November 2025 newsletter

Recent events:

November has been another very busy month with lots going on for our residents to keep them stimulated and occupied as winter approaches. We even had our first snow fall which created excitement within the home!

Our usual array of activities has been on offer including flower arranging making smaller displays from large bouquets of flowers. This is always an enjoyable activity and everyone appreciates the flower displays that are distributed around the home.

Residents have received regular manicures, hand massages and had their nails painted on a regular basis. This is always a popular and frequently requested activity. The ladies of Elmfield love to show off their chosen colour after their pamper session.

Residents have also been treated to soothing face masks and relaxing foot spas as part of our pampering activities and boosts residents' self- esteem.

We have conducted several 'Fun with food' activities including cake decorating, making cupcakes, scones and quiche. Joyce in particular cannot resist the cakes and eats them immediately after decorating them before the icing has even set!

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As part of our desire to empower residents to keep their independence, Madeleine and Joan helped Ciara to do some laminating. June has escorted staff to Sainsburys and has also helped to walk Honey on a regular basis, as has Rosie too on daily walks around the green. June has helped to set the tables ready for lunch and also folds the laundry at times to keep herself occupied.

Residents have participated in reminiscing sessions with staff sharing memories, experiences and their thoughts on life events, as well as sharing advice with the younger generations of staff. This is always a thought-provoking activity and is a fantastic way for staff and residents to get to know each other through sharing of memories.

Madeleine has been doing painting and proudly showed off her finished clay scarecrows which were very brightly painted. Ann loved them so much that she asked Maddie to gift her one, which she duly did much to Ann's delight!

Joan spent an afternoon doing scratch art which she thoroughly enjoyed.

Residents have been playing skittles and this continues to be a competitive game with Jan, Mohammed and Pat scoring strikes! Well done to all of you!

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Niccii and Dawn escorted Madeleine into Camberley to change her address at the bank. Madeleine also wanted to do a bit of shopping and bought herself a calendar, some Christmas cards and clothing. They also had coffee and lunch together. Madeleine had a wonderful day out and was very appreciative to staff for giving up their day off to take her out.

Aimee supported residents to make birthday cards for Joan's 106th birthday, as part of an arts and crafts afternoon. This was cleverly done when Joan was having bed rest to ensure that this would be a surprise on her birthday. There are some lovely cards designed by our residents!

Residents enjoyed their games of bingo. David has also played draughts with staff which is one of his favourite past times. Other game splayed with residents include ludo and matching games.

We were delighted to see Helen and Gasper who visited us armed with goodies for afternoon tea. Everyone looks forward to seeing Gasper and he really enjoys the attention and being stroked by his friends at Elmfield.

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We were lucky enough to see Gasper as part of the Remembrance Day parade too, dressed smartly with his purple Poppies in his mane to remember the animals lost in war.

Niccii, Chris and KB took June, Rosie, John, Ann, Joan and Madeleine across to the Cenotaph on Bisley Green for the annual Remembrance Day service. Thank- you to Jamie for very kindly carrying our bench across prior to the service so that residents could sit down for the service and also for helping escort residents to/ from the service.

Reverend Fiona led the service, with the Almac brass band, soldiers from Pirbright camp, the Royal British Legion, Bisley scouts and children from Bisley school, all playing roles in the service which was as touching as ever. A lot of time and effort goes into organising such events so we are grateful to the members of the Parish who dedicate their time into ensuring this important village event goes ahead.

Another long- standing village event that we always strive to attend is the annual Bonfire and firework display which took place on the green on 8th November. Unfortunately, the weather was awful and the understandably, the rain deterred residents from wanting to go to the event. We are lucky to have the porch area and several residents enjoyed hot drinks in the porch and watched the display from the warmth and comfort of the home instead of catching cold outside.

Residents have participated in several quizzes with Jan, Tony and Rosie being our quiz- master winners. We had themed quizzes for Bonfire night as well as one for Remembrance Day.

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Niccii, Lovejoy, Susan and Sam escorted a group of residents across to the Hen and Chicks for an afternoon beverage. Madeleine, Ann, Roger, John, Tony, Joan, June and Rosie all enjoyed a change of scenery and had a good chat and drink in the pub. One of Rosie's friends also joined us which was lovely. Everyone had a great time and we were chatting to the regulars in the pub as we usually do.

We collaborated with three performing arts students from the university in Guildford to conduct a Community Music Collective project. We had three wonderful afternoons spent with Loz (composer), Sophie (musical director) and Evan (movement director). Prior to their visits, Niccii had met up with them to discuss resident's musical preferences, physical capabilities and engagement levels, as well as conducting relevant risk assessments and health and safety protocols.

When the group came to the home, they spent 1:1 time with residents discussing preferences, experiences and interests in music, theatre and the performing arts. They played charades, musical bingo and performed a show for the residents which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone! The group very cleverly incorporated a range of genres into their show in accordance to the identified likes of our residents, this included Abba, Elvis, classical music, jazz and rock 'n' roll. The feedback session was done in front of the group's tutor, who was very impressed with the outcome and the resident's positive feedback.

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Upcoming events:

In December we have lots of Festive events occurring in the run up to Christmas.

On 3rd December, we have a very special 106th birthday for Joan Clark. This is an amazing achievement and Joan will be spending the day with loved ones. She has requested for someone to sing Elvis for her, so Niccii has arranged for Priscilla Chandro, to come to the home and do a show for Joan and the residents, including some Elvis melodies.

Al Pinkerton, our local MP will also be paying a visit on Joan's birthday week, as well as Helen and Gasper who Joan adores!

On 4th December we will welcome Bisley 1st Scouts to Elmfield for their Christmas visit. They are making handmade gifts and cards for each resident to hand out on their visit and will be sharing mince pies with us. Our residents love their visits to the home and there is usually a large group of Scouts who come to visit, which definitely brings a smile to everyone's faces!

Louise will be entertaining residents on 10th December with her performance. Residents really look forward to Louise's shows and everyone loves a sing- along. Louise knows the residents very well and sings a great combination of songs to suit all preferences.

We have Christmas jumper day on the 11th December, although we will likely keep up the trend until Christmas should staff or residents choose to do so. This will bring Christmas cheer to everyone and gets us in the Festive mood.

There will be the annual Christmas performance from the Almac Brass Band in the village hall on the evening of 13th December. This is their carol service show and will no doubt be very popular, as always. We will aim to take any residents who wish to attend, depending on the weather.

We have a special day for Madeleine on 11th December as she will be baptised at St John the Baptist's Church in Bisley. Madeleine expressed a desire in the summer to get Baptised following her renewed interest in her Faith. Niccii has liaised with Reverend Cara who has very kindly been visiting Madeleine on a weekly basis preparing her for pending Baptism. Cara and Niccii have helped Madeleine choose her hymns, prayers and to understand what is involved. Madeleine is really looking forward to this day and to celebrate her first Christmas as a child of God.

We were delighted to be invited for afternoon tea at Bisley primary school which will take place on 15th December. Pre- Covid, we used to have an excellent relationship with Bisley primary school with pen pal letters, 'Beyond the classroom learning' projects and regular interactions. Niccii and Clare (the head teacher) are planning to schedule more interactions in 2026, as both share the vision of being valued and visible within the community.

Following on from previous years, we have been invited to stream a theatre production of 'A Christmas Carol' from the Old Vic theatre which our residents will be delighted with. Who wouldn't love the theatre from the comfort of your own lounge?! From past experience, this is always an enjoyable event and we will have the pop corn ready.

On 16th December, we will be having our annual carol service with the choir from Bisley church. There will also be a Christmas service and Holy Communion from Reverend Fiona. In the count-down to Christmas, and the true meaning in accordance to Christianity, this really is an important month in the religious calendar.

Tony's daughter, Amanda, has very kindly offered to come to Elmfield on Christmas Eve to perform some Christmas carols using her instrument. Her husband Eian, also plays in the brass band, and their two children have also followed in their footsteps by playing instruments. This truly is a lovely gesture and we are delighted that they will sharing their talents and giving up their time to perform for our residents. We will have an afternoon tea afterwards.

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Staff and resident changes:

We have welcomed Eve Riddalls to our care team. Eve used to volunteer at Elmfield as part of her Duke of Edinburgh award. Eve is going to work on Saturdays around her college commitments. Eve is in the process of completing her care certificate and has been doing shadow shifts and mandatory training to prepare her for her new role.

Birthdays:

In November, we had two birthdays to celebrate. Rosie Lewis celebrated her 89th birthday on 22nd November. Rosie had lots of family and friends visit her and she went to the Hen and Chicks with her son James. Rosie had a lovely day and enjoyed the buffet and birthday cake with her friends at Elmfield.

Our second November birthday was Joan Szekeres who had a special 90th birthday on 26th November. Joan also had lots of visitors and went out for lunch at Squire's garden centre. Joan had a wonderful birthday and although she chose to stay in her room for the birthday buffet, Joan was delighted with her birthday cake and staff taking the time to sing "Happy Birthday" to her.

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Other news:

The final medication reviews for the year will take place mid- December with Niccii and Ruby who is a Doctor at Chobham and West End surgery. Any changes will be communicated to families in due course when the changes are implemented.

On 8th December we will be changing our medication administration process from using original boxes to using a tray and pod system.

The trays are specific to the time-of-day Eg morning, lunch, teatime, bedtime and contain twenty- eight pods which have the medication pre- dispensed. The pod details the resident' name, medication and dose inside the pod, date and time. Liquids, eye drops, inhalers, sachets, injections etc will obviously not be in the pods and will be kept in the medication trolleys on shelves.

This process will be much less time consuming therefore benefitting staff and also residents, as care staff will have more time to spend with them rather than administering medication.

The new system is supplied by Park Pharmacy who we transferred to in November.

We are aiming to have digital MAR chart recording systems in place by the spring of 2026.

Regular visitors will be aware that we have been having on-going internet issues recently. This appears to be linked to when we changed provider and we have replaced the router and had BT engineers out on multiple occasions to rectify this problem. Unfortunately, our telephone lines are connected via wi-fi so when the internet is intermittent, our phone lines have also been down. Apologies for any inconvenience this has caused whilst the problem is being dealt with.

Manager's mention:

Niccii would like to show gratitude to Chris Peterson for her input in co-production with Park Pharmacy to oversee a smooth transition in changing pharmacies and the hours of preparation and information sharing that is needed to ensure the changeover is seamless.

Thank you to Sharon and Alisha for helping out with some administrative based tasks to support the senior team. This is appreciated.

Also, gratitude is expressed to Rafiatu who very kindly offered to cover some day shifts whilst she was on annual leave from her night shifts. This is acknowledged and appreciated.

Thank you to Julie and Jade for their trips to and from the laundrette when the washing machine was awaiting repair. This was essential in ensuring that the laundry was being kept on top of so thank- you both.

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