

Abbey Together

The newsletter of Amesbury Abbey Group

June 2026



Sweltering in June

As we basked in soaring temperatures, our teams pulled out all the stops to help everyone stay cool, comfortable and smiling. From tropical mocktails & ice creams to shady afternoons and adventures, we've embraced the heatwave the best way we know how! We've also had wonderful visits from talented young musicians, the first of our annual summer parties, fascinating talks, delicious lunches, blooming gardens and even the first taste of this year's Sutton honey.

Let's hope July is just as sunny, but not as hot please!



Naam



Hakuna Matata!

Residents at Sutton Manor and Amesbury Abbey had a brilliant morning of musical entertainment with the wonderful and extremely talented students of Godolphin School. Starting first at Sutton, before whizzing over to the Abbey, a selection of pupils from Year 7 to Sixth Form delighted us all with guitar, cello, piano and trumpet solo performances, along with a mini choir who sang songs from their latest production, *The Lion King*. The children even stayed afterwards to chat with residents. A most memorable morning for us all.



Trolley Lollies

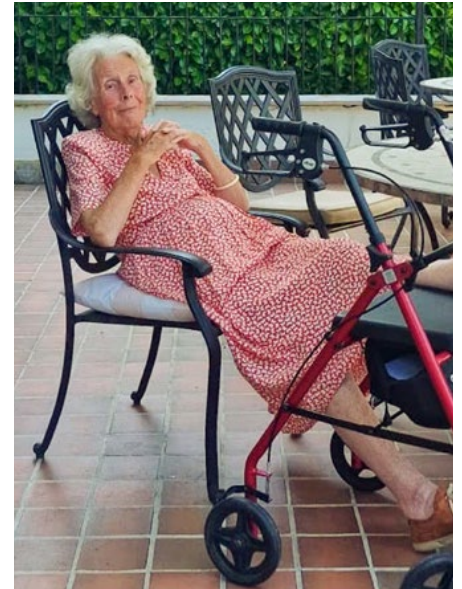
In the height of the heatwave, the Sutton drinks trolley transformed into a totally tropical hydration station, helping to keep residents' temperatures down. Cool mocktails, fresh juices, fruit skewers and a freezer full of delicious ice creams brought welcome relief wherever it went!



Staying Cool

While the temperatures soared, residents at the Abbey decided to postpone their visit from ZooLab to ensure no animals were put under unnecessary stress in the heat. They also decided to reschedule the planned visit to Mottisfont House and Gardens, so they weren't unnecessarily frazzled either!

Instead, most took shelter inside the Abbey's lovely thick walls, where it was generally much cooler than outside, while a few committed sun worshippers braved the shade on the patio. Many ice lollies were consumed, lots of iced drinks were enjoyed, and much fanning and feet-up action was had.





Sutton Manor Summer

It's Summer Lunch time!

Every year we say it, but we really do think this was our best one yet! Despite a little rain early doors, the sun came out just in time; the team were on point, the food was delicious, the magic was marvellous, and we can't wait to do it all again at the beginning of July at Amesbury Abbey!

The Sutton Superstars have certainly raised the bar. Just look at the smiles on everyone's faces. Absolutely brilliant!







A Rose By Any Other Name...

This month, on Midsummer's Day, we honoured a very special tradition at the wonderful Naomi & Jack's that our founder, Mary Cornelius-Reid MBE, started 29 years ago, accepting our peppercorn rent of a dozen red roses for the parcel of land at Sutton Manor she gave to the charity to build the hospice on all those years ago.

Young Theo and his family were visiting Naomi & Jack's and joined in this special celebration by presenting the roses to Naomi Cornelius-Reid. It made the occasion even more special because Theo also presented the roses back in 2017!

What a lovely day. We're so proud to continue supporting this incredible charity and their life-changing work.





Our Kitchen Garden

Delighted to have the first produce from the Sutton allotment on the plate! Chef Yvonne picked a fantastic haul over the weekend, and we're all thrilled.



There's a Buzz...

It's been a little quiet on the bee front over winter and spring, but we had a very exciting visit to Sutton Manor this week from Shaun Seymour, who has several apiaries set up in our fields.

The bees have certainly been doing their thing and have already produced enough honey for 250 jars! We were absolutely over the moon to be gifted some taster pots (it's absolutely divine) and we also have a small stock available to purchase if you'd like to sample some of the Sutton Bees' best! Please contact Jo Ireland in Rank Lodge for more details.

We're looking forward to an update from Amesbury now, and who knows what the rest of the summer will bring. Honey all round - delicious!

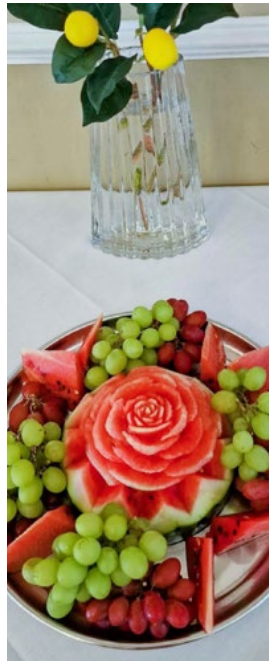




Aloha!

Amesbury Abbey residents enjoyed a fabulous Hawaiian extravaganza with a riot of colour, a delicious special themed menu, wonderful decorations and a brilliant performance by our firm favourites, the Woodford Ukulele Group.

There was a wonderfully buzzy atmosphere and the residents have been talking about it ever since. Thanks so much to everyone who put in so much effort to make the day such a success.





Blooming Marvellous

Abbey residents enjoyed getting out and about with a visit to the ever-popular Hilliers Garden Centre in Weyhill, followed by a quick whip round Waitrose afterwards. Mrs P. enjoyed a chance meeting with Bruno, the service dog. With bags brimming with plants for our new planters, nibbles and wine, we headed home. Very happy shoppers.



Swift Entrance

Residents at Sutton Manor had a fantastic morning learning all about a local initiative to help swifts thrive.

Catherine Gale, Trustee of The Hampshire Swifts, gave a fascinating talk and shared a wealth of knowledge about these intriguing birds. There were some excellent questions from the audience at the end, and we're all looking forward to the start of our project to bring swifts to Sutton Manor.

Huge thanks to everyone who has donated towards purchasing swift boxes. We currently have enough donations for two double-nest boxes, six single boxes, and the sound equipment needed to play swift calls, helping attract the birds to the area.

We'll keep you posted on developments!





Richmond Arts Society Lecture: Sir Godfrey Kneller

We enjoyed another fascinating lecture from the Richmond Arts Society, with a record turnout this month, exploring the life and work of Sir Godfrey Kneller, the leading portraitist of Stuart and early Georgian England.

Our lecturer, Alan, has a Master's and First-Class Honours degree in History of Art from Birkbeck, University of London. He is a gallery guide at Tate Britain and regularly lectures at both Tates in London. For twenty years, he was also a gallery guide & lecturer at the National Portrait Gallery and works as a London Blue Badge Guide. He was excellent!

