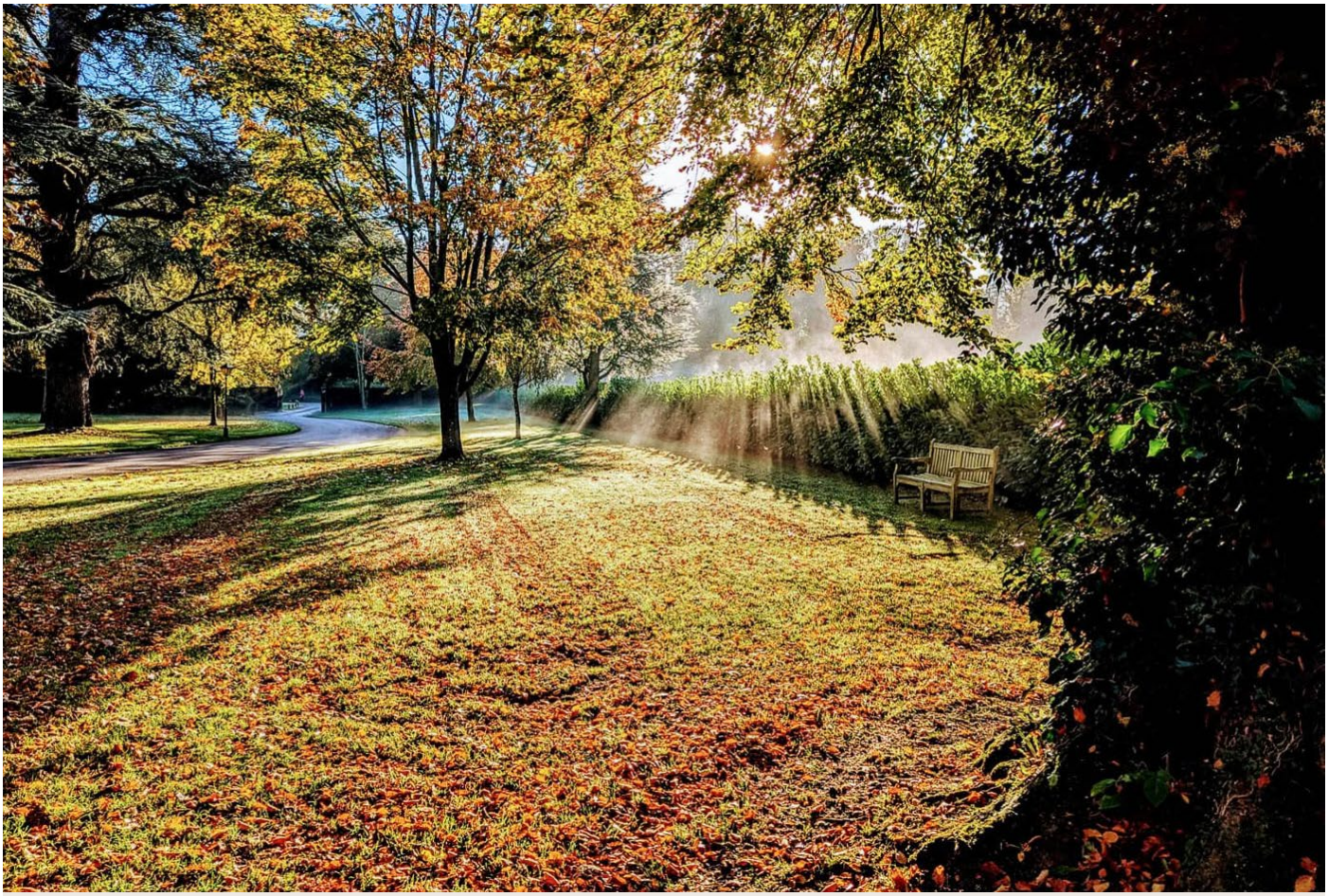
Abbey Together

The newsletter of Amesbury Abbey Group

October 2026



Autumn Sunshine

Autumn has arrived in all its glory, and the parkland and gardens are turning amber, red and gold! It's been another busy month at both Amesbury Abbey and Sutton Manor. We've heard fascinating talks, celebrated our delightfully diverse staff team on World Food Day and marked Sutton Manor's big 40 in style! We've also said tearful goodbyes, enjoyed magical music, some by candlelight, and we've a few dates to add to your diary as the festive season draws near too.



Naomi

Richmond Arts Society Lecture: A Gem of a Story





What a treat the latest Richmond Arts Society lecture was, with a fantastic turnout.

Susan Rumfitt was the speaker for "Faking It - A Desire to Deceive: The Allure of Imitation Jewels and Gems from 1500." From counterfeit rubies to cultured pearls, we discovered the fascinating history of imitation jewellery and the art of making something look like the real thing. Susan, an independent jewellery advisor, auction consultant and familiar face from the BBC's Antiques Roadshow, provided a sparkling journey through centuries of deception, ingenuity and beautiful craftsmanship.





Ukuleles!



Back by popular demand, everyone's favourites, the WUGs (The Woodford Ukulele Group) returned to the Abbey Drawing Room, charming us all with their tunes. You just can't help but sing along. They are such a fantastic bunch; we're sure it won't be long until we're asking them back again.



Fireworks at Sutton Manor

Date for your diaries! Always one of our most popular events, the annual staff and residents' AAG Fireworks Display will be held at Sutton Manor this year. We hope you can join us for this brilliant night of fireworks and food.

Please register your attendance with your manager so we can stock up on soup and sausages!





Harvest Festival - Giving Thanks & Giving Back

Residents celebrated Harvest Festival with a special service from Rev'd David Mapes in the Drawing Room, accompanied by a copious collection of food from residents and staff of the Manor to donate to the Winchester Beacon.

This fantastic local charity does such important work supporting people in the area facing homelessness, helping them get back into accommodation, and supporting families in need with emergency food packages.

Many thanks to Jo D-H for organising.











A Flight Through History

Residents of Amesbury Abbey were delighted to welcome the British Army Flying Museum to The Snug for a wonderful morning of reminiscence. What an array of fabulous artefacts we were able to handle! The Flying Museum team gave us a really informative talk spanning over 100 years of the British Army in the air.

Such an interesting and evocative morning with really engaging speakers.











Coffee & Kindness – the perfect blend



Who doesn't love a cup of coffee and a chat? Residents of Sutton Manor were delighted to welcome some of the congregation from Holy Trinity Wonston, who kindly came to visit us. Such a lovely outreach, and the residents so enjoyed a little light conversation in the drawing room ahead of lunch.

What a kindness, much appreciated by all.









World Food Day – Culture, Costumes & Cuisine

What a deliciously colourful afternoon we had celebrating World Food Day at Amesbury Abbey!

With our wonderfully diverse staff team representing countries from across the globe, this was a chance to celebrate different cultures, traditions and, of course, some fantastic food.













Dressed in their national costumes, staff shared favourite traditional dishes and stories from 'home'. After a classic British fish n' chips lunch, prepared by the lovely Yvette from St Lucia, residents enjoyed a wonderful costume parade before discovering and sampling the dishes on offer.



From England, Honduras and Italy, to Nepal, the Philippines and Uganda, it was a real celebration of the people and cultures that make our community so special.



A huge thank you to Nona for organising, Lorraine for keeping us entertained as compere and all our staff who took part. A feast for the senses and a fantastic afternoon all round!













Sutton Manor – Fantastic at Forty!



How time flies, this month there was a very special reason to celebrate (with cake and champagne, obviously!) as Sutton Manor marked an amazing milestone – its 40th birthday!



Officially opened on 18th October 1986 by local resident, the Rt. Hon. Lord Denning, Sutton Manor has spent four decades delivering first-class care and creating the wonderful, thriving community we have today.









The celebrations come at an exciting time: with all sorts of renovations underway, inside and out, and three fantastic new rooms in the nursing home. There's plenty to look forward to as we head towards our next chapter and our half-century.

Here's to 40 wonderful years, our brilliant Sutton Superstars and everything that's still to come.













Parting is such sweet sorrow

Sometimes we have to say goodbye, and it was with such love and affection that we sent Mrs Daphne Estlick on to pastures new with a classic Mews tea party. What a phenomenal woman we have been blessed to know. For more years than we care to mention, Mrs Estlick has been part of the Amesbury Abbey family.

Long before she came to live with us in the independent living, she was great friends with our founder, Mary Cornelius-Reid, through the RNLI and other charitable causes with her husband Nigel. A charming lady with the most beguiling smile. A truly class act. We wish her well as she travels across the country to live a little nearer to her devoted daughter. She will be very much missed by her Abbey Family. Au revoir, Mrs. E.









Ninety Years Young



It was, in fact, a month of birthdays! At 90 years young, the irrepressible Mrs Isaac shows us all how it should be done. Some stunning autumn sunshine lit up the dining room, and the kitchen surprised Mrs I with a fabulous cake for pudding. There were glasses of fizz all round and a lot of happy faces. Many happy returns, Mrs Isaac.

Happy Halloween

Residents at Amesbury Abbey enjoyed attending a spooky little tea party for Halloween, complete with some themed games and plenty of treats (no tricks!). Thanks to Nona for arranging and the kitchen for the delicious spread.











Music By Candlelight

What an unforgettable evening the residents of Sutton Manor enjoyed this month - a reprise of last year's Music By Candlelight with the excellent Saffron Strings. Such a wonderful and varied programme, with interesting anecdotes and explanations about the music between pieces. Our very own Jo Davis-Hill had outdone herself with the beautiful decorations and created an atmosphere that really set the scene for the evening. As always, Yvonne delivered the most delicious canapés for all to enjoy in the interval, accompanied by a glass of fizz, courtesy of brilliant Bernie, who was helping all evening. All in all, a 10 out of 10 occasion.















Christmas Lunches

Looking forward to seeing you all at this year's Christmas Lunches...



- **Amesbury Abbey Nursing Home - 9th December**
- **Amesbury Abbey Independent Living - 10th December**
- **Sutton Manor Nursing Home - 16th December**
- **Sutton Manor Independent Living - 17th December**





Sutton Manor Christmas Fayre

It’s Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas. Another date for your diaries!

