

AveryTalk



Welcome to the January edition of Avery Talk, and a Happy New Year from all at the Avery Healthcare Group. However you may have celebrated, I hope you enjoyed the Christmas period, spending time with loved ones and reflecting on all that has been achieved during the past year.

In this month's issue, you can read about how staff and residents across our homes celebrated the festive season, participating in Christmas Jumper Day, arts and crafts, and carol singing alongside children from local schools and nurseries.

This year, we are looking forward to opening three new care homes in the first half of 2024: Waterhouse Manor in Peterborough, West Wood in Sheringham and Greenholme House in Ilkley. Preparations are also well underway for the Grand Opening of Saxon Manor in Godmanchester, which will take place on 31st January as staff and residents welcome loved ones and guests to enjoy a casino-themed day. Several homes across our portfolio will also benefit from refurbished suites and floors to welcome new residents and their families and ensure we continue providing superb care and lifestyle standards.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to five staff members at Clayton Manor, who are celebrating 20 years of long service and are featured in this month's newsletter. This extraordinary achievement highlights their immense passion and dedication to their work. Congratulations to you all.

Lorna Rose, Chief Executive Officer

Honouring a Remarkable Achievement

Beckenham Park resident, Sarah Davies, was awarded an MBE on the 15th of December, for her services to vulnerable and disabled children in Mexico. Her husband and loved ones were delighted to join her in a ceremony at the home conducted by the Lord Lieutenant of Greater London, Sir Kenneth Aphunzezi Olisa, on behalf of the royal family.

During her career, Sarah worked as an Occupational Therapist for the National Health Service. After moving to Monterrey in Mexico for her husband, Kenneth's work, she could never have anticipated the impact she would have on the lives of children in their community.

Sarah started as a volunteer at Instituto Nuevo Amanecer (INA), a local charitable institute for children and young adults with cerebral palsy that brings together medical, education, and therapy services. She founded the charity Mexican Disabled Children's Trust (Medict) to raise funds to cover the costs associated with sending neuro-paediatric rehabilitation experts to work in Mexico. Through Medict, she has raised over £130,000 and shipped 17 large containers of refurbished paediatric equipment from the UK to Mexico.

As a result of Sarah's voluntary involvement, INA now has a fantastic postural management clinic. It continues its support by arranging for volunteers to deliver training and sending equipment that has been donated, transforming the lives of thousands of disabled children in Mexico.



Celebrating 20 Years of Dedicated Service at Clayton Manor

At Avery, we reward our staff members who demonstrate commitment to our organisation with great passion and dedication to their work. On the 4th of December, residents, loved ones, and fellow colleagues came together to celebrate five staff members marking 20 years of service at Clayton Manor. Deputy Manager, Joie, Advanced Senior Carer, Steve, Senior Carer, Lisa, Senior Med Tech, Mel and Senior Nurse, Dags, received flowers and gifts in recognition of their valuable contributions. In a heartwarming speech, residents at Clayton Manor thanked them all for their dedication and compassionate approach to care.

Speaking of the day, Home Manager Sally stated, "It was an honour to present these awards to five of our team. They have worked through many changes and coped with the stresses that can arise in a busy nursing home. Each is a loyal, hardworking, wonderful individual whom I feel privileged to work alongside. I am certain they will celebrate many further achievements as they continue to support everyone at Clayton Manor. Congratulations to each of you. Thank you."



Better Together

We are pleased to welcome couples to reside with us across our portfolio of care homes, and we offer a variety of care choices for couples to continue their journey together. On the 5th of December, the team at Southampton Manor hosted a Couples Open Day, welcoming residents and visitors for musical entertainment from Mike Sidaway and various activities, including flower arranging. The dining room was beautifully decorated for the occasion, and each couple enjoyed a romantic meal together prepared by the talented Culinary team.

Residents were delighted, with Iris stating, "What a special treat. It meant a great deal to my husband and I. The food was fantastic, and the atmosphere and company of other couples were lovely. It was a truly enjoyable day."

Iris and her husband Peter, began their care journey at Southampton Manor with three weeks of respite care following a hospital stay. With Peter needing additional support, they decided to look for a more permanent solution, which meant they could stay together. Their decision has been pivotal in ensuring their well-being and happiness; the pair enjoy meals together and activities as they make precious memories, knowing their needs are taken care of.



Your Opinion Counts



Like what we do? If so, please leave us a Carehome.co.uk review.

We hope that you have seen our commitment to high-quality care for our residents and value the relationships that we have together. We'd love for you to share your positive experience with others in a Carehome.co.uk review.

Visit carehome.co.uk and search for your home to leave a review or speak to your Home Manager to fill in a review card.



Elvy's Got Talent

Elvy Court recently hosted the spectacular 'Elvy's Got Talent' show in a tribute to the late resident Christine. Residents and staff from various departments showcased their talents, including singing, rapping, line dancing, and stand-up comedy. The event was not only a celebration of creativity but also a touching moment as residents like Jim, living with aphasia after a stroke, showcased his remarkable spirit. The standout performance featured Jim duetting with carer Rachel, creating a beautiful and moving moment that captured the essence of the community. The event was a fitting homage to Christine's joyful legacy.



Greensand House Celebrate its One-Year Milestone

Greensand House marked its first-year milestone with a jubilant celebration, showcasing a year of warmth and joy. The anniversary celebration featured a regal touch as resident Kath was crowned queen for the day, commemorating her inaugural year in the embrace of the home. The festivities boasted enchanting moments with a magician and melodious tunes courtesy of So Sinatra setting the perfect tone for the occasion. Amidst the laughter and smiles, Boudje and his Culinary team delighted everyone with delectable cakes and treated everyone to a *Boudje-licious* buffet lunch, completing a year of shared happiness and camaraderie.

Teas the Season for a Cup of Cheer!

International Tea Day celebrates the cultural and economic significance of tea or chai. The day aims to promote awareness about the diverse aspects of tea, including its history, production, consumption and health benefits. It is a great time to reflect on the importance of tea as a global phenomenon and share the experience of tea with others. We Brits are renowned for our love of tea, collectively consuming more than 60 billion cups a year, which is upwards of 165 million cups a day!

Many of our homes gladly joined in the *festivi-'teas'*. Residents at Ashurst Mews and Clare Court had their tastebuds tickled with a variety of sweet and savoury teas. Highcliffe got out the fine China, inviting friends and families for a cup of their favourite brew, a tea themed quiz, sing songs and trivia. Well-being Co-ordinator Gillian said, "There was lots of laughter, learning and oohing, but we all know that you can only get an 'ooh' with Typhoo!"

Rowan Court provided a range of classic black teas to fragrant herbal infusions, to emphasise the home's commitment to embracing diversity and allowing residents to relish the flavours of the world.



A Season of Cheer

'Twas the most wonderful season of the year. A time brimming with mirth and merriment. And a period for cherishing precious moments with loved ones, forging everlasting memories. The yuletide spirit permeated our communities, with traditional festive games, gift exchanges, and, of course, the indulgence of countless mince pies. But our festive adventures did not end there.

On the mischievous Elf Day, celebrated on 6th December, our playful elves caused quite a stir. Staff members transformed into Santa's Little Helpers for the day, assisting residents with their Christmas shopping. Kelly, Becky, and Tracy from Rowan Court dedicated their day off to scouring local shops, armed with a handwritten list of presents from their residents. Meanwhile, the residents of Alma Court were fortunate enough to enjoy a delightful lunch with their little friends from Gorsemoor Primary School, adding to the festivities.

Christmas Jumper Day made a triumphant return this year, with many of our homes enthusiastically participating. We witnessed a delightful array of both lovely and, shall we say, questionable designs, all in support of fundraising for the Save The Children charity. Our collective efforts this year contributed to the staggering overall £5 million raised.

In the Avery Christmas Display Competition, Ashurst Mews emerged as the victors. Their magical masterpiece showcased a dollhouse representing the very building itself, complete with life-sized carol singing dolls. However, all the entries were equally marvellous, and the Well-being Team extends their heartfelt gratitude to all participants.





Claire
Avalon Court
104th Birthday, 1st December



Dorothy
Cliveden Manor
100th Birthday, 7th December



June
Squires Mews
101st Birthday, 13th December



Alf
Elstree View
104th Birthday, 13th December



Betty
Southampton Manor
105th Birthday, 14th December



Ivy
Hempstalls Hall
108th Birthday, 20th December



Florence
Camberley Woods
104th Birthday, 20th December



Yvette
Pemberley House
100th Birthday, 27th December



Drene
Adelaide
104th Birthday, 25th December



PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Bette and Brenda, Middleton Lodge Care Home

We are #OneFamily

December's staff well-being initiative saw our homes celebrate employees of the month by hosting staff appreciation days to recognise our team's commitment and hard work. Staff at Hempstalls Hall were treated to a festive-themed lucky dip, offering something for everyone. Meanwhile, Horse Fair presented their employees of the month with a certificate and flowers.

Astbury Manor hosted a staff awards of the year where James Sunderland, MP for Bracknell, handed out awards to staff that reflect our values of being Proud, Supportive and Caring. Jane Cameron, Customer Service Advisor, was delighted to be recognised as December's Employee of the Month, alongside several others who received recognition for being outstanding team members.



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