

What we've been up to in



February



Despite being the shortest month of the year, we certainly haven't slowed down one bit!

From adorable furry visitors, delicious afternoon teas, cosy movie nights and a wonderfully creative pottery painting afternoon. Its been another month full of laughter, creativity and special moments shared together.

Small month ... **BIG** memories made



Squeak Peak



We kicked off February with a very special visit from Hoppy Guinea Pig Holidays. Lisa brought in two adorable guinea pigs, Lily & Snowdrop. Their visit provided a calm and gentle experience giving everyone an opportunity to pet, stroke and even feed them. There were plenty of smiles as residents enjoyed the soothing companionship and the chance to interact with such friendly visitors. Snowdrop & Lily were truly loved by all- and judging by the attention and cuddles they received we think they thoroughly enjoyed their visit to! We cant wait to see them again next month!



Meet Bernard – A Valued Member of Our Care Team



Bernard moved to the UK in June 2023 from Port Elizabeth, South Africa, following his wife Violet and their children, who relocated earlier in January 2023. In South Africa, Bernard was a vegetable market owner, proudly growing carrots, cabbage, okra and green peppers on his own plot of land. He would then take his fresh produce to the townships to sell. Prior to this, he also worked as a driver for a small construction company.

Family is at the heart of everything Bernard does. He is a proud father, with one of his sons working in London as a chef and one of his daughters based in Poole as a software engineer. His wife, Violet, is also a carer here at The Vicarage. Her move into care inspired Bernard to pursue a similar path, giving him the opportunity not only to be close to his family but also to begin a rewarding new career.

Bernard's passion for care is deeply personal. He cared for his mother, Maria, for three months in South Africa before she sadly passed away with dementia in Zimbabwe. He speaks warmly of her, especially remembering how she was always singing. Bernard says that working with our residents often reminds him of his mum, and he treasures the meaningful interactions he shares each day.

Since joining The Vicarage Nursing Home, Bernard has embraced his role wholeheartedly. He values the relationships he has built with residents and colleagues and appreciates the kindness and support shown by the management team.

Outside of work, Bernard enjoys his new life in the UK and has grown fond of his quiet hometown of Shrewsbury. One of the things he finds most remarkable is being able to leave parcels outside without them being taken! He has also become accustomed to some British favourites – especially a hot jacket potato with melted cheese and beans.

We are so pleased to have Bernard as part of our team. His warmth, dedication and genuine compassion make a real difference to our residents every day.



Valentines Day



We had a lovely day here at the home!
A huge thank you to the kitchen team for all their hard work making it extra special, with a delicious selection of homemade cakes.



We got wonderfully crafty, making beautiful wreaths and stained glass decorations for a show stopping display at the front of the home. Glitter may have travelled further than expected, but it was worth it.



Love was in the air ... and so was the smell of fresh cake.



February Crafts

We created the most magical little fairy mushroom houses (we're fairly certain a few residents are expecting tiny tenants any day now) painted beautiful mandala rocks with impressive concentration and steady hands, and of course shared plenty of giggles along the way.

There may have been more paint on fingers than on some rocks ... but that just adds character, doesn't it?

As always, the chatter was flowing, the creativity was blooming and the kettle was working overtime. Another month of mater pieces, memories and just a tiny bit of glitter left behind.





Chinese New Year



We welcomed the year of the horse in style and when we say style, we mean a feast fit for royalty (and a second helping)

A huge round of applause to our wonderful Claire, who somehow managed to whip up a homemade Chinese feast and take on pancake Day at the same time. We're fairly certain her socks were well and truly knocked off ... but she powered through like an absolute superstar

Full tummies, happy hearts, and a celebration to remember well done Claire - we're so impressed.



Where generations meet

Our favourite little superstars popped in the other day and honestly we're still smiling about it.

From toe tapping classics like **love me do** to full on boogie mode with **I love to boogie** they had the whole room bouncing

It's safe to say our residents were completely charmed. Nothing beats a room full of young voices, big smiles and the kind of energy that makes you feel 20 years younger.

To our favourite bunch, thank you for filling our home with music, laughter and just a tiny bit of rock 'n' roll mischief. We cant wait for your next tour date.



Tote-ally Fabulous

“Where did you get that?”

“Oh this? Just a little exclusive number ... a Vicarage original”

Move over high street, our residents have officially launched their own designer label. Bags of personality, bags of style and most importantly bags that are guaranteed to carry snacks.

We had a fantastic Saturday morning decorating our very own tote bags for our next outing. We had everything from bold masterpieces to delicate designs and a few “abstract” that we’re confidently calling modern art.



Paint 'n' sip

Our very first Paint 'n' Sip was an absolute success! There were giggles galore, cakes being passed around (purely for artistic fuel, of course) and everyone was left with a lovely keepsake to remember it by. Creativity was flowing in every direction and we loved every minute of it!



Resident Dedication



Hello! My name is Neil!

I've always lived in Shropshire but don't let that fool you into thinking I haven't clocked up a few air miles! I've travelled to America, Greece, Australia and the Bahamas, sometimes solo (very brave) sometimes with friends (slightly less brave). My absolute favourite thing? Trying different cultural foods and traditional dishes!

I loved the Bahamas so much that I actually went to live there for a short while. Turns out, I missed our good old British weather - yes, really! Sunshine is lovely, but there's something about grey skies and a strong cuppa that just feels like home. If you ever get the chance to visit Nassau, I highly recommend seeing the Queen's Staircase - its well worth the steps.

Career wise, I was a driving instructor for over 20 years. I absolutely loved it - well maybe not the emergency stops but it suited me down to the ground. Calm, patient and occasionally gripping the dashboard internally!

You'll usually find me watching a good game show. If I could be a contestant on any, it would have to be either deal or no deal or the chase. I like to think id keep my cool.

I love all sport, but my heart belongs to Chelsea FC - through the wins, loses and nail biting finishes.

I dabbled in speaking French (very dabble - think holiday confident) it came in handy when I spent a weekend in Paris, mainly ordering food - priorities of course! I'm a massive foodie and love all things delicious. If its nice, I'll try it.

When it comes to films, I'm an action fan through and through. James Bond is my all time favourite franchise. I was firmly team Sean Connery, but I have to admit Daniel Craig did a fantastic job!

Oh and just in case you were wondering - my favourite chocolate bar is a crunchie. Because who doesn't love a bit of honeycomb chaos!