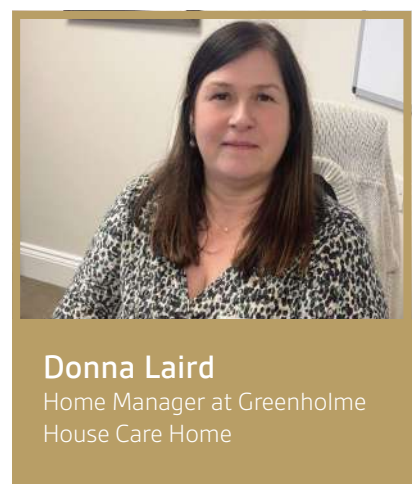




Hi all!

I'm Donna Laird, Home Manager at Greenholme House Care Home, and I'm delighted to introduce this edition of Avery Talk, where we celebrate the latest news, stories, and achievements from across our homes. It's always wonderful to share the fantastic moments that make our community so special.

I am over the moon to announce the opening of Greenholme House Care Home, which officially welcomed its first residents in January. We're hosting a grand opening event on Thursday 20th February, from 1pm to 4pm, and you're all invited! Join us for food, drinks, and guided tours of our stunning new home, and meet the team behind it all.



Donna Laird
Home Manager at Greenholme House Care Home

In this edition, we're celebrating National Bird Day and National Pie Day, sharing the incredible story of Wolves legend Steve Bull who surprised a lifelong fan on her 100th birthday, and showcasing how our homes celebrated Chinese New Year!

Also, don't miss our Photo of the Month and much more to brighten your day!

Have fun reading!

Looking Back, Moving Forward: How Our Homes Welcomed 2025

Our care homes have been embracing the transition to 2025 with creativity and reflection.

Residents at Camberley Woods Care Home in Camberley and Wimbledon Common Care Home in London have been scrapbooking their favourite moments, creating collages filled with joy, laughter, and cherished memories.

At Darwin Court Care Home in Lichfield, the focus has been on New Year's resolutions, inspiring everyone to set fresh goals for the year ahead.

Meanwhile, Bourn View Care Home in Birmingham residents have been preparing for the future by designing personalised 2025 calendars to hang in their rooms, adding a thoughtful touch to their daily routines.

At Middleton Lodge Care Home in Derby, residents shared their favourite 2024 memories and wise words to carry into the New Year.

These heartwarming activities show how our homes are not just places to live, but places to celebrate, reflect, and look ahead with excitement.

Here's to a wonderful 2025!



The Wishing Tree

Droitwich Mews Care Home in Droitwich Spa has launched an exciting new tradition – The Wishing Tree!

Each month, the team will pick one leaf from the tree to grant a special wish for one of their residents.

As the months go by, the tree will grow with a second wish added each time, creating a growing sense of anticipation and joy.

This initiative is all about making residents' dreams come true and adding a spark of excitement to everyday life.

The Wishing Tree is sure to bring moments of happiness and surprise to everyone at Droitwich Mews Care Home, making each day a little brighter.

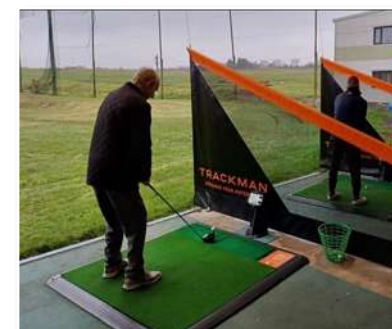


Golfing Great Swings Back into Action!

The team at Avonmere Care Home in Bristol are teeing up some fantastic outings for resident Michael Cole, 78, who lives with dementia.

A former semi-pro golfer and Ex-Henbury Golf Club captain, Mike hadn't swung a club in five years – until now! Thanks to regular trips to Windmill Leisure's driving range, he's back in full swing, even giving tips to fellow golf-loving residents Peter May and Terry Lawrence.

It's fairway to say Mike's loving every moment, proving you're never too old to hit a hole-in-one of happiness!



Celebrating Chinese New Year – *The Year of the Snake*

Chinese New Year, falling on January 29th, marks the start of the *Year of the Snake*, and as part of our new initiative *Avery Around The World*, our care homes really embraced the spirit of the celebrations.

Barnet Grange Care Home in Barnet held an afternoon of arts and crafts, where residents explored colour, patterns, and portrait-making.

Cliftonville Care Home and Ashurst Mews Care Home, both in Northampton, celebrated with a themed quiz, Chinese snacks, a special food platter, art projects, and traditional music.

Adelaide Care Home in Bexleyheath enjoyed dragon mask-making, Chinese dishes, and shared fortune cookies.

Beaconsfield Heights Care Home in Beaconsfield had a cultural talk and gave residents Good Luck Cards as keepsakes.

Brentwood Arches Care Home in Brentwood featured live saxophone music, Chinese delicacies, and lantern-making guided by a professional artist.

Southbourne Beach Care Home in Bournemouth embraced lantern-making, a dance performance, and a traditional Chinese meal.

Virginia Water Care Home in Virginia Water hosted an engaging talk on China, followed by a tasting session of Chinese snacks.

Birchmere Mews Care Home in Birmingham celebrated with traditional Chinese games, a special lunch, fortune cookies, and virtual tours of China.

Dukes Court Care Home in Wellingborough enjoyed an arts and crafts session, with residents painting snakes and fans.

Greensand House Care Home in Redhill was transformed with decorations made by residents, exploring traditions and enjoying Chinese food.

Pemberley House Care Home in Basingstoke made a handcrafted Chinese Dragon, with tasty Chinese snacks provided by the Culinary Team.

Acorn Lodge Care Home in Nuneaton embraced Chinese New Year with lantern-making and a Tai Chi session before enjoying a delicious meal.

A heartfelt thank you to all our residents, staff, and families who made Chinese New Year a memorable occasion. Wishing everyone a prosperous and joyful *Year of the Snake!*



A VIP Day at The Mayor's Chambers

Our residents were treated to an unforgettable experience when they were personally invited to The Civic Suite in Solihull for a private audience with Mayor Shahin Ashraf!

The day began with a delightful afternoon tea in The Mayor's private chambers, an exclusive space few are fortunate enough to enter. Shahin shared a charming and unusual fact - the cups used for the occasion have been in use since 1954, adding a touch of history to the moment.

As a special honour, our residents had the privilege of signing the official visitors' book, joining a prestigious list of dignitaries.

The experience continued with an engaging tour, which included a visit to the Council Chambers, where crucial decisions are made. And, of course, there was a fun highlight where everyone had the chance to try on The Mayor's robes!

A huge thank you to Mayor Shahin Ashraf for making this day so memorable. It's certainly one for the books, and we look forward to welcoming you to Birchmere House Care Home in Solihull very soon!



Pony Perfection!

Residents at Avonmere Care Home in Bristol have been having a hoofing great time thanks to regular visits from Pampered Ponies!

These two adorable Shetland ponies trotted in for a special Christmas visit, dressed in their festive finest. While Avonmere Care Home offers plenty of animal therapy, the ponies are firm favourites!

Residents had a wonderful time feeding and brushing them — despite the little “presents” they left behind (which Home Manager Sam kindly cleaned up!). The ponies brought plenty of joy, cuddles, and even a few giggles, proving that a bit of horseplay is always good for the soul.

Everyone's already chomping at the bit for their next visit!



Burns Night

On January 25th, we brought the spirit of the Scottish Highlands to our homes in celebration of Burns Night, honouring Scotland's beloved national poet, Robert Burns. Born in Ayr, Burns penned many famous poems and songs, including the timeless New Year's anthem, Auld Lang Syne, which continues to be sung across the world today.

At Brentwood Arches Care Home in Brentwood, residents were treated to a special visit from a talented bagpiper, who stopped at each door to play, filling the home with the stirring sounds of Scotland.

Over at Eastbourne Gardens Care Home in Eastbourne, residents indulged in a delicious Burns Night supper, lovingly prepared by the home's talented chefs. The traditional Scottish menu featured Cock-a-Leekie soup, followed by haggis with neeps and tatties, bringing an authentic taste of Scotland to the occasion. Adding to the spirit of the evening, residents' family members joined the celebration, proudly wearing their own family clan tartan.

Meanwhile, at St Giles Care Home in Birmingham, residents welcomed visitors from their

neighbouring home, Aran Court Care Home, to share in the festivities. Together, they enjoyed lively entertainment, raising a glass of Irn-Bru in true Scottish style.

The day was filled with Scottish pride, nostalgia, and tradition, bringing joy and fond memories to all who took part.



15 Years of Exceptional Care

South Lodge Care Home in Leicester recently celebrated their fantastic 15th anniversary, marking a huge milestone of providing outstanding care.

Since opening in January 2010, South Lodge Care Home has become a true pillar of the community, offering residential, respite, and dementia care across four lovely floors. Home Manager Donna Bradley couldn't be prouder of the team's dedication to creating a real home for all the residents.

The anniversary celebrations were filled with joy, featuring delicious cakes, a bubbly toast, and live music that had everyone smiling. Long-serving staff and residents were honoured with flowers and gifts in appreciation of their loyalty.

Resident Diane, who's been with South Lodge Care Home for over 11 years, shared, ***"I've been so happy here – it really feels like home!"***



A Slice of Success

National Pie Day was a tremendous success this year, with residents from all our homes baking, sharing, and celebrating with an array of delicious pies.

At Spencer House Care Home in Northampton, fruity pies with homemade pastry stole the show.

Brentwood Arches Care Home in Essex delighted everyone with apple pies, accompanied by drummers playing "American Pie."

Chertsey Parklands Manor Care Home in Chertsey baked sweet pies, while Newcross Care Home in Wolverhampton created apple and raspberry lattice pies, shortbread, and crumble for an indulgent feast.

Acacia Lodge Care Home in Manchester kept it traditional with classic apple pies, and Ashurst Mews Care Home in Northampton added a personal touch, baking individual apple pies while reminiscing about family pie-making stories over tea.

Acer Court Care Home in Nottingham focused on hearty savoury pies with various fillings, and Horse Fair Care Home in Rugeley baked comforting chicken and beef pies. St Giles Care Home in Birmingham served a hearty selection of meat and vegetable pies. Acorn Lodge Care Home in Nuneaton

held lively discussions about pastry techniques alongside a pie quiz, while Bridge Manor Care Home in Wombourne got creative by baking pies with children from the local nursery.



Ex-Wolves Legend Surprises Resident on 100th Birthday

Joan Davies, a lifelong Wolverhampton Wanderers fan and a resident at Newcross Care Home, celebrated her 100th birthday in unforgettable style with a surprise visit from Wolves legends Steve Bull, Steve Daley, and Phil Parkes. Reflecting on the milestone, Joan, born in 1925, said, **"It doesn't feel real,"** and shared her deep connection to the club. Growing up near Molineux, Joan would interact with fans and even collect their bikes, earning a few pennies to share with her mum.

Joan's love for Wolves remained strong over the years, particularly during the electric derbies against West Bromwich Albion. The day of her birthday was made even more special when the players presented her with a personalised Wolves shirt, a teddy bear, and a cake. **"Having Steve Bull and the others here means the world to me,"** Joan said.

The event, organised as part of the Wolves Wishes initiative and supported by the Wolves Foundation, was hosted at Newcross Care Home. Jenna Hughes, the Home Manager, expressed her pride in celebrating Joan's milestone.

Steve Bull, reflecting on Joan's incredible achievement, said, **"Joan is a lovely lady, and I'm so grateful to be here. Reaching 100 is something else!"**



Celebrating our Feathered Friends

On Sunday 5th January, a flock of our homes joined together to celebrate National Bird Day, raising awareness about the vital role birds play in our ecosystem.

Many residents took to the garden to enjoy peaceful birdwatching, spotting a variety of species in their natural habitat.

Meanwhile, others embraced their creative side through bird-themed arts and crafts. At Horse Fair Care Home in Rugeley, residents designed and decorated beautiful wind chimes while sharing their knowledge of different bird species.

Rowan Court Care Home in Newcastle-under-Lyme got hands-on with clay, sculpting unique robins to display in their garden room.

Over at Knowle Gate Care Home in Solihull, residents built and painted charming birdhouses for

their garden in preparation for the RSPB annual Big Garden Birdwatch, hoping they will become a welcoming nesting spot for birds in the future.

Residents at Wandsworth Common Care Home in Wandsworth enjoyed a special visit from Falconry UK Ltd, where they had a hands-on experience with rare birds of prey and listened to a fascinating talk about their habits and history.

Over at Barnet Grange Care Home in Barnet, Performing Pets brought along an owl for a delightful meet-and-greet with residents.

It was a truly uplifting day, filled with appreciation for our feathered friends!



Milestones 2025 February Edition



Albert
Eastbourne Gardens Care Home
101st Birthday, 2nd January



Joyce
Avonmere Care Home
100th Birthday, 6th January



Lore
Elton House Care Home
105th Birthday, 7th January



Hilda
Spencer House Care Home
100th Birthday, 10th January



Ruby
Southampton Manor Care Home
100th Birthday, 12th January



Muriel
Frognaal House Care Home
105th Birthday, 14th January



Rosemary
Brentwood Arches Care Home
104th Birthday, 14th January



Doreen (Elsie)
Hinckley House Care Home
100th Birthday, 16th January

Milestones 2025 February Edition



Annie
Esher Manor Care Home
100th Birthday, 19th January



Joan
Newcross Care Home
100th Birthday, 22nd January



Pauline
Edenbridge Manor Care Home
102nd Birthday, 24th January



Photo of the Month



Florence Armstrong
Middleton Lodge Care Home

Got a story to share?

If you want to be featured in the next edition of Avery Talk, email marketing@averyhealthcare.co.uk with your story and photos by Thursday 27th February.