

# Abbey Together

The newsletter of Amesbury Abbey Group

December 2025



## Festive Fun!

It's been a fun-packed festive season, filled with delicious Christmas meals, joyful celebrations, outfits & outings, alongside fabulous entertainment. The festivities bring to a close another wonderful year shared with our friends, family and community. Throughout, we've enjoyed everything from special guest visitors to fantastic in house entertainments, as well as trips out to all sorts of attractions and events. Closer to home we've enjoyed delicious feasts at the summer lunches and the fine dining events in every season laid on by our wonderful, talented chefs. We've seen boundless creativity and countless moments of laughter. It's been a pleasure. Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas, and here's to a healthy & happy 2026.



*Naam*

# Go Yvette!

We're delighted to be supporting our Amesbury Abbey Head Chef, Yvette Adair, as she completes the Level 4 Senior Culinary Chef course delivered by Marco Pierre White's Culinary Academy.

The first live demo in London has been ticked off the list and Yvette's looking forward to what's in store for the New Year and bringing back all her new skills to our kitchens, as are we all looking forward to having a taste!



## A Chilly & Charming Outing

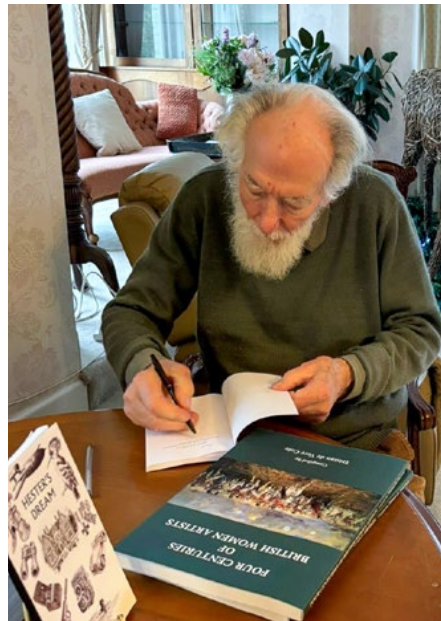
Not even the chilliest day of the year yet could put our residents off visiting to Hillier's Rosebourne Garden Centre - a firm resident favourite - for a spot of last minute Christmas shopping!

<https://www.hillier.co.uk/garden-centres/weyhill/>



# An Author Among Us

We were delighted to hold a successful and well-attended book signing at the Manor for our very own, and very talented, author-in-residence, Tristan de Vere Cole.



# Wreath-Making & Festive Memories



A morning well spent at the Manor, crafting beautiful Christmas wreaths and reminiscing about favourite decorations and Christmases past.





# Amesbury Abbey Kicks Off The Festivities

A wonderful start to the annual Christmas parties, with Amesbury Abbey nursing home kicking us off. Such a lovely occasion, filled with warmth, laughter, and happiness. Well done to all who played a part in making this fantastic occasion happen – the residents' faces show just how much it means to them.





# Christmas Jumper Day Fun

Save the Children UK Christmas Jumper Day in the Abbey Snug was such a fun, all-staff and resident event. So much singing and so many games, plus mulled wine and mince pies – and £87 raised.





# Abbey Mews Gets into the Christmas Spirit

Another day, another party! Christmas is in full swing at Abbey Mews. The residents and their guests had a ball. What a fabulous meal, with wonderful decorations and stellar service. Thanks to all the staff who delivered a "BEST EVER" event.





# Abbey Raffle & Festive Fun

Residents and staff enjoyed another fab afternoon of Christmas-themed entertainment, the annual Abbey raffle, followed by some wonderful singing courtesy of the excellent Ryan Bishop to round things off. A lovely afternoon was enjoyed by all. Many thanks to Nona for organising. Just 90 minutes for a fabulous charity.





## Let the Sutton Manor Celebrations Begin



Despite the rain, spirits were high, and the first of the Sutton Manor parties was a roaring success. A huge amount of effort from everyone involved resulted in a really fabulous event that the residents, along with their friends and relatives, thoroughly enjoyed.





# Christmas Cheer at Sutton Manor



Last but certainly not least, the Sutton Manor independent living residents had a great time at the final Christmas party of the year. The staff were on their A-game, the meal was delicious, and the service impeccable. So many wonderful thank-you letters flooded in which we've all been enjoying reading. Positive feedback is always so satisfying for everyone who puts so much into making the day special.



# Druid's Lantern Parade



We were delighted to host the wonderful Druid's Lantern Parade at Amesbury Abbey to celebrate the Winter Solstice. Naomi Cornelius-Reid was lucky enough to be this year's Solstice Faerie and lit the Solstice Lantern at Stonehenge as the sun went down on the shortest day of the year, before walking it back on foot across the fields to join the main parade in the grounds of Amesbury Abbey.

The Solstice Lantern burns overnight to keep the light alive on the darkest day of the year, before the sun rises again to herald the start of the lengthening of days once more.





# Christmas Carol Concert

All the festive feels were in the Manor drawing room as we welcomed a number of the choir and congregation from Wonston Holy Trinity church, along with Rev'd Mapes, to give our residents a fantastic carol concert. A few of the Sutton staff joined the choir too and all very much enjoyed hearing the piano played live and the beautiful voices. A perfect way to spend the morning.

# Topping Off a Great Year

The Manor post box looks suitably festive. Thanks for the topper, Sue!



# Festive Fancy Dress

Full marks to Jo Davis-Hill, Activity Coordinator at Sutton, for the best Christmas Outfit!!

