

# THE ABBEYFIELD ANGEL



## LIFE AT THE ABBEYFIELD WEY VALLEY SOCIETY







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ISSUE 07 JULY 2022

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With some exciting growth ahead for the Society, we hear from our new Operations Manager, Louise Arnold, as she begins to settle into her role overseeing day-to-day operations of the Society as a whole.

### 4 OUR COMMUNITY IN PICTURES

Some images of the many events and activities that the Abbeyfield Wey Valley Community have been enjoying recently.

### 5 AWVS HAPPENINGS

There is always something happening at our homes. One of the most exciting things this year is the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Celebrations - so much fun was had by all !

### 6 BRINGING A SMILE TO ALL OUR FACES

We make the most of life at Abbeyfield Wey Valley Society. Our teams’ passion is infectious and there is always something going on to make us all smile and feel good about life. The Farnham Carnival was no exception.

### 7 CONGRATULATIONS YOUR MAJESTY

We had a full week of celebrating the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee and residents, care teams and families all got into the spirit of things in true AWVS style.

### 8 ABBEYFIELD WEY VALLEY SOCIETY HIDDEN HEROES -

In this edition, we focus on one of the societies Trustees, David Magowan who is the Minister of the Carey Baptist Church in Reading. Along with his parishioners, David has been working to help support some the victims of the Ukrainian war.





*Welcome to the summer edition of the Abbeyfield Angel from Louise Arnold, our new Operations Manager*



Welcome to our Summer edition of the Abbeyfield Angel newsletter.

The last few weeks have been so much fun within our community. Our Platinum Jubilee celebrations have been really great and it is lovely to see all our new residents settling in, making friends and enjoying life within the homes so quickly.

Thanks to all the teams, who always strive to make the lives of our residents as fulfilled and enjoyable as possible and create our unique AVWS atmosphere within the homes.

After seven years as Registered Manager at Wey Valley House and Ridgway Court, I am excited to have recently taken on the role as Operations Manager of the Society, supporting Shelley, our Chief Operating Officer in ensuring we continue to run smooth and efficient homes that offer first class care and support on a daily basis.

My role is made easier by the fantastic teams we have at each of our homes and, when anyone new joins us, whether it is residents, their loved ones or new staff members, they always comment on the uplifting atmosphere we create within our community.

We are proud of this and everything we do to help the lives of older people within our community and I, personally, can't wait to share this passion with others as the Society expands over the coming months.

I would like to wish Michelle, Tracy and Mel all the best of luck (not that they need it) as they take on their new roles managing their own homes and I look forward to meeting as many residents, family and friends across our homes on my travels as I settle into my new role.

Wishing you all happiness and health with a nice splattering of Summer sun - Louise.

**JUNE PRICE - OUR LONGEST-SERVING ABBEYFIELD ANGEL**

At Abbeyfield Wey Valley Society we receive incredible loyalty from our teams of carers and management.

Although, when we have our weekly manager's meetings, we can boast over one-hundred years of service to the Society, no-one can yet individually match the incredible service our carer, June Price, has given the Society.

After nearly thirty-seven years of service, June has recently retired from Wey Valley House in Farnham. June started two weeks before the opening of the home, undertaking training and ensuring we were ready for our new residents.

Over the years, June has worked nights alongside four different Registered Managers, six deputies and countless teams of carers.

She now plans to enjoy her well-earned time with her husband Tony, and the rest of her family.

After nearly thirty-seven years of dedication to improving the lives of older people within the Abbeyfield Wey Valley Society, June will always be, a true Abbeyfield Angel! - thank you.

Below : Residents and fellow Abbeyfield Angels celebrate June's loyalty with a tea party at Wey Valley House.





*A picture of some of the many things our community have been enjoying*



Plant pot making



Celebration luncheon at Kemnal



Jubilee street parties



Mocktails - chin chin !



National Doughnut week



Board games on the virtual table



Trip out to the Plucky Pheasant





## AWVS Happenings...



### WALKING JAMBOREE

The Farnham Jamboree of walking got underway in May and Abbeyfield Wey Valley Society were, once again, one of the key supporters of the annual Jamboree.

Walkers were able to choose from a lovely five-mile spring circular walk starting from Bentley Church, or a ten-mile walk through the Bourne to Pierrepont.

In total there were over 30 different walks with each one led by an expert guide who shared their local knowledge and open the participant's eyes to some amazing sights throughout the walks.



Mayor of Farnham, Councillor Alan Earwaker, with some of the AWVS team, council officials and fellow sponsors at the launch of the Jamboree.

"We were delighted to offer this wonderful opportunity for people to explore the local area and, thanks to generous support from our sponsors, the festival was completely free of charge for all to enjoy." Said Farnham Mayor, Councillor Alan Earwaker.

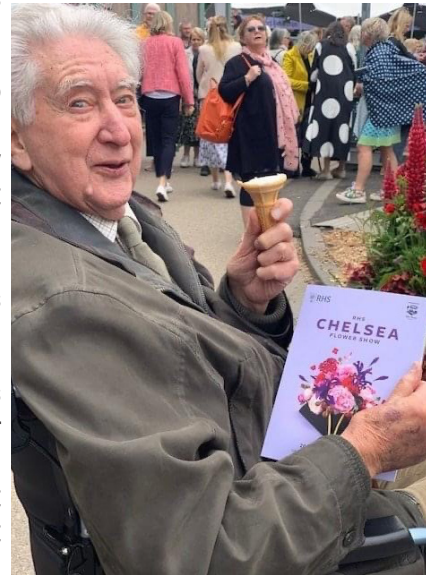
Sally Tidy, Chief Executive at The Abbeyfield Wey Valley Society says: "Walking is a wonderful way to stay active and presents social opportunities too. We are proud to have sponsored the Walking Jamboree which included walks for a variety of interests including local history walks, a bat walk for beginners, walks with spectacular views and routes that explore local waterways. Many walks also incorporated a bite to eat or refreshments at a local hostelry which was lovely!"

### A TRIP TO CHELSEA

David Rogers recently took time out from the daily activities at our Maitland House care home in Reading to visit the world famous Chelsea flower show with his daughter, Janet.

It's so good to see our wonderful residents now getting out and about and enjoying life with their loved ones to the full.

The care teams and other residents loved hearing about your great day at Chelsea, David and it is nice to hear our gardens at Maitland House were not totally put to shame by the amazing creations at the show!



### MUSIC IN THE MEADOW (AND DELICIOUS CAKE!)

Thanks to our Chefs and staff for giving up their time to bake an amazing array of delicious cakes for us to sell at Farnham's popular Music in the Meadow event. The weather was great, the music was great and people were lining up to sample the Abbeyfield Wey Valley delicacies.



*As always, there is plenty to celebrate and enjoy within the Abbeyfield Wey Valley family, bringing a smile to all our faces.*



## FARNHAM CARNIVAL

This year saw the first Farnham Carnival for a couple of years and, to continue tradition, the Abbeyfield Angels turned out in full force to join in with the celebrations. With the carnival theme being the Queen's Jubilee, our teams of carers, their families and some of our residents worked tirelessly to create a precession of the countries of the Commonwealth. We represented over twelve different countries and even had a hand made Royal Yacht Britannia. No wonder we won a Gold Award for all our efforts.

It was great fun joining the other organisations and schools in the local area - we always love being part of our local communities and it never ceases to amaze us how much support we get along the way.



## DID YOU KNOW ?

The American game of baseball was actually invented in England and it does not actually take after rounders.

How do we get such trivia you may ask? - Well our digital information screens that can be seen in the reception of each home, not only keep residents and their guests updated on the latest activities and daily menus, they give live news feeds and a constant stream of daily trivia facts. Our care teams and residents share some of these together on a daily basis.

## CONGRATULATIONS TRACY

Tracy Frampton has been with Abbeyfield Wey Valley for twelve years and in July will be leaving her current role as Deputy Manager of Hatch Mill to take over the Registered Manager's position at our new Maitland House residential home in Reading. Tracey will be bringing her experience and knowledge to lead the team we have at the home and continue on the great work Gemma Harvey has done in helping transform Maitland House since we merged with them in February this year.



Gemma, who has been interim Manager since the merger, will be back focusing on her main role of group Quality Manager for the Society.

## MORE PROMOTIONS WITHIN THE SOCIETY

Having been Deputy Manager for the past two years, Michelle Blower has stepped up to take on the Registered Manager's position at Wey Valley House. She takes over from Louise Arnold who has recently assumed the role of group Operations Manager.

Another Abbeyfield Angel to step up is Mel Harris who will now become Registered Manager at Ridgway Court after spending the last year as the home's Deputy Manager.

Below : Mel Harris, the new Registered Manager at Ridgway Court



Below : Michelle Blower, who now leads the team at Wey Valley House.





# PLATINUM JUBILEE

*Abbeyfield Wey Valley Society celebrates with the nation as Her Majesty the Queen reaches the remarkable milestone.*



It's been an extremely busy few weeks for the AWVS community as each home joined in with the rest of the nation in celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, enjoying garden parties, live music and a week of royal activities and celebrations.



Each one of the Society's care homes and sheltered houses celebrated in style throughout the memorable four-day weekend.

All the pageantry in London was eagerly watched by both residents and staff and, throughout the weekend, the homes enjoyed live music, organised "street parties" and lovely food and drink with some amazing weather to boot.

"We don't normally need an excuse for a party here at Maitland House, so there was no way we were not going to make the most of this celebration", says Sylvia, the Senior Care at the Reading home.



It was so uplifting watching the whole country come together to share the positive things in life and the joy and happiness that can be created by sharing. It is something we look to do every day within our special Abbeyfield Wey Valley Society community, but it was extra special to enjoy these momentous celebrations with all our residents.

To commemorate the special event, the Society organised for over three hundred personalised Jubilee tea mugs to be commissioned and each home's Registered Manager gifted one to all residents and staff as a reminder of some great times shared together.







*Together with some of his parishioners, David made the 900 Mile trip to deliver much-needed supplies to Ukrainians affected by the war.*



#### GOING THE EXTRA MILES TO HELP

Although I am one of the Trustees of the Abbeyfield Wey Valley Society, as a day job, I am the minister of Carey Baptist Church in Reading.



One of our church mission partners lives in Wroclaw in Poland, and when the war started in Ukraine, he and his wife took 20 Ukrainian refugees into their home.

Also, one of our church members is Ukrainian, so as a church, we wanted to respond to the crisis and opened a fund for Ukraine.

To date we have managed to raise over £60,000. Much of this money has now been sent to Ukrainian churches providing food and shelter and transport to their local community and to displaced people fleeing from the conflict zones.

Also, we decided to drive a van filled with medical aid for Ukraine to Poland. From there, the aid would be taken into Ukraine and distributed where needed.

Three of us left on Sunday 3 April and drove 900 miles through the Netherlands and Germany to Wroclaw, unloaded the van, and then drove back to Reading, arriving home on Thursday 7 April.

In Wroclaw, we met Ukrainian refugees and heard their stories of sheltering in basements, leaving their homes, husbands and fathers, and now facing an uncertain future.

Since returning, we have sponsored a Ukrainian woman (Mariia) and her two children to come to the UK. They arrived on Thursday 5 May and are now living in church accommodation settling into life in the UK just wonderfully.

Below : the supplies arriving at the warehouse in Poland ready for the final leg of their journey to Ukraine.



Below : Mariia and her daughters, now living safely in Church accommodation in Reading.

