September 2026 newsletter

Recent events:

The Jay Miller Circus has been touring for forty years now, and residents were delighted to be offered the opportunity to attend the circus as we have done for many years now. Niccii, Jade and Dawn took Jan, Joan, Jaleh, Rosie, Pearl and Hsiou to the circus and everyone had a wonderful time! There were acrobats, dance shows, clowns, juggling, aerial acts and lots more! We saw some long- established acts from within the Miller family, as well as some new additions to the Jay Miller's circus, and Jan was excited that her favourite clown Peppi was still there entertaining the crowds!

We had a great time and there was lots of laughter and gasps in awe. Madeleine, Jade and Dawn had never been to the circus before so it was a new experience for them.

September 2026 newsletter

Recent events:

Another month has passed and the mild weather has continued. The wonderful 'Teas on the rec' raised over £15,000 over the summer for local charities at their weekly event. We are very proud to have been able to attend almost every single week and are proud to be part of the village community. We now look forward to the monthly indoor event in the village hall.

Pearl has enjoyed the solitude of our picturesque garden, often spending time sat outside reflecting, relaxing and enjoying the peace and quiet! Hsiou and Pearl continued to assist staff with watering the flowers and plants in our garden.

Residents have been escorted for walks around the green and to the local Sainsburys including Hsiou, Madeleine and Jaleh.

Jan, Joan, Madeleine, Pearl and Rosie have enjoyed our 'Fun with food' activities and we have enjoyed baking cookies, biscuits and decorating cakes. Madeleine is delighted to have her own printed out recipes for our baking activities and with the help of other residents, they decide what items to bake.

Joan and Madeleine agreed to bake biscuits and used the cut- out shapes to make heart, rabbit and star shaped biscuits with Janey.

On another occasion, Jan and Pearl were in charge of cake decorating and made the icing and added sprinkles, but were both caught red- handed eating the cakes! It is only fair they get to sample their handiwork before the others!

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Recent events:

Rosie and Madeleine enjoyed doing some flower arranging with some beautiful bunches of flowers that Jane P very kindly brought in.

Residents have kept active in our ‘Move it or lose it’ activities such as chair- based exercises with Sheila and Joan leading the group! Our stretch and move activities are very popular and are a fun way to exercise without it being a tedious task.

Residents have enjoyed playing hoopla, target throwing, bean bag throwing and darts, all which requires concentration, spatial awareness and stamina.

We have enjoyed multiple sing- along and music session using the main television in the lounge to show concerts, play music videos upon request and create our own unique playlist! At times, residents have asked to use our musical instruments in unison to the background music which is great fun, but can be a little too loud for one or two residents!

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Recent events:

Residents were delighted to have Louise perform a show in the home. Her playlist included known favourites for our residents and a range of well- known songs across the decades. Pearl and Roger enjoyed dancing with staff whilst others sang along, clapped their hands and swayed along to the music. Everyone is looking forward to Louise's next visit with June wishing she could come every week!

Aimee supported residents to do some Autumn themed painting and Sheila, Jan, Joan and Madeleine all created some wonderful Bonfire pictures using lollipop sticks and paints. This activity promoted conversations around the origin of Bonfire night hundreds of years ago.

Residents have enjoyed their frequent pamper days with Chloe coming fortnightly to style our residents hair and maintaining our glamourous ladies' locks! As requested, staff regularly offer our residents manicures, nail polishes and foot spas. Even our male residents like their nails to be kept clean and tidy!

Roy has proved to be our new quiz master and regularly scores top marks on our trivia games and quizzes. Roy, Pearl, Sheila, Madeleine and Joan have regularly enjoyed doing wordsearches, crosswords and matching games from the selection of handouts Niccii printed to promote mental stimulation. Some residents required support but almost everyone has a go and has their preferred topics of expertise!

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Recent events:

Alisha remains on maternity leave but has been a regular visitor to Elmfield. Everyone was delighted when Alisha visited with her baby daughter Poppy. Poppy was very content having cuddles with Pearl, Denise, Madeleine and June. Pearl even volunteered for babysitting duties! It was lovely to see them both and nice to see how much Poppy has grown since her last visit! Thank-you Alisha for taking the time to visit us and we hope to see you again soon.

Joan and Madeleine played their usual game of spotting themselves in our monthly letter and thoroughly enjoy seeing themselves featured in the newsletter!

Aimee did some reflection handouts with residents where a group of residents shared their biggest challenges in their lifetimes. Several shared advice on how to overcome these obstacles and the activity promoted some very interesting conversations.

September 2026 newsletter

Recent events:

Earlier in the summer, we were very fortunate to have the lovely Rosie Bryden with us as completing her work experience with us. Rosie enjoyed the experience so much that she asked Niccii to come back weekly as a volunteer to see residents and do activities with them. Rosie will be with us every Wednesday between 4-6pm. On her first afternoon, Rosie played snakes and ladders with Jan and Madeleine, with Madeleine being the winner over three games.

Rosie also spent time chatting to June, Mohammad, Bob and David catching up on how thy had been over the summer and any family news they wished to share. We are looking forward to seeing more of Rosie over the coming weeks and months and are very grateful to Rosie for sharing her time with us.

September 2026 newsletter

Upcoming events:

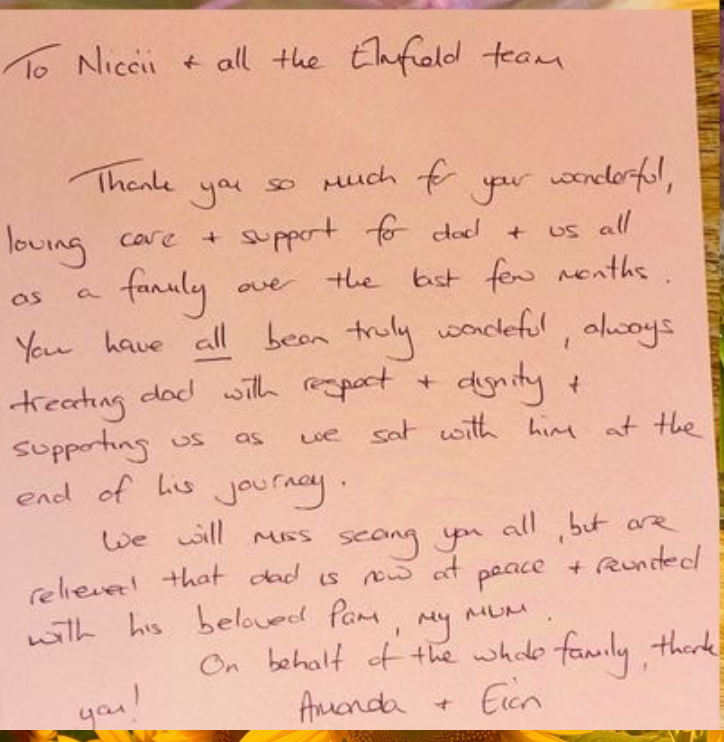
We are hoping that there will be the Autumn fayre in Bisley which commenced last year. As of yet, there haven't been any advertisements but staff are keeping a look- out on the village social media pages.

Depending on the weather, we are hoping to attend the coffee mornings in the village hall. We tend to take smaller groups to this as they take place in the morning which is a busy time of day in the home.

We are still eagerly awaiting the re-opening of the refurbished Hen and Chicks pub so that residents can resume their outings there. Social media has shown that the final part of the upgrading project has commenced which is the kitchen area so fingers crossed, it won't be much longer until the grand opening.

As autumn approaches, most of our activities will be based indoors and Niccii is currently reaching out to organisations and friends of Elmfield to visit us within the home.

Covid and flu vaccinations have been confirmed to take place in the home on the morning of 20th October for those who have consented to have these vaccinations. Consent forms have been completed and the vaccination team are aware of the quantities to administer.



September 2026 newsletter

Birthday:

We had a wonderful day celebrating Bob's 86th birthday on 13th September. He hated to admit it, but getting older isn't that bad! Bob enjoyed the attention from staff and residents making a fuss of him. He had visits and phone calls from multiple family and friends who shared birthday wishes.

We had our usual buffet tea and Kim made a birthday cake for Bob. Everyone sang "Happy birthday" and it was a lovely day all round. The birthday cake was devoured and thoroughly enjoyed. Bob even had two pieces as he requested another slice for his supper!

September 2026 newsletter

Staff and resident changes:

We are heartbroken to say that Tony passed away peacefully following a long period of end- of- life care within the home, with the support of the district nursing team. Tony really was one in a million, and is sadly missed at Elmfield and our thoughts have been with his family, who really have had an emotional rollercoaster over the last few months. Tony will always be remembered in our Elmfield family. May he RIP. Thank you to Amanda for the lovely card, flowers and chocolates, they were much appreciated.

We welcomed Michael Rosher to Elmfield for emergency respite for a week. Michael was a true gentleman and he bonded very well with Roy. The two of them often discussed the daily news from Roy's newspaper, put the world to rights and talked about their life experiences.

We also welcomed Jaleh Grobien to Elmfield who has moved from the London boroughs to be closer to her son following a prolonged hospital admission. Jaleh really is a character and has formed a good friendship with Pearl. They have self- titled themselves 'The Queens of Elmfield' and their personalities certainly reflect this belief!

We have welcomed the lovely Jean Ratcliffe to our home who is with us for respite initially. Jean is a local lady and has adapted very well to our home. Jean enjoys the social interactions with residents and staff within the home. She is also enjoying the meals and was very pleased with the hairdresser! Welcome Jean, we are looking forward to getting to know you more over the coming weeks!

Gemma who worked as kitchen assistant on a Sunday has left us to continue the next chapter in her life journey as she has gone to university. Gemma will be missed and we wish her the best of luck in her future studies!

September 2026 newsletter

Other News:

Unfortunately, our Church service had to be cancelled this month as Reverend Cara had broken her ankle. We wish her a speedy recovery and our thoughts and prayers were with her.

Reverend Fiona came to Elmfield to introduce herself to Jaleh who is a devout Christian. Reverend Fiona very kindly gave Jaleh a Bible to read and said some prayers with Jaleh of which she was extremely grateful for the time taken to visit her.

Speaking of broken bones, Niccii finally had confirmation that the pain in her foot was actually stress fractures on two metatarsals. Unfortunately, the breaks weren't recognised on her first x-ray but were picked up on the second one and MRI scans.

The floor project is finally completed downstairs with the staff room being the last area to be upgraded. The upstairs rooms will be the next phrase of the improvements to Elmfield. It is anticipated that when the upstairs bedroom floors are being done, that the en-suite area will be renovated too with the intention to minimise disruption.

As previously mentioned, Healthwatch are coming to Elmfield in October. Healthwatch are an independent organisation who work closely with the local authorities, NHS England and CQC to gain experiences from people using such health and social care services and they share best practices within the types of settings.

Our last Healthwatch visit was in 2024. Our visit on 8th October will be focusing solely on oral care in care homes. This has been an area widely discussed in recent years as social care with barriers to accessing dental treatment, expenses involved, many residents being dependent on support with oral hygiene, lack of training and other implications relating to oral care such as nutrition, infection and weight loss.

Ahead of their visit, Niccii completed a telephone interview and assessment, as she will be on holiday abroad when they visit. This interview consisted of sharing practices, information and resources.

On the day of the visit, there will be a team of four inspectors who will work in pairs. The inspectors will speak to care staff on duty to gain insight into their knowledge and understanding of oral care in a care setting. They will also speak to residents with capacity if they consent to talk with them regarding their experiences of oral care, their perception of how staff perform this oral hygiene and their access to dental care.

The inspectors will look at how oral care is recorded on both daily care notes as well as individual care plans, look at our oral hygiene keyworker assessments we use, other documentation and our oral hygiene policy and procedure.

Healthwatch are inspecting seven homes on oral hygiene and once they have their data and information, they will invite all participants to a feedback session highlighting examples of good practice they have observed, sharing feedback on how homes can improve and sharing information that can be sued by oral hygiene champions within the homes.

We are proud to be involved in this pilot study and although confident we are performing well, we are always eager to learn more and use constructive criticism to improve. There are well known barriers to accessing dental services as well as dieticians and speech and language teams so hopefully projects like this will help raise awareness so accessibility can be improved in the future.

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Manager's mention:

Niccii would like to express a big THANK YOU to Fumi and Noadia for consistently covering the vacant night shifts. Nights can be difficult to cover therefore this is much appreciated. Also, appreciation to Janey for covering both care and cooking shifts in September.

Niccii would also like to show appreciation to Paula and Chris S for their reliability, consistency and positive attitudes. Despite both being relatively new members to the team, they have also been influential in helping Stella settle into the routine and care practices.

Niccii would also like to thanks the seniors and Aimee for their support in creating care plans and assessments for our new admissions. Three new care plans for Michael, Jaleh and Jean is a lot of work in addition to completing the existing ones.

Also, gratitude to the care staff on shift, and Julie too who also contribute to the completion of documentation when we have new residents. This is much appreciated and evidence of great teamwork when there is always other tasks to do.

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