

# AveryTalk



Welcome to the October edition of Avery Talk, a round-up of all the exciting events and activities that have taken place in and around our homes over the past few weeks. In this issue, read about our Harvest Festival celebrations and hear from residents Malcolm and David at Edenbridge Manor, who have kindly donated their model railway collections to the home for all to enjoy.

I would like to extend my congratulations to Emilio Pascucci, Head Chef at Astbury Manor, who has been named a finalist for Care Chef of the Year at the National Care Awards. This is a fantastic achievement; these prestigious awards recognise exceptional leadership, drive and passion within the care sector. I wish Emilio the very best of luck for the finals.

At Avery, we are proud to have welcomed many couples to reside in our homes over the years. We understand the importance of keeping couples connected when they have cherished a lifetime of moments together, no matter the type of care required. During October and November, we will be sharing some stories from our couples about their journeys together and continuing to create new memories. These will be published on our website and social media; I hope you enjoy reading them.

**Lorna Rose, Chief Executive Officer**

## Ten Years of Grove Park

On 6th September, Grove Park in Leeds celebrated the tenth year since welcoming their inaugural community member in 2013. The sun beamed down on the occasion, providing the perfect backdrop for a jubilant celebration, and a sizzling barbecue!

Residents, staff, and esteemed guests congregated in the garden, toasting the day from the latest garden addition: an outdoor bar. Amidst an air of joy and camaraderie, they indulged in nostalgic conversations, recounting the cherished memories from the past decade. Tales of joy filled the air as the Grove Park family exchanged anecdotes. Adorning the walls of the home, a magnificent display showcased photographs capturing the residents' activities and treasured moments throughout the years. These images evoked tears of sentimentality as they reflected upon the extraordinary times they had experienced within their beloved home.



Home Manager, Lisa Turnbull, expressed her gratitude, stating, "In honour of Grove Park Care Home's tenth anniversary, we took a moment to express our heartfelt appreciation to our remarkable team. This occasion allowed us to reflect, evaluate, and acknowledge their unwavering commitment to providing exceptional care, which forms the bedrock of the extraordinary community that is Grove Park."



# Butlers Mews Grand Opening

On 14th September, staff, and residents at Butlers Mews gathered to celebrate the official grand opening of the home, which was nothing short of spectacular. Upon arrival, guests received a splendid red carpet welcome, a complimentary drink, and delicious canapés. Magician David Fox provided superb entertainment, mesmerising guests with his mystical tricks. Amongst those in attendance was special guest Mayor Councillor Maggie O'Rourke, who performed the ribbon-cutting ceremony and proudly declared the home open alongside loved ones and members of the local community. Speaking of the day, Home Manager Michelle Marriner said, "This was an amazing event; the dedication and passion of our team shone through. We are so proud of the warm and friendly atmosphere we provide for residents and their loved ones, who are very much at the heart of all we do at Butlers Mews."



## Harvest Festivals at Home

Residents across our homes were keen to participate in this year's harvest festival, an important date in British farming to give thanks for a successful yield over the year as winter approaches. The celebrations were kicked off with a variety of fun-filled activities, including arts and crafts, donations to local food banks and enjoying harvest-inspired culinary delights.

Residents at Esher Manor got creative, upcycling items around the home to craft scarecrows they later named Cider and Rosie, for a fabulous harvest-themed display of vegetables and dried flowers.

When Caroline Chambers, Well-being and Activities Co-ordinator, joined Poets Mews four months ago, she discovered many residents had a keen interest in gardening and quickly established a gardening club. She sought advice from resident Edwin, an experienced gardener, and together, they decided to start growing courgettes. After the courgettes were harvested, Edwin generously gave them to the culinary team, who prepared a delicious courgette soup.



Edwin commented, "I was more than happy to support the gardening club and give advice. I like to physically help with as much as possible to the best of my ability. As the courgettes have done so well, we have now planted leaks and carrots, which we hope could be made into a nice autumn soup."

Residents at Avonmere have also turned their hand to gardening, planting tomatoes and runner beans as part of their garden club activity. All took pleasure in tending to the garden, watching the vegetables grow and picking their ripe produce to share with fellow residents. When asked about the activity, resident Mavis said, "I really enjoy going out in the garden and seeing the fruits of our labours."

At Loxley Park, the gardening club has also successfully grown some remarkable tomato plants. A team member generously offered a few small tomato plants from their allotment, which the gardening club members then re-potted and cared for. The group expressed their sincere appreciation for this addition to their thriving gardens.

# All Aboard the Edenbridge Express



When David arrived at Edenbridge Manor in March, he got chatting to his new neighbour Malcolm, across the hallway, and found that they both had a shared passion for model railways. After speaking to the Home Manager, they were granted use of a spare room to build a detailed model railway for all the residents and to amuse children when visiting the home. Becca French, Well-being Co-ordinator, said, "We are very proud of the hard work and dedication that the gentlemen have put into the room. It is the small details in the scene that make it extra special, like the drunk man who has fallen outside the pub and the wedding at the church!"

David has now enlisted the help of some ladies to expand the layout by building a small town with a school, fire station and even an old castle! Malcolm and David have generously donated their model railway collections to the home for residents, staff and visitors to enjoy for many years to come.

## No Act of Kindness is Too Small

At Avery, we are pleased to welcome volunteers who share their time and talents with residents across our homes. Much of their time is spent befriending residents, supporting with activities, or simply enjoying each other's company over a cup of coffee and a chat. Residents at Ascot Grange look forward to weekly visits from eight-year-old Theo, son of Danni, who works as a Dementia Care Assistant at Ascot Grange. He spends time playing games, listening, talking and laughing with residents in what they call 'Theo Therapy'. Danni has described her immense pride as Theo also recently completed the challenge of climbing Ben Nevis in aid of Dementia UK.

Over at Westbourne Tower, residents have received weekly visits from volunteer Sandra for 13 years. Each Tuesday, she plays the piano, taking special requests and encouraging everyone to sing along. Sandra spends time chatting with residents individually and has over 1,000 musical pieces in her repertoire. When she recently celebrated her 82nd birthday, staff and residents threw her a surprise party and commented, "We always enjoy afternoon tea and cake around the piano with Sandra."

At Dukes Court, a team of volunteers from 'Tenerity' provide an extra pair of hands during the home's activities and events. On Wizard of Oz Day, volunteer Sarah served refreshments to residents and guests before joining in with themed games. Resident Diana explained, "It is always nice to see the volunteers. They join in with everything and are always up for a laugh; they are so friendly."

The team at Sonning Gardens have built an invaluable link with their local Oak Bank Secondary School, with student volunteer Angel keeping resident Olive company as they painted together during a still-life art session. Angel completed a week's work experience at Sonning Gardens, stating, "I have learnt so much and formed friendships with residents. My confidence has grown, and I have enjoyed taking part in the activities each day."



# Milestones at Avery



**Joan**  
Beaconsfield Heights  
101<sup>st</sup> Birthday



**Des**  
Chertsey Parklands Manor  
100<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
3<sup>rd</sup> September



**Peter & Patricia**  
Barnet Grange  
63<sup>rd</sup> Wedding Anniversary  
7<sup>th</sup> September



**Ron**  
Droitwich Mews  
100<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
12<sup>th</sup> September



**Pauline**  
Dukes Court  
102<sup>nd</sup> Birthday  
16<sup>th</sup> September



**Teresa**  
Barnet Grange  
102<sup>nd</sup> Birthday  
18<sup>th</sup> September



**Marjorie**  
Acer House  
104<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
21<sup>st</sup> September



**Aranka**  
Beckenham Park  
103<sup>rd</sup> Birthday  
22<sup>nd</sup> September



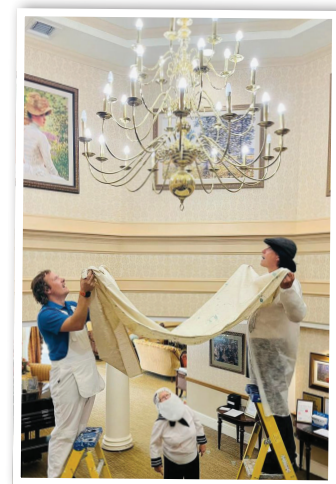
**George & Gwen**  
Butlers Mews  
65<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary  
27<sup>th</sup> September



**John & Anneliese**  
Miramar  
60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary  
29<sup>th</sup> September

## We are #OneFamily

In true #OneFamily spirit, staff and residents across our homes came together on 21<sup>st</sup> September to mark World Gratitude Day – a reminder of the importance of expressing gratitude by showing appreciation for those around us and for all they do. Residents at South Lodge paid a visit to their local fire station, gifting crew members with goodie bags as a thank you for their work. Those at Hempstalls Hall surprised Reverend Ann of Swan Bank Church, who holds weekly services at the home, with homemade cupcakes, whilst Birchmere Mews Home Manager Michelle organised sweet treats for the team to enjoy. Staff members at Avery's Group Support Centre also joined the celebrations, tucking into a selection of fresh fruit and cakes. Over at Dukes Court, Housekeeper Natalie was voted Employee of the Month for September. Resident Shirley explained, "Natalie always smiles and stops for a chat. She is never too busy to sit and listen about my day; she's worth her weight in gold."



## PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Staff and residents at Eastbourne Gardens recreated the iconic chandelier scene from the popular sitcom, Only Fools & Horses.

Rodney: Jamie, Head of Maintenance  
Delboy: Paul, Minibus Driver  
Uncle Albert: Heather, Activities Assistant

# Emilio Receives Sector Recognition

We are thrilled to share that Emilio Pascucci, Head Chef at Astbury Manor, has been named a finalist for Care Chef of the Year at the National Care Awards 2023. Caring Times National Care Awards are returning for the 25th year to celebrate all outstanding employees in the social care sector, with the awards ceremony due to be held on 24th November at Platinum Suite in London.

Best of luck, Emilio!

## A Brilliant, Phizz - Whizzing Day

National Roald Dahl Day on September 13th united residents to honour the extraordinary life of Roald Dahl, a literary genius who wove tales that transcended the boundaries of imagination. With his pioneering narratives, he beckoned us to embark on a whimsical journey, where Oompa Loompas danced, giant peaches soared, and the Twits revelled in their mischievous antics.

The spirit of Dahl's creations permeated our homes, with Sonning Gardens transformed into Willy Wonka's legendary chocolate factory, a delectable fusion with International Chocolate Day. They had everything from chocolate trees to Willy Wonka himself. Brentwood Arches residents immersed themselves in the shoes of Charlie Bucket, engaging in a thrilling quest to discover the coveted golden ticket to win some scrumpdiddlyumptious prizes. Meanwhile, at Hampstead Court, the air was filled with wonder as residents participated in a myriad of activities inspired by Dahl's enchanting tales, from pinning the tail on 'Fantastic Mr Fox' to indulging in the mesmerising world of the BFG on the grand screen. Dream catchers and twinkling dream jars materialised, capturing the essence of Dahl's magical realm.



For any queries, comments or to submit articles, please contact [marketing@averyhealthcare.co.uk](mailto:marketing@averyhealthcare.co.uk)

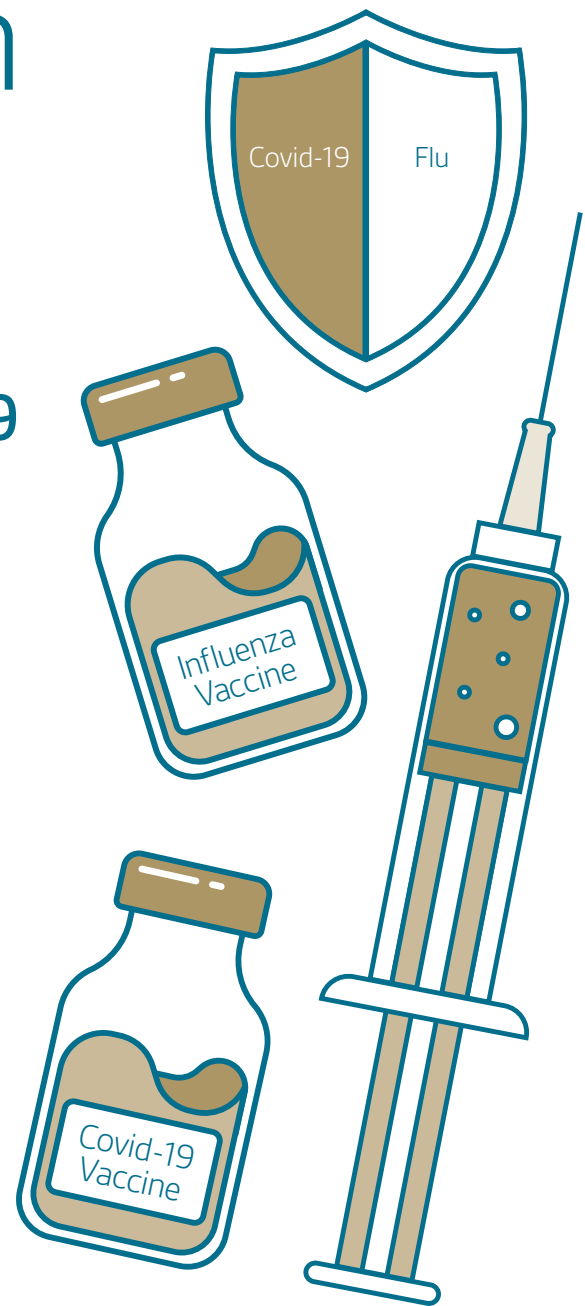
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