

Abbey Together

The newsletter of Amesbury Abbey Group

August 2026



A Gorgeous August

What a relief – the extreme heat of the last few months is finally starting to ease and we've been enjoying a much cooler August across all our homes. We even had to bring one of our BBQs indoors to dodge a forecast of rain!

It's been such a lovely month, full of interesting events and pastimes. Residents have dabbled in watercolour painting and flower arranging, enjoyed time by the water, learnt all about Winston Churchill's creative side, sampled some delicious local cheeses and wines and enjoyed some wonderful live music.

There's been plenty to entertain – we've definitely been making the most of the summer.



Naam



Move Over, Monet!

Abbey residents enjoyed a thoroughly relaxing afternoon on the patio, doing a spot of watercolour painting in the sunshine. Art therapy at its most peaceful. We're certainly blessed with the most beautiful surroundings to inspire us and bring out the inner artist.





The Paintings of Winston Churchill

Another informative Richmond Arts Society lecture this month: *My Daubs: The Paintings of Winston Churchill*, by Arts Society lecturer Angela Smith.

Winston Churchill is best remembered for his political career. However, he was a prolific painter who not only painted in his quiet moments at home but took his brushes with him when he travelled on political business. The lecture examined why, how and when Churchill began painting. We also met some of the individuals who helped to hone his skills, and learnt how painting became a lifelong passion and helped give him peace of mind.

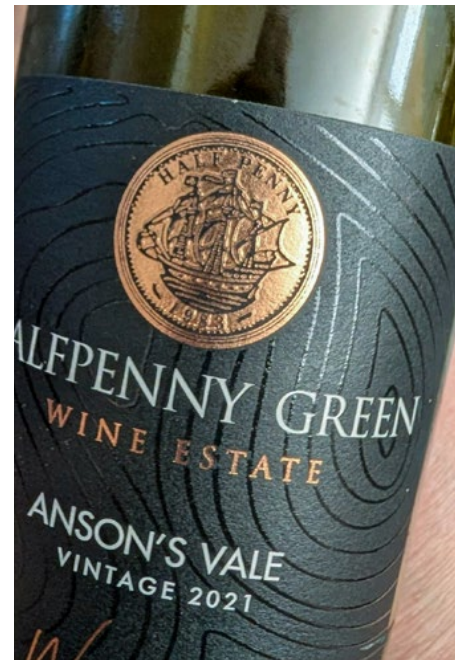




Very Fine Cheese & Wine

Sutton Manor Independent Living residents enjoyed an absolutely marvellous cheese and wine evening in The Pavilion. The night started with diners enjoying a Laverstoke Gin cocktail and canapés before being treated to a wonderful selection of wines from the Halfpenny Green Wine Estate, paired with Hampshire chalk stream trout prepared three ways, a mouth-watering charcuterie board and delicious local cheeses, all sourced and prepared by Chef Yvonne who was in her element telling us all about the produce.

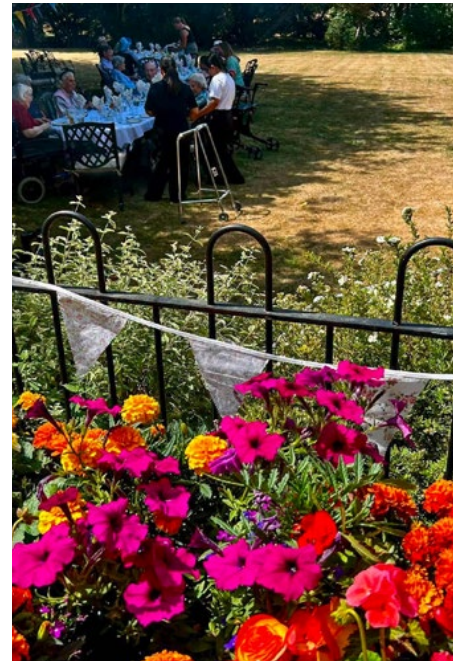
There was a brilliant atmosphere, great conversation and the feedback has been superlative. 10 out of 10 – Chef's kiss!





BBQ On The Lawn

Making the most of the warm weather, the Abbey put on another delicious BBQ lunch. Crack team Yvette and Pun really pulled out the stops and delivered an absolute feast to the tables, which Catherine had dressed so beautifully. Much appreciated by all attending.



Pretty in Pink

Pink perfection. A leisurely Manor morning of flower arranging in the Drawing Room, beating the heat outside. So many lovely arrangements were produced for the residents' rooms. What a treat!



Jamie Sings the Classics

Thanks, as ever, to our West End regular, Jamie Golding, who visited the Manor again this week to sing for our residents. Such a lovely voice and such a nice way to spend the morning. I'm sure this won't be his last visit...

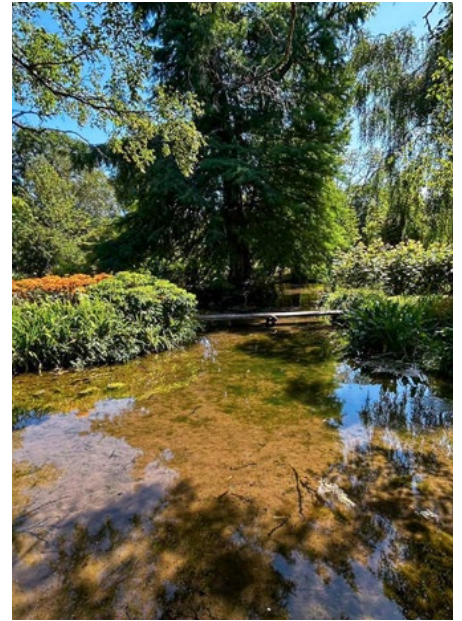




A Taste of Hampshire... in Wiltshire

Hot on the heels of the Sutton Manor event, Chef Yvonne took her A Taste of Hampshire evening over the border into Wiltshire, so the residents of Abbey Mews could sample all the delicious dishes and the now-renowned Laverstoke arrival cocktail (!) and wonderful Halfpenny Green wines. The word must have spread, as we had a bumper turnout and it was another roaring success! Thanks, as ever, to all the support crew behind the scenes working hard to make everything run smoothly.





Magical Water Gardens

What better destination on a hot summer's day than the simply enchanting beauty, serenity and relative cool of the Longstock Water Gardens on the Leckford Estate? If you haven't been, we can't recommend these stunning gardens more. Created and nurtured by the founder of the John Lewis Partnership, they are an absolute treasure trove of diverse flora and wildlife to enjoy whilst strolling along the meandering paths and little wooden bridges, with plenty of benches to stop and soak it all in. Bliss.





Beauford Beauty

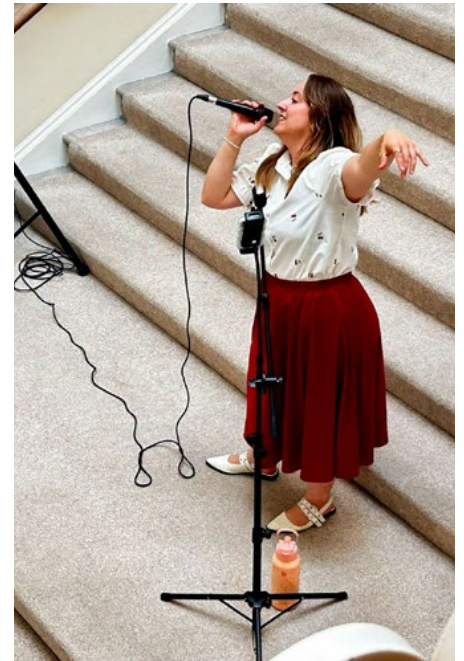
The residents were absolutely thrilled at the arrival of this magnificent car – a Beauford, based on a Ford, belonging to dear friends of one of our Abbey residents. And when they very kindly offered everyone rides... well... you can see the smiles – sheer delight all round!





On Top of the World!

Everyone enjoyed escaping the heat in the cool of the Abbey atrium with Thea, who gave us a Karen Carpenter On Top of the World 'mini concert' – a welcome relief, with a beautiful voice to soothe.





Morph..ing into Artists

Abbey residents passed a fun afternoon beating the heat in the Snug, trying their hands at some new arts and crafts using modelling clay. Quite a hoot and well recommended!





Flying Squad

Residents of Sutton Manor enjoyed a fascinating trip down memory lane with the British Army Flying Museum, who gave us a really informative talk charting over 100 years of the British Army in the air. Such an interesting and evocative morning with extremely knowledgeable speakers.





Our Indoor BBQ

Our spirits were not daunted by the forecast for rain – and our second planned BBQ of the month at Amesbury went ahead inside.

What a fantastic effort the staff made to decorate the dining room and create a delicious menu for everyone. Thanks to Nona, Yvette, Pun, Catherine and all the team, with a special mention to Chito, our lovely RGN, who took a moment off shift to play his guitar for everyone – what a talented chap!

