

THE ABBEYFIELD ANGEL



LIFE AT THE ABBEYFIELD WEY VALLEY SOCIETY

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2 WELCOME TO THE ABBEYFIELD ANGEL

The Abbeyfield Angel is our newsletter keeping you up to date with all things within the Abbeyfield Wey Valley Society's family. As a charity, we love to embrace our local friends with our residents, staff and volunteers all playing an active role in putting us at the heart of our community.

3 WELCOME FROM OUR TRUSTEES

Gillian Ward, the Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees writes a few words for this edition.

3 SHELTERED HOUSING - INDEPENDENT LIFE

Sheltered Housing is an important ingredient within AWVS care offering. We profile our homes and the personalities enjoying independent life within them. In this issue we take a look at Kemnal, our home that sits in the picturesque town of Haslemere.

5 HATCH MILL - A HOME THROUGH THE AGES

Linda Marsh, and our friends at the Museum of Farnham provide us with a fascinating account of our historic Hatch Mill home in Farnham which dates back to 1231.

6 WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON

We always make the most of life at Abbeyfield Wey Valley Society. Our teams' passion is infectious and whatever life has thrown at us everyone within the AWVS has faced it head on with a smile, a laugh and just the odd tear.

7 THE GOSTREY DAY CENTRE - FOR OLDER PEOPLE

We have close links with our local communities and there are some wonderful people doing wonderful things. In this edition we hear from our friends at the Gostrey Day Centre who offer social day-time activities in their new location at the Memorial Hall in Farnham.

8 ABBEYFIELD WVS HIDDEN HEROES -

Whenever a new resident joins us at any of our homes their room always undergoes a full decoration and re-furb ensuring it is spic and span for their prized possessions. We talk to Jack, our maintenance manager on how he, together with his team have managed to juggle the upkeep of all our lovely spaces.

Welcome to Abbeyfield Wey Valley.

Summer is here and the gardens are looking splendid at our homes. Life continues to be filled with fun and laughter and no-one has been more busy than our activities team providing lots of opportunity for our residents to make the most of what summer has to offer.

Here's hoping we see a continuation of the lock down easing measures and we all get to share some pleasant autumn weather with our loved ones over the next few months.

Enjoy reading about our special community and we hope to see you all soon.

The Abbeyfield Angels
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Care | Compassion | Companionship

A few words from Gillian Ward our Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees



We have just had Mental Health Awareness Week which focused on connecting with nature.

I tried that – an article I read told me to walk on the grass barefoot to connect with nature. Not a good idea – I trod on a stray thistle hidden in the lawn.

I have also attempted, yet again, to persuade an avocado stone to germinate but despite frequent inspections, careful watering, talking to it, threatening it etc. I've failed to make it grow. Maybe it would have been happier to be allowed to get on with things by itself.

Is there such a thing as over-nurturing I wonder? My daughter might say that over-nurturing is very annoying on occasions, when I automatically put out a hand to take hers when crossing the road – especially now she's an adult and much more capable than me. However, we all need nurturing (and over-nurturing at times) so a big hurrah for all our Abbeyfield staff who are so good at it!



Kemnal
Haslemere



INDEPENDENCE, SUPPORT AND COMMUNITY, ALL WRAPPED UP INTO ONE LIFESTYLE

Kemnal is a beautiful grade two listed building situated in its own grounds on the outskirts of Haslemere. It provides home to a small community of seven lovely residents who are supported by Janet, the House Manager.

Having worked in nursing and care for most of her life, Janet joined Kemnal in 2018 and loves helping create a special homely feel within the house. She has five grandchildren and two great grandchildren who live locally so has plenty of experience of nurturing a caring environment!

"Bringing people together who have many different and interesting backgrounds is fascinating, says Janet, "our residents have some amazing stories to share and we have many a laugh over afternoon tea or supper"

Kemnal was designed in 1888 by Richard Norman Shaw, an architect who was most renowned for designing the New Scotland Yard buildings in London. Shaw designed a number of country houses and was pre-eminent among Victorian architects for the sincerity of his art.

The home is a long two-storey building in warm brick with the garden elevation jettied out on wooden brackets and the entire upper storey authentically tile hung. A beautiful building, home to a lovely AWVS community.



Kemnal sits on the outskirts of the lovely town of Haslemere (above)

Our wonderful community in pictures.



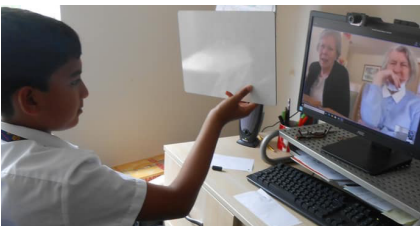
Fish & Chips, ice cream and plenty of laughter - summer seaside day 2021



A very Happy Birthday to two of Ridgway Court's Centenarians Margaret (left) 103 and Priscilla (right) 102



(above) Summer Garden parties with family friends sharing delicious home baked cakes



(Above left) one of our friends from More House School (Above centre) Inspirational Art at Hatch Mill
(Above Right) Tai Chi classes at Kemnal

HATCH MILL, A HOME THROUGH THE AGES

By Linda Marsh, from Farnham Museum.

Hatch Mill is now an Abbeyfield care home, but the history of this site goes back many centuries. Although there had been a mill on this site for many years the first mention is in the year 1231 when it was used by the monks of Waverley Abbey as a fulling mill for cloth and was leased from the Bishop of Winchester, Peter de la Roche at a cost of 10s, and later the rent was increased to 40s. By 1691 the mill was used for corn and was still in the ownership of the Bishops of Winchester who continued to rent it to others. In 1722 John Stanton was recorded as the miller, although a diocesan lease has him leasing this from 1697. By 1773 John Pisely was the miller and in 1798 he surrendered this lease for a new one. John's son Joseph continued in the business until 1832. In 1833, after the death of Joseph the lease was taken by James Darvill, a draper of Farnham, remaining in the family until 1870. Later on the Darvill family purchased the freehold from the Bishop. The 1859 Land Tax Assessment refers to James Darvill as the owner occupier of 'Bishop's Mill'. Between 1773 and 1889 the mill was referred to as Wool Mead Hatch Mill, East Mill and the Lord Bishop's Corn Mill.

Between 1870 and 1890 the mill was owned by Henry Rose. In 1890 the Wool Mead Hatch Mill was purchased by Mr E Bide for the sum of £1,000. He used the building as a dairy and firewood factory.

At the turn of the twentieth century the building was used as a laundry until 1962 when the building was purchased by Farnham Urban District Council at a

cost of £17,000 and was used as a civil defence centre. Later the building was used by a motor oil company, and then by the Redgrave Theatre for rehearsal and storage space. At some point it was used by the Museum of Farnham for off-site storage.

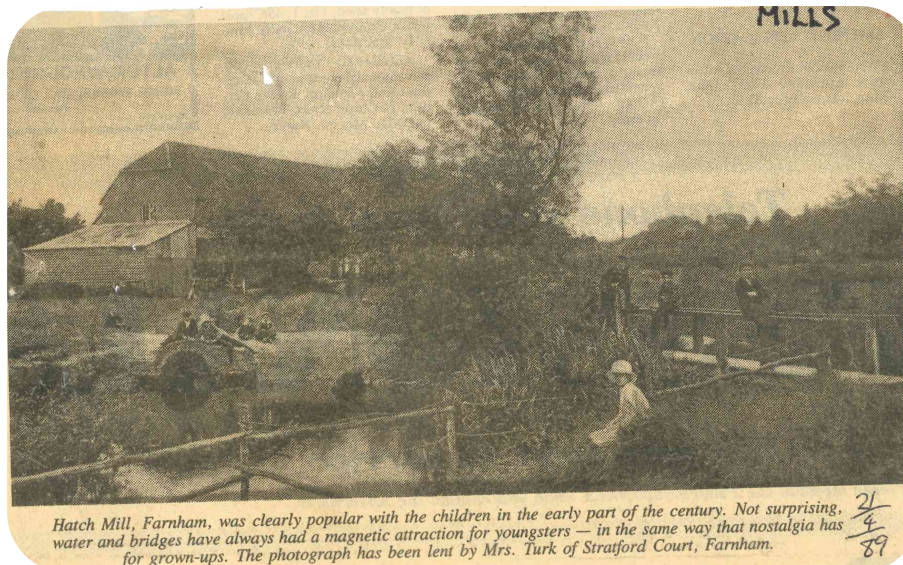
In 1938 Surrey County Council proposed a compulsory purchase order of 3.65 acres of the laundry's 5 acres. The laundry company employed the services of architects A J & L R Stedman of South Street to make plans for the reconstruction of the building on the remaining land. A Surrey County Council map of 1939 shows the proposed bypass going through the property of the laundry which was later amended.

The laundry wrote about the impact of this road on the business in an effort to increase the compensation from £2,500 to £3,000.

In the 1990's The Abbeyfield Wey Valley Society and the architects Milton of Alton, in association with Waverley Borough council were looking for a suitable site for a care home. In 1995 it was suggested that the Hatch Mill might be suitable for such a conversion and on 22nd of March 1999 the keys to Hatch Mill

were passed to the chairman of The Abbeyfield Wey Valley Society Mr Joe Sheldon by Cllr Marie Kinghele. The home was completed in 2001 and was formally opened by Viscount Montgomery of Alamein on 15 November 2001 and Abbeyfield Wey Valley Society has been

an integral part of the local community ever since.



Hatch Mill, Farnham, was clearly popular with the children in the early part of the century. Not surprising, water and bridges have always had a magnetic attraction for youngsters — in the same way that nostalgia has for grown-ups. The photograph has been lent by Mrs. Turk of Stratford Court, Farnham.

As always, there is plenty to celebrate and enjoy within the Abbeyfield Wey Valley family.



WE'RE ALL "STAYING" ON A SUMMER HOLIDAY

Our seaside day once again proved to be a roaring success. Everyone enjoyed a fish and chip takeaway from the local shop and the visit from the ice cream van put everyone in the seaside mood! We even had a seagull or two for good measure. Yes, we would love to be going on our annual trips to the beach but we certainly had plenty of fun bringing the coast to us.

Meanwhile, our sheltered homes enjoyed some seasonal celebrations too. Each home held a traditional summer garden party for its residents and their loved ones with some lovely home cooked scones and cakes, fine tea and even a little sunshine too - Happy Days!

TWO CENTENARIANS RIDGWAY COURT

A very Happy Birthday to our two centenarians at Ridgway Court. Margaret turned 103 recently and her friend Priscilla, a mere youngster, turned 102.

It was an honour to celebrate your Birthdays with you ladies, and we are proud to have you both as active members of our Abbeyfield family.

CONNECTING THE GENERATIONS

Our residents have long since had close ties with our young friends at More House School. The pupils from the school in Frensham often share letters with their pen pals at our homes and recently they set up a virtual tour get together on Zoom.

It was amazing for the residents to be able to put faces to the letters and thanks to the IT skills of all concerned the event went really smoothly.

Considering most of us did not know what Zoom was eighteen months ago, it's great to see that technology now allows us the opportunity to communicate in a such a way .

Thanks to all the youngsters at More House, you were great hosts and are a credit to both your families and your school. We all look forward to our next virtual get together.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN COAL & COKE ?

Now there's a question we should have asked ourselves before printing John Burston's fascinating insight into the history of Guildford in the last edition of Abbeyfield Angel.

Answer:

Coal is a shiny, black fossil fuel that contains impurities, emits smoke when burned, and produces less heat than coke. Coke is a dull, black byproduct of coal that burns hotter and cleaner.

Thanks for reminding us of this John - and thanks for your great article which was enjoyed very much by all our readers

BAKE,NATTER & ROLL WOMENS INSTITUTE

All three of Abbeyfield Wey Valley's Farnham homes had a lovely surprise when Bake,Natter & Roll Womens Institute in central Farnham popped in to give the Abbeyfield Angels an array of their home made cakes. The kind gesture was to say thank you to the team for their continued passion and dedication to keep everyone safe and well despite all the challenges thrown at them. We can say there is no better way to thank us - they were gorgeous- thank you Bake,Natter & Roll !



BRIGHTWELLS GOSTREY

Brightwells Gostrey is a fellow Farnham based charity that offers support and company to older people in its Day Centre



"Life is like a cup of tea, to be filled to the brim, and enjoyed with friends" - and life has certainly been different for us all; with our everyday 'normal' routines such as spending time with family and friends, attending classes to enjoying a day out having to dramatically change. However, with brighter skies on the horizon and a return to some of the things we have desperately missed, the storm seems to be passing.

Brightwells Gostrey has been in the heart of the Farnham community (for older people 65+) for over 30 years, providing a warm and friendly place to meet or make friends, have a cup of coffee, enjoy lunch, take part in a group/activity, or start a new hobby.



After having to close our doors for well over a year, we were delighted to reopen at the beginning of June, filling our home at the Memorial Hall with laughter and friendship once again.

Although we are having to do things a little differently at the moment, our core elements remain the same with our freshly cooked lunches as well as a wide variety of activities. These include arts, crafts, bingo, traditional games, exercise as well as some new groups such as computer/technology classes, knitting, crochet, dress making, yoga and gardening (great British weather dependent).

When restrictions lift further, we will be returning to our full programme including singing, outings, films, theatrical performances, dancing as well as offering some exciting new activities.



"Farnham has always been a vibrant town", says Jessica Wells, business development manager. "However, with the challenges of the last year, a new and stronger sense of community spirit has been born and it is wonderful to be part of it once again - seeing familiar as well as welcoming new faces to our Brightwells family.

Like the wonderful teams at Abbeyfield Wey Valley Society, we are here to offer our support, help and friendship, which is what our service is all about."

If you would like to find out more about Brightwells Gostrey, please contact Jessica Wells on 01252 725330 or marketing@brightwellsgostrey.org



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ABBNEYFIELD WEY VALLEY

LOOKING AFTER OUR HOMES

Jack and the AWVS maintenance team work tirelessly to ensure our homes and rooms live up to our residents' expectations



With over one hundred rooms across Abbeyfield Wey Valley's homes together with all the lounges, dining rooms, communal areas and gardens there is plenty to keep our maintenance teams busy whatever time of the year it is.

"Sometimes I come to work for a break" Jack laughs. It's a good job he has plenty of energy and passion for all that he does - and a great team around him, both at home and work!

Each time a new resident moves in, their room has a complete re-furb so it's pristine and ready for each individual's possessions to be moved in. With COVID restricting access to outside tradesmen, Jack, Wayne and our on-site team have been especially busy over the past year keeping on top of the workload.

Thankfully Jack and Wayne are now pleased to welcome back some of our outside contractors who have recently been working on all our homes ensuring they are spic and span.

Jack has been even busier outside of work too, as he and his partner Carla, have just welcomed little Kaiden, their third child and just to add further to the clan Willow, an eight week old puppy, has now joined them too!

Although we are always told it's our people that make being part of the Abbeyfield Wey Valley community so special, we are also proud of how our homes and gardens are looking thanks to the dedication and hard work of our maintenance teams.



Hatch Mill's corridors getting a lick of paint



Hatch Mill's gardens looking spectacular in the sun



Daphne in her brand new kitchen at Roundhay



Colourful welcome to Wey Valley House thanks to the home grown flowers



Jack, who heads up the on-site maintenance team



The finishing touches to Wey Valley House re-decoration

#abbeyfieldangels ❤️

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