

# among friends

News from our care homes



Resident, Janet, celebrates the opening of the home. l-r, Paul Newman, Chief Executive, Chris Shaw, Chairman of Trustees (background), Janet, Karen Cooper, Lavender Fields Home Manager, and Cllr Roderick Hogarth, Mayor of Sevenoaks

## Lavender Fields – Official Opening

On 16 November we celebrated, with our specially invited audience, the Official Opening of Lavender Fields - our new home in Sevenoaks, Kent. The home took two years to build and benefits from beautifully landscaped grounds and interior design that would complement any luxury hotel. Having this additional care home enabled the relocation of existing residents from Mount Ephraim House, our home in Tunbridge Wells. This will facilitate a complete renovation and extension of Mount Ephraim House over an 18 month period.

The guests from local health care groups, local councils, sports, charity and eldercare groups were keen to experience the superb facilities offered at the home. Attendees could explore the therapy room where a therapist offers a range of

holistic treatments including massage. The high end salon will offer residents hairdressing and nail treatments. The home also benefits from a cinema room complete with an 'old fashioned projector'. Our residents will be able to experience all the things in life that add a little bit of luxury within the environment of the home.

Guest were able to take a tour of the top floor of the home, with its quiet lounges and dining rooms. Beautifully decorated bedrooms were shown to the appreciative audience. Each spacious bedroom has an ensuite wet-room, ample storage space and television and wifi connection.

Guest were able to experience the immersive 'Virtual Dementia Tour' provided by our trainers

to show the training that our staff receive in helping to understand dementia. It will help them to develop an understanding of a resident's journey with the disease and to, as far as possible, really experience the condition. A demonstration of the very innovative 'Magic Table' developed to help spark memories and aid cognitive function in those who have dementia was also available. Residents at our nearby home, Gloucester House, have already had the equipment installed much to the delight of the

residents and to local play groups who visit when it is in use. It appeals to both young and the older age group, and promotes a fun, lively encounter for all generations. We are immensely proud that we are pioneering the use of the Magic Table as a highly innovative tool to help those experiencing dementia.

We would like to thank our guests, staff and residents at the home for making this day a great success.



*L-r, Chairman of Trustees, Chris Shaw, and Mayor of Sevenoaks, Cllr Roderick Hogarth, unveiling the plaque noting the Official Opening of the home*



*Guests being shown the interactive brochure that can show potential residents a virtual tour of the rooms they might like*



*Ribbon cutting to celebrate the opening of the home. L-r, Chris Shaw, Chairman of Trustees, Paul Newman, Chief Executive, Karen Cooper, Lavender Fields Home Manager, and Cllr Roderick Hogarth, Mayor of Sevenoaks*



*Guests inspect the home*

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## Whitegates – A New Home joins the Trust

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*Residents enjoying an activities session at the home*

We are pleased to announce that Whitegates in Westfield, near Hastings, East Sussex has recently joined the Greensleeves Care family of homes. A beautifully located and appointed home is set in the rolling countryside of the Weald some 6 miles north of the ancient coastal town of Hastings. This was the 23rd home to join the Greensleeves Care family of homes.

With the feelings of an exclusive country hotel, the home has 24 high standard bedrooms and has been established for many years. The home benefits from its peaceful rural location and has two acres

of landscaped ground. Many of the bedrooms have patio doors to access the beautiful garden.

The home has two spacious day rooms and an elegant dining room. Experienced Home Manager, Clint Farmer, is excited at the opportunity to develop the home further. The home has a dedicated Activities Coordinator enabling the residents to continue their interests and hobbies.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the residents, their families and friends and to the staff at our new home.



*Impressive entrance leading to Whitegates*



*Rear aspect of the home seen from the beautiful gardens*

## Recent Awards for the Homes



Harry Barden with his Dementia Carer Award

Lavender Fields were recent winners at the Great British Care Awards, South East Regional Finals. Harry Barden won Dementia Carer Award and Daniel Otoka won The Care Home Chef/Cook Award. They now progress through to the national finals.

At the London Great British Care Awards, Torkington House was nominated for four awards including Registered Manager, Activity Coordinator, Frontline Leader, and Care Newcomer Awards. At the gala evening Reizle Gamboa won the Frontline Leader Award and now is a finalist in the national finals.



The Torkington team with their certificates on the evening

Congratulations to both homes for their GBCA award successes.

In addition there was success at the Suffolk Care Awards. Thornbank, our home in Ipswich, won the Culture, Creativity & Activities Award. Seen here are the Thornbank team receiving their award.



## Thornbank Masked Ball Fundraiser



Staff and friends of Thornbank, our home in Ipswich, recently held an evening Masked Ball in aid of Ipswich Dementia Alliance. Local businesses generously donated raffle prizes. A fabulous evening was had by all as seen here



and lots of money raised for the charity. We would like to say thank you to the participants at the home for arranging this innovative evening and generously giving of their time to support the charity.

## Our latest innovation the ‘Magic Table’

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Gloucester House, our care home with nursing in Sevenoaks have installed their first Tovertafel (‘Magic Table’ in Dutch), bringing much joy to the residents. The Tovertafel is an award-winning innovation from the Netherlands, which is renowned for its cutting-edge approach to dementia care.

The technology has been designed to help those at a later stage on their dementia journey be more active and create moments of happiness. It consists of a series of interactive games that are projected on a table. The light games encourage players to reach out towards them and the lights subsequently respond to their hand and arm movements, allowing the residents to play with light, which is truly magical.

The Tovertafel creates a fun, safe environment for all residents. The games are formulated with the intention to trigger a sense of reminiscence among players in order to encourage stimulation socially, cognitively and physically. As light simulations, games are projected onto a table and include gardening, fishing and popping balloons.

Commenting on the installation Jo Palmer, Home Manager at Gloucester House, said: “When we introduced the magic table at a recent resident and relative meeting, it was amazing to witness so many residents enjoying happy

moments with their loved ones. This was one of the main reasons why we decided to purchase the table. We are excited to see what happiness and magic the Tovertafel will bring to our residents.”

John Ramsay, CEO of Shift8\* - the company which brought Tovertafel (The Magic Table) to the UK and Ireland said:

“We are delighted that Gloucester House have installed the Tovertafel. As a care home that pride themselves on dementia care, we are thrilled to further enhance the quality of life that residents enjoy here. We can’t wait to see the residents interact with the Tovertafel games and each other and are delighted to hear that other visitors to Gloucester House, such as their Mums and Toddlers Group are going to get involved as well. Tovertafel is like a universal language of play where all people can participate and it is great to see Greensleeves Care’s desire and effort to promote this to their community.”



*The Magic Table on display and being demonstrated to fascinated attendees at the Lavender House Official Opening day*



## Remembrance Day reflections of a St Cross Grange resident



*Molly just after joining the Army, aged 17*

Molly Allen was waiting for a bus when she decided to “pop in” to the recruitment office of the Army. After answering a few questions, she left and went home. A few days later her call up papers arrived! Molly was only 17 when she joined the Army in the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS), slightly under age, but she “lied” about her age. She had always wanted to join the Army as her brother was already serving.

After training in Scotland she then went for specialist training as a telephonist with the Royal Corps of Signals. She was then posted to St Cross Grange in Winchester, which had been requisitioned by the Army. Part of the work at the Grange involved preparing the Hampshire roads to take heavy artillery and tanks in preparation for D-Day.

During her time at St Cross Grange, she remembers the hard work, the dances in the evening in what is now the main lounge - and meeting her husband, who was a GPO engineer.

Molly (94) has been a resident at St Cross Grange for two years. Molly said: “I love being here at St Cross Grange and I feel like my world has come full circle and I’m now back home again. The staff are all lovely and do their very best for us all”.



*Molly proudly remembering her contribution to the war effort and displaying her wartime photographs*



*Molly with her Royal Corps of Signals badge showing above her left pocket*

## Leaving a legacy: A way to support Greensleeves Care in the future

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*Happy times at Viera Gray House our home in Barnes, London*

Leaving a gift to charity in your will is an amazing way for your kindness to last beyond your own lifetime.

After providing for your family and friends, you may wish to consider leaving something to Greensleeves Care as a way of helping us continue our work. Every gift, no matter how large or small, will enable us to improve and enrich the lives of our residents. These gifts can be made free from inheritance tax.

We have produced a leaflet “Leaving a Legacy” which has been distributed to all the homes. Please ask the Manager of your home if you do not have a copy and would like one, or contact Head Office on 020 7793 1122 or download one online at [www.greensleeves.org.uk](http://www.greensleeves.org.uk)

If you would like to leave us a legacy, please refer to us as Greensleeves Homes Trust (our registered charity name). Greensleeves Homes Trust is a registered charity in England & Wales No.1060478.