

AveryTalk



Welcome to the April edition of Avery Talk. In this month's issue, you can read about how staff and residents across our homes celebrated Mother's Day, International Women's Day, and Easter. You can also hear from residents at Westbourne Tower and Cliveden Manor, who hosted their own version of the Oscars.

I am delighted to share that in April, we launched the Avery People Recognition Awards, designed to celebrate the incredible talents and contributions of our outstanding team members and colleagues. One winner from each division will be selected each quarter from 17 categories, and quarterly winners will be shortlisted for an annual ceremony, held during November 2024. You can find out more about the awards and how to nominate later in this issue.

I am also pleased to announce the upcoming launch of our new vision and values. Staff and residents at our homes will celebrate with a launch party, scheduled to coincide with National Superhero Day on Friday 26th April. Loved ones and community supporters will be encouraged to join us, whether dressing as superheroes for the day or enjoying an afternoon of live entertainment to honour our in-house heroes. This promises to be a truly special day, as we come together to celebrate our shared values and the individuals across our care communities who bring them to life.

Values: Caring, Supportive, Honest, Respectful and Accountable

Vision: Avery Healthcare offers exceptional care and experience, whilst establishing ourselves as the preferred choice for both residents and employees, creating meaningful lives together.

Lorna Rose, Chief Executive Officer

Our Inspirational Women

Last month, we were proud to celebrate our inspirational women on International Women's Day. Taking time to appreciate our staff, who work incredibly hard, and the wonderful women who reside with us. We also took time to honour Mothers and Mother figures across our communities and appreciate their impact on society.

Bridge Manor and Crispin Court celebrated Mother's Day in their home by inviting loved ones to enjoy a delicious afternoon tea. Meanwhile, Westbourne Tower held a photoshoot for the fabulous ladies in their home, creating treasured photos and memories for their families.

This year's International Women's Day theme was #InspireInclusion to forge a more inclusive world for women. Camberley Woods invited three local Women's Institute members to join residents to deliver an inspiring talk on women's achievements and receive a generous donation of £100 raised by a resident-hosted raffle.

Hospitality Manager Cliff at Esher Manor and team members at Beaconsfield Heights took the opportunity to thank the incredible women in their homes by handing out roses, daffodils, and chocolates.



Avery Park's 3rd Anniversary

On Wednesday 13th of March, Avery Park marked its third anniversary since opening their care community doors. The Alice in Wonderland themed celebration was a joyous occasion, packed with fun as staff, residents, and their loved ones raised a glass to another year at Avery Park.

No celebration is complete without live entertainment. Talented musician David McFegan encouraged everyone to sing along while Michelle's rich piano melodies filled the room. Residents delighted in delectable homemade cakes accompanied by a tippie of fizz.

As the celebration drew to a close, the Avery Park family indulged in nostalgic conversations, recounting some cherished memories and reflecting on the wonderful times they have shared in their beloved home.



MUSICAL DELIGHTS

Across our homes, residents enjoy a variety of musical activities and events. Research suggests a powerful link between music and well-being. On Wednesday 6th of March, those at Grove Park were joined by young visitors from the musical group, One Step Ahead, for a delightful choir session. Grove Park's Home Manager, Lisa Turnbull, explains, "For many years, our staff and residents have embedded music into their packed activities calendar, alongside intergenerational interactions, which are invaluable for social and emotional well-being."

Residents at Middleton Lodge were pleased to welcome the local Brookfield Primary School Choir for an afternoon of songs, building new friendships. Over at Aire View, residents received a visit from Tutti Leeds Community Concert Band, who performed a varied repertoire, from Mary Poppins to the Sound of Music and classical hymns. Residents are looking forward to another performance from the band, who are due to return to the home later this year.



World Book Day

Avery's care homes celebrated World Book Day with great success on Thursday 7th of March. This nationwide campaign aims to change lives through a love of books and reading and encourage children to share stories and become lifelong readers.

While schoolchildren across the country were busy selecting their favourite books to share, creating costumes, or arriving at school in their pyjamas, our residents and staff teams were planning the same.

A game of 'Where's Wally' was held at Avery Park after staff had a great time dressing up as their favourite book characters followed by a show and tell of favourite books and bookmark making.

Simon Dixey, Home Manager at Darwin Court, took the opportunity to share a family favourite with staff and residents: the number one New York Times Bestseller 'Wonder' by R. J. Palacio, an inspirational story about a boy, August Pullman, who was born with a facial difference that prevented him from going to a mainstream school.

Virginia Water team member Liuda delighted residents with a spectacular book-themed cake whilst a mobile library was wheeled around the home for resident bookworms to peruse. Resident Erika said, "This is a lovely idea. I get to see the new books before you put them in the library upstairs".

Many thanks to those who participated and worked so hard on their fantastic outfits and activities.



Celebrating 50 Years of Service

On Wednesday 6th of March, Resident John at Ashurst Mews received a Jubilee Certification Award from the Freemason Society, recognising 50 years of service. John began working in a joinery shop and took a leading role in installing some of the ornate woodwork seen in the House of Commons. John and his wife, Jill, also ran a restaurant in Cornwall and a public house in Dereham, Norfolk, before retiring. The awards service was held at Ashurst Mews and attended by members of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire, as well as John's loved ones. They reflected on John's time as a Freemason and his work on projects, including founding a mental health group and gardening for a local children's park.



Speaking of the day, Gerry Crawford of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire stated, "Thank you to the team at Ashurst Mews for your efforts in the celebrations for John. The cake, baked by Ashurst Mews' Head Chef, Keeley, was a sight to behold. Very well done to all involved."

Nutrition and Hydration Week

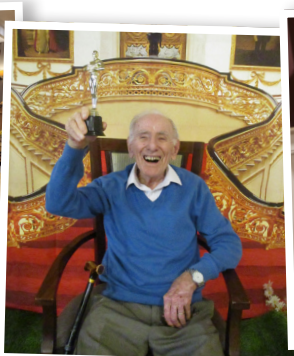
During Nutrition and Hydration Week, Acer House kicked off with 'Mocktail Monday', spreading joy with a 'Party Trolley' whilst being serenaded by music. At Loxley Park, receptionist, Natasha, crafted refreshing Mocktails for their Singalong session, delighting residents and staff. Meanwhile, Barnet Grange exemplified unity, providing Ramadan snack bags for fasting staff. Birchmere Mews embraced the spirit, offering fruit-filled tables and personalised water bottles, nurturing the health and well-being of both residents and staff. The week wasn't just about refreshments; across participating homes, it was about fostering energy, focus, and fun.



A NIGHT AT THE OSCARS

Cliveden Manor and Westbourne Tower recently held their version of the Oscars. The event was reminiscent of Hollywood's golden era, with red carpets and glamorous outfits. Residents and staff embraced the occasion by dressing up as classic movie stars such as Audrey Hepburn and Charlie Chaplin.

At Cliveden Manor, awards were given to residents who embodied inclusivity and warmth. The ceremony was heartfelt, and the honours touched everyone. Meanwhile, the residents took centre stage at Westbourne Tower and were overjoyed to receive their awards. There were tears of happiness and laughter as speeches of gratitude echoed through the halls. The residents' families were acknowledged for their unwavering support. These events perfectly showcased Avery's commitment to enriching lives with moments of joy and celebration.



A TAIL WAGGING TIME

Staff, residents, and community members at Birchmere House were delighted to welcome Viking, the Crufts 2024 champion, and his owner, Melanie, to their community on Tuesday 19th of March.

Viking was crowned the most prestigious title, Best in Show, beating over 24,000 dogs. This win was made even more special because Viking is local to Solihull.

Residents were delighted to play and cuddle with their new furry friend and presented Viking with a hamper of his favourite treats as congratulations for his incredible win. Speaking of the day, resident Geoff said, "I was watching Crufts last week, praying that Viking would win with him being a local boy; fast forward one week, and he is here in my home giving me his paw. I can't believe it."

Meanwhile, residents at Newcross took a trip to the Crufts dog show to see it all in action. They spent the day petting many adorable pups, shopping and watching shows.



RED NOSE DAY

Red Nose Day sparked joy across our homes, infusing silliness and fun into residents' days! Beckenham Park set the stage with red noses and a delightful spread. At Saxon Manor, laughter filled the air as residents enjoyed their favourite foods, coloured comic relief-themed sheets, and crafted their own red noses. Southbourne Beach added flair with red noses and cherry-filled Bakewell tarts. Acacia Mews staff dressed in red, residents donned red noses, and together they indulged in red-themed fruits, blending celebration with the conclusion of Nutrition and Hydration Week. Acer Court and Alder House raised funds with cake sales and car washes, while Norma and June at Avery Park hosted a bake sale, collectively amassing significant contributions towards Comic Relief's vital mission, rallying against child poverty worldwide.

Welsh Warmth and Irish Joy

On St David's Day, Avery welcomed the spirit of Welsh culture with open arms. Alma Court's little Welsh lady savoured Welsh cakes with her afternoon tea, sharing a taste of tradition with residents and staff. Aran Court embarked on an armchair travel adventure through Wales, exploring its picturesque landscapes, castles, and beaches, accompanied by spirited renditions of Welsh classics. Meanwhile, Elvy Court indulged in the Welsh charm of "Dream Horse" and the delightful flavours of Bara Brith during their afternoon tea. Camberley Woods celebrated with enchanting melodies from flautist Mary, engaging crafting activities, and a special visit from Browells Pet Therapy, fostering joy and connection on St David's Day.

St. Patrick's Day was a whirlwind of joy and merriment across our care homes. Bourn View set the stage with an Irish extravaganza, from themed décor to traditional Irish fare. Ashurst Mews immersed in crafting leprechauns, singing Irish melodies, and adorning green foliage. Those at Aire View brought the bar cart, laden with Guinness and chocolates, for residents to savour, whilst residents at Acacia Mews embraced the spirit with shamrocks, smiles, and games galore. Beaconsfield Heights was serenaded by the Glee Club Choir, filling hearts with melodies old and new. Brentwood Arches echoed with Marcus' lively Irish show, where laughter mingled with Guinness and Baileys. Cheers to unforgettable celebrations!



Avery People Recognition Awards

We are delighted to launch the Avery People Recognition Awards, designed to celebrate the incredible talents and contributions of our outstanding team members and colleagues. One winner will be selected each quarter for each of the categories listed below. Quarterly winners will also be shortlisted for our annual ceremony in November 2024.

How to Nominate

Simply email your nominations to averyawards@averyhealthcare.co.uk

Nominations should include the following information:

- Your name and contact details
- Nominees name and job title
- Name of home where nominee works
- As much supporting information as possible as to why the nominee should win, including testimonials and photographs where applicable

Categories

- Dementia Champion of the Year
- Hospitality Champion of the Year
- Supporting Excellence
- Manager of the Year
- Nurse Champion of the Year
- Carer of the Year
- Culinary & Housekeeper Champion of the Year
- Maintenance Person of the Year
- Team of the Year
- Learning and Development Champion of the Year
- Well-being & Activities Champion of the Year
- Administration & Front of House Champion of the Year
- Volunteer of the Year
- Home of the Year
- Deputy of the Year
- Avery Ambassador of the Year Award (values-based)
- Rising Star Award



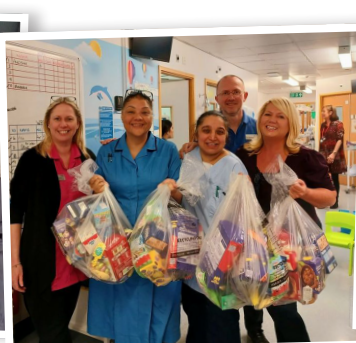
OneFamily

Avery Avery Collection

The Hawthorns

Easter Eggstravaganza

Across our homes, staff and residents celebrated Easter with a range of *egg-citing* activities. Those at Acer House began the festivities with a service, singing their favourite hymns and sharing what Easter means to them before taking part in a themed quiz. Residents at Birchmere House unleashed their creative side, taking part in an arts and crafts workshop with the team at Creative Mojo, and later delivered a selection of Easter goodies to the children's ward at the local Heartlands Hospital. Over at Sonning Gardens, residents were delighted to welcome members of their local Beavers group, forming new friendships as they took part in a fun-packed egg hunt together before decorating shortbread biscuits. For residents at Hinckley House, an Easter bonnet competition went down a treat, with loved ones joining the panel of judges for first, second and third prize. Aran Court's 'Bunny Bus' was out in force, as staff and residents delivered over 200 chocolate eggs to local nurseries and schools, spreading cheer to all.





**Amy
Loxley Park**
105th Birthday, 2nd March



**Louie
Horse Fair**
100th Birthday, 3rd March



**Tony
Beckenham Park**
100th Birthday, 5th March



**Bill
Dukes Court**
101st Birthday, 6th March



**Elaine
Winchester Heights**
101st Birthday, 7th March



**Di
Acer House**
100th Birthday, 13th March



**Kathleen
Frogal House**
100th Birthday, 21st March



**Heather and David
Esher Manor**
60th Wedding Anniversary, 22nd March



**Mary
Westbourne Tower**
100th Birthday, 25th March



**Margaret
Esher Manor**
100th Birthday, 29th March

PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Hugh, Bagshot Gardens Care Home



We are **#OneFamily**

At Avery, recognising and celebrating our peers' excellence and hard work is integral to our values. At Poets Mews, team members enjoyed a comfy dress day and pizza in recognition of their ongoing work and dedication.

Members of the culinary team at Pemberley House surprised fellow colleagues with a delicious breakfast, and at South Lodge, the team prepared a cooked breakfast for two local district nurses as a thank-you for their ongoing support. Care Assistants, Lynsey and Michelle, at Avery Park were delighted to be recognised as Employees of the Month for their outstanding performance, hard work and can-do attitudes.



For any queries, comments or to submit articles, please contact marketing@averyhealthcare.co.uk

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