club in November, achieving a flawless 10 out of 10 review score on the directory. The reviews for this care home speak volumes about the exceptional quality of care provided and the strong sense of community that has been fostered. A recent review highlights the unwavering dedication of the staff team and the delightful environment in which their loved ones are residing.

"From initial respite care to becoming a permanent resident, Middleton Lodge Care Home has gone above and beyond anything we could have wished for in a care home. The amazing staff and facilities are all five-star! And nothing is too much trouble for this very competent team. There is always a warm welcome when visiting, and all the staff are so friendly and very caring. Family and friends enjoy their visits, the coffee shop and cake experience and being able to take part in special events. A very warm and welcoming place to be, and we couldn't be happier with our choice of Middleton Lodge."

If you would like to leave a review for your care home, please visit carehome.co.uk and search for your care home name.

Avery's Triumph in Community Awards

We are thrilled to share the success of Clayton Manor residents at the Congleton in Bloom 2023 Wheelbarrow Challenge. Their British-themed floral display secured a win and celebrated the community's dedication to nurturing nature through shared skills. Congratulations to Clayton Manor!

In another heartwarming story, we extend our warmest congratulations to Seagrave House on their nomination for the Spirit of Corby Awards for their beautiful garden. Resident Molly said, "I can't believe I'm still having first experiences at 95. I never thought I'd get to do something like this again." Richard also had a fantastic time making new friends and enjoyed the camaraderie. Although not triumphant, the experience was truly unforgettable. Sarah Gibbs, Well-being Co-ordinator, said, "We've had an amazing experience at Seagrave House. Thanks to everyone for your support!"



International Men's Day

International Men's Day appreciates and celebrates men and their contribution to families and communities, raising awareness for their well-being and recognising positive role models. We are proud to celebrate our magnificent men, from our staff who are committed to always doing their best to the men who reside with us and have achieved so much throughout their lifetime.

Our homes celebrated in style on Sunday 19th November, when Beaconsfield Heights took the time to recognise their staff and resident role models, with each receiving a chocolate treat. Meanwhile, the men at Highcliffe enjoyed a catch-up over a pub lunch. Clare Court created their own in-home pub experience, feasting on pub snacks and playing games while reflecting on the male role models in their lives.

Birchmere House and Birchmere Mews met up for a trip to the Coventry Transport Museum and were delighted and surprised to bump into Acorn Lodge on their outing; together, they admired the most extensive collection of British-made transport held in public ownership.



Milestones at Avery



Monty
Elstree View
100th Birthday, 6th November



Hilary
Esher Manor
100th Birthday, 7th November



Barbara
Avalon Court
100th Birthday, 20th November

We are #OneFamily

November's staff well-being initiative was 'Sweetest Month'. Those at Abbey Court were delighted to take part, with every team member receiving a goody bag of sweet treats. Over at Astbury Manor, Home Manager Evelyn and Deputy Manager Emma surprised fellow staff members, serving them breakfast in recognition of their ongoing dedication and commitment. Residents tucked in alongside the team, with Home Manager Evelyn stating, "Everyone really enjoyed the morning. We are, as the hashtag says, #OneFamily, and we have a fantastic team." Meanwhile, at Hampstead Court, Home Manager Dan was pleased to introduce, 'Tea with Me', encouraging team members to drop in to discuss suggestions and feedback or simply just for a friendly chat and a cuppa.



PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Resident Joy and Care Assistant Chloe,
learning the piano together.

Mousehold View



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