

Spring Edition 2026



Welcome...

We made a real splash this Spring, with lots of excitement and good memories!

From Wisley Gardens to Southsea Fair we certainly got about! And at home, we loved seeing the first blooms of the year and welcomed an exciting new guest.

Now we're really looking forward to the summertime, and all the sun, sea, and summer parties in store!

Hello from Sonja

We would like to give a big shout out to all our volunteers who do so much for us and we literally could not run the organisation without you!

It's been a busy few months for every part of the Whitmore Vale Community as the pages of this newsletter show.

I would like to say a really big well done to all the Level 3 Diploma learners we are so proud of you all and the hard work you put in.

I had the pleasure of accompanying representatives of the Tenants Committee at the National Housing



with Support awards as Jacqui, our fabulous Housing Manager, made it to the finalists of the Tenant co-production category. She did not win but she and the Tenants Committee are already winners in our eyes. Well done everyone, very proud of you all and what brilliant night! (Photo montage in this edition)

Sonja

Sonja Jones,
CEO WVHA



These are a few of our Favourite Things!
Find out about our hobbies!



VIP Visit
Guess who came for tea.



A visit from our MP

Greg Stafford

This Spring, we welcomed our Member of Parliament to Whitmore Vale!

First things first, we couldn't resist taking our special guest on a tour, showing off all the wonderful residents and staff that make up The Pines and Whitmore Vale House.

Taking time out of his busy schedule, Mr Greg Stafford MP joined us to discuss the new restrictions imposed by the Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Act 2025. We had some great conversations sharing our experiences.

Our grateful thanks to Greg for visiting us here at Whitmore Vale, we do hope you'll come again!



News from around our community

The Pines

The front door didn't stop swinging open as we had all kinds of adventures.

Gowri went shopping at the supermarket, stopping to see all the wonderful pops of colour at the flower stall.

And from bouquets to flower beds, we fell in love with Wisley Gardens. There was so much to see that we've decided we'll just have to go back again!

Afterwards we took a trip to the canal and made friends with the local geese. And as if all this wasn't enough, we even popped down to the beach at Southsea, for all the fun of the fair!



Whitmore Vale House

We showed off our hobbies this Spring, with some exciting presentations.

We all like rain drops on roses, but if you really want to hear what makes us tick, come along on Fridays for a few of our favourite things!

From circuit boards and watch collections to wonderful tales, it's been a lot of fun sharing and showing off all our knowledge.

Plus we always finish off with a song or two!

So far we've heard from the Tree Tops trio. Will you be next?

But it's not just our residents leading the way. Congratulations to our Registered Manager, Adriana, who has become a qualified Makaton Tutor. Makaton is a form of signing, and her classes to staff and residents have already been a big hit!



Beaufort House & Westlands

Beaufort House's sparkling new kitchen was the talk of the town, and we made the most of the sunshine.

Our glam new kitchen can make even beans on toast exciting! We gave it a posh grand opening with a ribbon cutting and some ice cold soft drinks... More on this later!

We all know there's nothing like feeling the first days of Spring sunshine on our faces, so we couldn't resist getting outside as soon as possible.

The brand new sand pit at Beaufort was Shaun's destination, and who should turn up but his fleet of digger and dumper trucks!

At Westlands, we had fun inside and out. Lynn enjoyed knitting with all the brightest colours we could find. But what did she make? You'll have to ask her to find out!





Turner Court

With the winter weather in our rear view mirror, we got creative at Turner Court.

Terry made not one, but **two** model cars at in his trips to Creative Response, an arts group just down the road.

And making the most of the conservatory, Lucy spent an afternoon in the glorious sunshine to produce an exciting new poster with us.

Lucy was full of ideas for the poster, from the colours and design, to sharing how empowering it has felt to join the panel herself! Fantastic work Lucy!



The Ferns & The Old Manse

It was never a dull moment this spring for residents... and staff too!

We absolutely love old machines and it doesn't get much more exciting than fighter jets! John, Stuart and Lewis spread their wings and travelled over to Tangmere Museum.

We saw lots of old military planes and equipment and Lewis even landed a seat in the cockpit of their special flying game. Just look at that view.

The trio later touched down at the bowling alley. While Jack put on a show to remember in his pantomime earlier this year. Ooh yes he did!

And inspired by all the exciting things going on, the HSLS staff all got together too! With an Escape Room and a meal together, it was great fun getting to know each other better and coming together as a team.



Haven House

Haven's fun fairs and repairs!

Whether it's a squeaky door, or a leaky tap, when something needs fixing at Whitmore Vale, who do we call?

Our fantastic maintenance team, that's who!

And so when a light bulb stopped working in Vikkie's bedroom, she knew just what to do. Working with Sam, Vikkie raised a ticket to the maintenance team by sending an email. Fantastic work Vikkie!

But it wasn't all serious business at Haven. One sunny Saturday we took a trip to the Southsea Fairground! With ice creams on the sea front and a meal at the pub, we had a wonderful day.

And of course, for Lizzie it wouldn't be a trip to the fair without having a go on the merry-go-round!



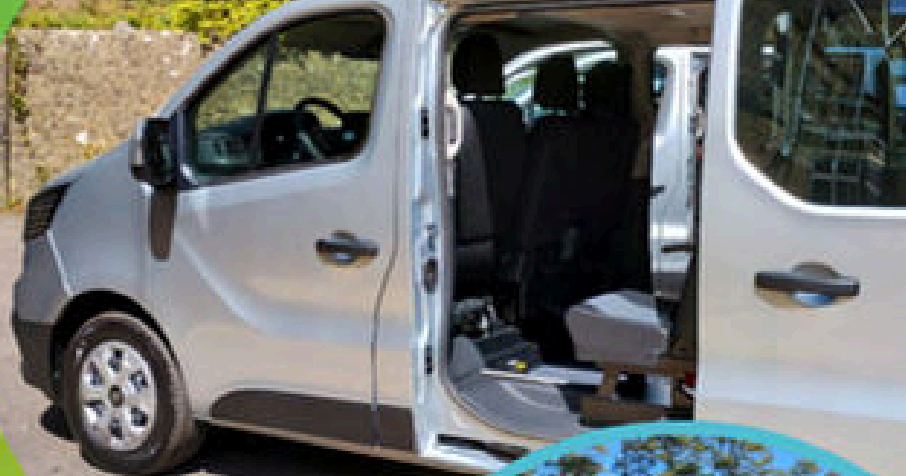
Our Spring Snaps!

Can you see yourself?





JOIN OUR Journey Together APPEAL



»»»» This year we have invested in four new Renault wheelchair-adapted vehicles.

And we'd love your help to keep journeys as affordable as possible. <<<<

»»»» We need to raise £40,000 per year for five years.

TO MAKE A DONATION HOWEVER LARGE OR SMALL, SIMPLY
SCAN THE CODE BELOW!

[Donate](#)



www.whitmorevale.co.uk

Whitmore Vale Housing Association provides quality homes and services to enable People with Learning Disabilities and or Autism to lead valued and fulfilled lives.



Inside Whitmore Vale!



A peek at the projects we've been up to

March saw the exciting opening of the new kitchen at Beaufort House!

Co-designed with the People We Support, staff, and the Estates Team, the new kitchen was carefully planned to be both practical and inclusive.

It features accessible preparation areas for wheelchair users, easy-to-open units, and induction hobs, ensuring the space is safe, welcoming, and usable for everyone.

The transformation was led by carpenter Terry and ably supported by Lee, Marc, Donald, and Steve, alongside contractors carrying out the flooring and damp works.

With the support of Simona, Jade, and the Beaufort House team, a temporary kitchen was set up to keep things running smoothly while the work was completed.

Together, they turned an empty room into a stunning new kitchen that will make a real difference to daily life at Beaufort House.



Whitmore Vale attended the Housing With Care Awards!

Chosen from professionals across the country, our Housing Manager, Jacqui, made it all the way to the finals, and a very flashy awards ceremony.

Our big nomination was for the Tenant Co-production Award, whittled down to a select group of just 6 people.

Supporting Jacqui in her special night and to recognise all the wonderful work she does, we took a small but very loud group of residents and staff to cheer her on!

It was such fun. There was a fantastic meal, lots of singing and dancing, and all the excitement of a trip to London! Congratulations Jacqui, we're so proud of you!



Housing with Care Awards

1

A national awards ceremony hosted in London!

2

Jacqui and the Finalists were a group of just 6 people - chosen from across the whole country!



Tenants Committee



Two remarkable milestones were reached at our Tenants Committee as we held a virtual quarterly meeting.

It was attended for the first time by Mark one of our board members. We have already seen significant progress through the work of the Tenants Committee and Housing Manager, Jacqui and this marks an important step forward in strengthening tenant involvement and making sure every voice can be heard.

We are looking forward to the year ahead as we continue working together with all our tenants and valuing their input.

Congratulations and Thanks!

Lucy, Phil and Stuart earned some very special personal awards this Spring!

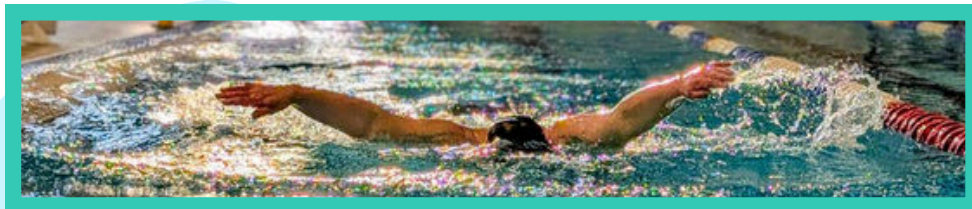
The world's leading cancer charity thanked Lucy for her hard work!

How time flies!

It's now been 5 whole years since Lucy began volunteering for the Cancer Research UK shop, and the charity are so proud of her, they presented her with a certificate!

So colourful - just take a look!





Now, you may remember our last newsletter told you all about our Scottish swimmer training hard for his big event.

Well, one sunny March morning, Stuart popped into the pool and completed his 8th Swimathon challenge! Stuart swam 100 lengths with his team mate David.

Their target was to raise a whopping £300 for charity. But after lots of work spreading the word... they've been sponsored an eye-watering £720!



Meanwhile, a very special invitation came through the letterbox of our Transport Champion earlier this year – from the High Sheriff of Surrey, no less!

In March Phil was invited to attend a big ceremony in Guildford. There was lots of pomp and ceremony, and on top of all this, Phil was presented with an award... in front of hundreds of people!

In recognition of great and valuable service to the community.

What an emotional day!



Photo courtesy of The High Sheriff's Office.

Inspiration Spotlight

Our Volunteers

With National Volunteer week recently, we wanted to highlight the fabulous people volunteering with Whitmore Vale!

Week after week they give their time and energy to support our wonderful residents and we couldn't be more grateful. A very special thank you to all our volunteers!

And if you're interested in a voluntary role with us sharing your time or a skill, we would love to hear from you! Just get in touch on:



hr@whitmorevale.co.uk



01428 604 477



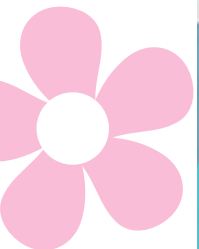
Healthy Eating Initiative

Here at Whitmore Vale, we love talking about food! So as part of our Healthy Eating Initiative, HSLs arranged for an exciting visit from a food health professional - Joy!

The course was called Food and Wellbeing Training, and in the hot seats were our inspiring Healthy Eating Champions! Joy taught them all about the best foods we can eat to look after ourselves and inspire each other!

We loved having Joy to visit. After all, it's not every day we're allowed to eat our homework!





TRANSPORT CHAMPION

LATEST BUS NEWS



Hi! My name is Phil and
I'm the Whitmore Vale
Transport Champion.

Check out my interview
on our website:
whitmorevale.co.uk

Have Your Say On Bus Travel In Surrey

Following the launch of the Your Bus Journey survey in 2023, SCC are now running a year-long bus user survey to gather even more local insight. Share your views by completing the survey:

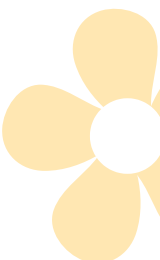
<https://surrey-bus-user-survey.commonplace.is/>

Stagecoach Gold Number 1 service

Electric Buses have been introduced on this service. Due to weight restrictions on bridges, watch out for considerable changes to the route, with many stops now removed.

Timetable changes

SCC and Stagecoach have pledged to reduce timetable changes. They will now only occur in exceptional circumstances.



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.

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