

# Abbey Together

The newsletter of Amesbury Abbey Group

March 2026



## Magnificent March

The clocks have gone forward, the days are growing lighter, and the gardens have begun to burst into bloom! March has brought a real sense of energy, warmth and positivity that we've all been feeling. There have been some very memorable visits from our fluffy alpaca friends, inspiring talks and plenty of celebrations in between. Spring is always full of colour and has held a few surprises for us all.



*Naam*



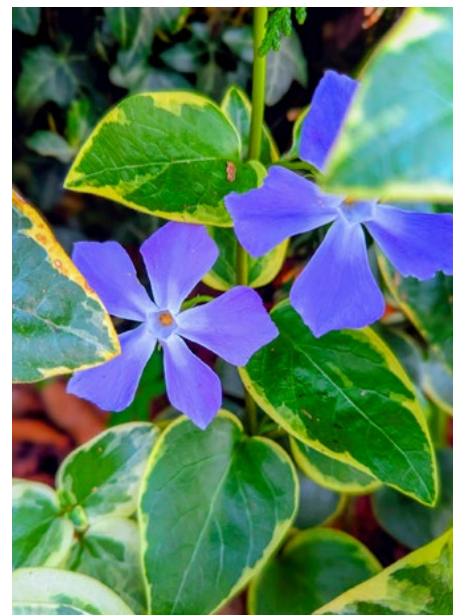
## Fabulous Review

A wonderful start to the month, with a fantastic 5-star review received via Carehome.co.uk for Sutton Manor. It's always so rewarding to get this kind of feedback. Well done to all the team!

*“ My mother moved into Sutton Manor during October last year, having been in another nursing home for approximately 6 months. We moved her, as she was becoming depressed, had little to stimulate her, and I felt she had given up. The change in her on moving to Sutton Manor was near instantaneous and she has a new lease of life. Quite frankly, I have my mother back again thanks to Sutton Manor.*

*Mum has made many friends, participates regularly in activities and has been on a number of outings. The staff could not be more caring and ensure that Mum's needs are met in the most dignified manner possible. During the time that my mother has been at Sutton Manor, I have been undergoing chemotherapy, and the staff have been supporting Mum wonderfully during this challenging time.*

*They have also all shown a great deal of empathy and kindness to me, for which I am most grateful. I can honestly say that Sutton Manor has completely changed my view of nursing homes. Highly recommended. ”*



# Alpaca My Bags... They're Back!

We were delighted to welcome back the ever-popular alpacas – who, as always, drew quite the crowd. This time, they even ventured up the main stairs at the Abbey to visit residents who couldn't make it to the snug...brilliant!





Another visit later in the month to Sutton Manor brought just as much joy. Many residents and staff reminisced about encounters with alpacas during travels to Peru and South America in their younger days. We learned plenty of fascinating facts about these wonderful animals, and everyone was impressed by how calm and well-behaved they were. Smiles all round.





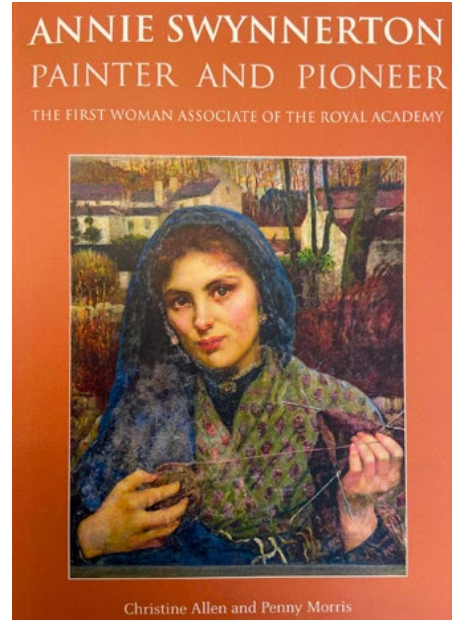
## From Our Kitchens to Marco's

We love supporting our teams in developing their skills, so the opportunity for our chefs to train with Marco Pierre White was one we couldn't pass up. After Yvette's inspiring session last year, Manoj took his turn, enjoying a fun and informative day in Marco's Cheltenham kitchen. Now the focus shifts to our chefs' portfolios as they work towards achieving their Level 4 Senior Culinary Chef qualification - we've no doubt they'll do brilliantly.



## 101 and still going strong

It's not every day you turn 101! If only we could all look as good as Mr Budge, who is clearly drinking from the fountain of youth! Happy Birthday from us all, and many happy returns. What a lovely afternoon tea party you threw, and what a fantastic cake the team whipped up - delish!



## Celebrating Remarkable Women

Residents at Sutton enjoyed a fascinating talk to mark International Women's Day. Christine Allen joined us to speak about her book on Annie Swynnerton, the first female Associate of the Royal Academy. An incredible artist and a thoroughly engaging subject - perfect for the occasion.

### MOTHER'S DAY

## A Thoughtful Mother's Day

Residents across the group marked Mother's Day with the annual tradition of receiving roses, sent in memory of our mother and founder, Mary Cornelius-Reid AM MBE.





# A Walk Down Memory Lane

Residents of the Abbey enjoyed a fantastic afternoon reminiscing about their favourite memories of family. Everyone came to the snug armed with their most treasured photos, and we learnt so much about people's lives and loves. A fascinating, warm & fuzzy afternoon, much enjoyed by all who attended.





# In Bloom

The sun came out, and so did our residents. Everyone has been feeling absolutely blissful with a few warm, bright rays on their faces and the Spring flowers putting on a show. Long may it last! Brilliant to have the front patio back in use.





## A Red Nose Day to Remember

The Sutton Manor Red Nose Day Bake Sale total is in... A whopping £357.50 raised for a fabulous cause. Thanks so much to all the staff, residents and families who made purchases. And a special thanks to Jo for organising the event, Yvonne for lovingly making the 150 delicious cupcakes we sold, and to Bernie & Elena for packaging them into the presentation gift boxes and setting up. It takes a village! A great team effort and brilliant result.





## Gorgeous Grounds

As the estates come to life, we can thank Jo Ireland, Independent Living Manager at Sutton Manor, for snapping the change in seasons there so beautifully. What wonderful surroundings we are blessed with...and to top it all off, the post box has got a new seasonal hat!! Roll on Easter.





# Nona's Quiz

Abbey residents have been enjoying the reboot of Nona's monthly quiz in the snug, and numbers have been swelling. Plus, some relaxed arts and crafts are always much enjoyed. We're so lucky to have such a lovely and engaging community spirit amongst the residents.

