

July 2023



Welcome

This month's newsletter is once again bursting with photos and reports from some of the many activities we have been doing both at home and out and about.

We love hearing about what everyone has been doing and which activities everyone most enjoys. So read on to find out more about how we have enjoyed bowling, museums, colouring, cooking, parties, dancing and more!

We always welcome your news, stories and photos, please send any entries to pa@whitmorevale.co.uk.



Roll out the
red carpet
it's award time



Amberley
Museum
A gret day at the
museum. Let's find
out more



Call the engines
The big red fire
engine arrives

Newsletter



Hello from Sonja

It has been yet another fun packed month! We have been working hard on the five-year plan following our senior team strategy day, and we continue to consult with members of the organisation, commissioners, and families. We are looking to develop the plan and publish it by the end of the year.

One of the highlights for me this month was the Turner Court BBQ. Thank you for inviting me, I had the best time!

We have welcomed a number of new members of staff and we are investing in training. I am also delighted to announce we have appointed an Estates Manager which will help us focus on the upkeep and development of our buildings, we look forward to him joining us in early September.

Sonja Jones, CEO WVHA



John S, Stewart, James, Lewis and Adrian recently visited Amberley Museum near Arundel. They had a brilliant day, so let's find out more.

There is lots to see and do at the museum including a nature trail, exhibitions, fantastic views over the South Downs, you can even take rides on old trains and buses.

Amberley museum is built on what used to be the Amberley chalk pits. The pit operated from the 1840s to the 1960s producing lime which was distributed across the country to make mortar for decorating and agricultural use.

In the 1970s, after the pit had closed, a group of people got together and decided to preserve the pit for its historic value. It provided a great opportunity to show people Victorian life, buildings and industry.



The Hub became an artist's studio

Many of us have been in the mood for some colouring. We've explored different textures, colours and colouring styles, it is great fun and very calming – we'd recommend it to anyone!



The museum first opened in 1979 and since then has added exhibits on radio, television and telephone and even a fleet of buses, including their workshops and garages. The railway was added in the early 1980s, the Wood Turners building, signal box and the engine shed were added more recently. The museum provides a great way to learn about history and to see how things looked in the Victorian era.

There are lots of places to rest and enjoy a picnic and there is a lovely café to visit too.

From February to October Amberley Museum is open Wednesday to Sunday (and Bank Holidays) from 10am to 4:30pm with tickets costing £15.50 per adult (our fantastic care team can join us for free).

www.amberleymuseum.co.uk



Hindhead Supported Living

Ten pins and a polar bear

John S, Stuart, James, Lewis & Adrian visited the Amberly Museum in West Sussex. We spent the day exploring the many exhibitions including the communications section which displays old telephone boxes, televisions and radios. We also looked around the old South Downs bus garage and checked out the fire engines and firefighting equipment then headed over to look at industrial machinery from the past. The museum also has a railway with train rides, we rode on 'polar bear' a Bagnall steam locomotive.

Adrian, Stuart, John S, Ashley & Phil laced up their lovely bowling shoes and had a great time bowling at the Guildford Spectrum.



Call the engines!



It was a pleasant sunny afternoon at Whitmore Vale HQ. Our peace and quiet was occasionally disrupted by the drilling noises made by one of our busy contractors, but we knew the work needed to be done and we managed to continue our work without feeling too interrupted. UNTIL...the drill dust set off the fire alarms, and we all had to evacuate the building! It was noisy and scary for a few moments, but we soon realised we were safe and there was nothing to worry about and instead made the most of waiting outside in the beautiful warm summer sunshine.

It was exciting to see the big red fire engine arrive and Nick and our Deputy CEO Lisa even managed to get a photo. What a treat!



Hellos & Goodbyes

Welcome to our new starters:

- * **Angela**
- * **Samuel**
- * **Elvina**
- * **Gold**

- * **Omowunmi**
- * **Beatrice**
- * **Lubna**



We are delighted that we have accepted and welcomed our first overseas employee from Zimbabwe – Angela. This has been an extensive amount of work to fully implement a sponsorship programme and subsequent license. We are so grateful for everyone's hard work and dedication in making this possible.

Welcome to the team, Angela! We hope it's the start of a wonderful new life and experience with us at Whitmore Vale.

We will also be welcoming a further four employees from overseas in the next few days and weeks (subject to visas) and we have transferred 6 long standing employees from DKS agency to our full-time employment from 24th June. Welcome to Samuel, Elvina, Gold, Omowunmi, Beatrice and Lubna.



Jo (our HR manager) introduced a new member to the team, Fred the dog. He's the new Head of Paw(e)-someness at Whitmore Vale and his company made everyone smile.

Come back and visit us again soon Fred!

Whitmore Vale House

Roll out the red carpet out, it's award ceremony time!

After the roaring success of our fun-filled summer party Whitmore Vale House felt that a celebration of some of our super-stars was needed at our residents' meeting. We're very lucky to be surrounded by such brilliant people so this month everyone received a medal! Hurrah!! However, a special mention has to be given to Mr Car Park himself, the man who almost single-handedly stopped any potential chaos at our summer party with his expert car parking skills, JC. (JC, we have told TfL and South Western Railway to stop calling, they can't afford your level of car park mastery!)



Haven House

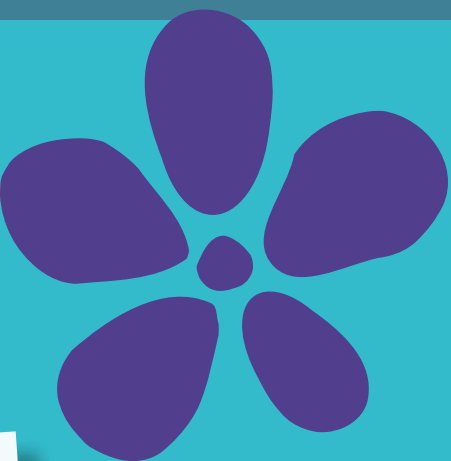
Emma and Jo from head office were delighted to be invited to dinner at the newest and most exclusive restaurant in town, the gastronomic wonder that has Gordon Ramsey terrified they'll steal his Michelin stars; 'Haven House restaurant'. The lovely ladies at Haven House impressed diners Emma and Jo with a menu of sausage casserole with dumplings, and mash, and delicious homemade apple pie served with homemade Lotus Biscoff ice cream! Yummy!



The month in pictures

Can you spot yourself in our gallery of fun?
What a great time we had!





Monthly Recipe



Prep time:
15 mins



Easy



36 pieces



Ingredients

- 900g dark chocolate
- 2x cans condensed milk

Method

Step 1

Melt the chocolate with the condensed milk. Once melted keep stirring till bubbles round the edges. Make sure you get the bottom of the pan whilst stirring. Once bubbling and feeling sticky, remove from heat and pour over a foil tin.

Leave on side to cool then chill in fridge to set. Once set, remove from the tin, cut into slices and enjoy.



As a celebration of life, Haven House planted an orange rose to remember one of our dear residents who sadly recently passed away.

We also released balloons with heartfelt messages, followed by pizza and homemade fudge, because that was her favourite sweet.



Westlands

Westlands decided as the sun was out (just about) that it must be time for a party.

We put out the decorations, blew-up the balloons, made the house and terrace look party ready and prepared a party feast of quiche, sandwiches, wraps, sausage rolls and summer strawberries. We had great fun 'striking a pose' in our photo booth, playing party games and singing along to our favourite songs in our karaoke competition.



Turner Court

We called it a BBQ but it turned out to be more summer rave meets Strictly Come Dancing (without the judges).

With Fred Astaire, Ginger Rogers, Jennifer Lopez and Michael Jackson moves on display in pretty much any direction you looked it was hard to believe that you were just at a Turner Court BBQ. We enjoyed a delicious spread of food, danced and had great fun.



Surrey People's Group is a Surrey Wide network for people with a learning disability.

The group held a workshop, organised by people with a learning disability, to talk about topics which are important to them. The group was joined by the Police, Community Transport, Advocacy, Adult Social Care, Health, and others.

It is a great way to spend time with each other and the people who need to know what our thoughts are on important things such as transport, health, review and many other things.

See the easy read of the June Surrey People's Group meeting:

www.surreycc.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/346258/Easy-read-record-June-2023.pdf



Stay in touch

To keep up with what's happening at Whitmore Vale please visit whitmorevale.co.uk or join us on social media.

If you know anyone who would like to receive our newsletter, please ask them to contact us.



Whitmore Vale Housing Association, Churt Road, Hindhead, Surrey GU26 6NL
T: 01428 604 477 E: office@whitmorevale.co.uk

