

Chairman and House Managers Report



We are very pleased to be reporting on another wonderful year at Abbeyfield Great Missenden.

This year we will be marking our 40th Anniversary!! (Celebrations to take place in August)

Earlier in the year Arun(trustee) organised a video shoot at the house. We are very proud of the finished results – our residents capture the essence of living here so well. If you haven't seen it, please click on the link below to watch it.

[VIDEO LINK](#)

We have also opened a Facebook page, which has proved to be a valuable asset. We have received very positive feedback with regards to our posts from Family/Friends and local people. The local area/community now have a better understanding, of how life is, at Abbeyfield Great Missenden.

There have been many changes throughout the year – residents/trustees/staff – information to follow.

Obviously, these are not without challenges, but we work hard, keeping an active waiting list, which allows us to keep our voids very low or non-existent. Sadly, the Head Office Charity Abbeyfield (who we are affiliated to as a Member Society) have made the decision to close some of their homes. Unfortunately, 3 of the local homes have been issued with notice. We have been able to accommodate 4 residents from these homes to date with several more on our waiting list for the future.

We recognise the challenges of moving into a supported living home in later years, but our wonderful team of staff work tirelessly to ease this process, making sure that everyone living with us is valued and given individual time and support.

We hope you enjoy reading about the activities we have enjoyed over the year and hearing about our upgrades inside and out.

We are very lucky to have a forward-thinking Board of Trustees, a very dedicated Staff team, wonderful volunteers and most importantly a home full of lovely residents.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support.

Carol Lauder-Ross (House Manager) and Jane Mackay (Chairman)

Hellos and Goodbyes

It has been a busy year here at Abbeyfield, with lots of changes. We said goodbye to Hayley who has been cooking, cleaning and generally looking after all the residents for more than seven years, we wish her well as she steps into her new career as a social worker, we know she will do an amazing job.

After nearly 7 years of being on our board of trustees, Michael Wintgens retired at the end of September 2023, we thank him for his invaluable contribution to the home over the years and hope he will not be a stranger and will still pop in to see us from time to time.

We say hello to Nicky our new House Deputy Manager, and Lola and Meron who have joined the board of Trustees.

We've welcomed six new residents, Mary 'O', Sheila, Peter, Christine, Jeanne, and Venetia and said farewell to Pat, Mena, Michael, Joy, and Nora who have moved on to new homes which better suit their needs. And we said a final farewell to Edna.



Lola Meakin – House Trustee

My first year as a Trustee at Abbeyfield Great Missenden has been a pleasure and an honour. It has been a great start to my retirement and wonderful to still have the opportunity to use skills, acquired over many years, through different careers to make life better for other people.

I was born in New York State, read Latin at university, worked on Wall Street as a Gold Futures and Foreign Exchange dealer, where I met my English husband of 40 years. My interests include: my family, my dog, reading, travel, gastronomy, and sport: motor racing, football, American Football, and skiing. When my sons were at school, I started my second career in retail in 1999. I enjoyed 18 years in Old Amersham and then at Hearing Dogs for Deaf People as manager and buyer of the gift shop.

Ever since high school, I have been involved in various charitable organisations. In the last 40 years living in England, I have been part of committees benefiting children: Treasurer of Kensington Bursaries for dyslexia tutoring, Chairman of Mothers and Toddlers, Ball Chairman for Friends of Gateway School, Vice chair, Save the Children Little Kingshill special event and Action Medical Research. I am active at my church: teaching Sunday School and as Treasurer of The St. Vincent DePaul Society which supports local people, young and old, in need. All these involve fundraising, liaising with the community, and working with, and organising, diverse volunteer teams.

I have been very lucky to have had so many opportunities, with wonderful mentors, which have helped me to aim to be kind, friendly, helpful, caring, patient and joyful.



Meron Jacyna – Trustee

I was born in St Albans and went to the Boys Grammar school there, before going up to Dundee University to study Medicine.

After qualifying, I moved back South, living in Ealing and working as a Consultant Gastroenterologist at Northwick Park Hospital for more than 30 years. I now work part time as a Medical Examiner and for the Citizens Advice Bureau. I'm also quite

active in the Princes Risborough Rotary club. But I was very pleased to also be appointed as a Trustee on the board for Great Missenden Abbeyfield. I'm enjoying working alongside Carol and her team, and it's a privilege to see what a happy and caring place Abbeyfield house is.

In my spare time, my partner Fiona and I play a lot of golf and enjoy walks across the Chilterns. When not doing those, I read, write (currently on my third novel), and play a lot of online computer games!



Nicky Cooper - Deputy Manager

I was born in Oxford and moved to Buckinghamshire when I was 3 years old and have remained here ever since. I was a stay-at-home Mum of 2 boys, when my youngest reached 5 years old, I started my career in the care sector, where I have worked for the last 23 years, working my way up from a care level one to deputy manager. I have had the privilege of working with older people and older people living with dementia. I have a gentle home life with my two grown up sons and their families, I have one granddaughter who keeps me on my toes when we are together.

I was fortunate to see the vacancy for Deputy Manager here at Abbeyfield Great Missenden, at the time I did not know much about sheltered housing but was interested to learn. I went for the interview and was given the opportunity to start working here in March 2023.

The residents and staff have made me feel very welcome and I have enjoyed getting to know the residents, relatives, and staff. I have enjoyed learning new things and look forward to many more years working here at Abbeyfield Great Missenden.

Home Improvements



The task of keeping the house looking fresh and as up to date as possible is a bit like painting the Forth Bridge – it's never ending! But thanks to our wonderful board of Trustee's and their forward planning we are able to keep on top of it.

In the last year we have replaced the carpets in all the corridors, had new blinds fitted to the windows in the upstairs corridors, new curtains in the lounge and new curtains and blinds in the dining room, the spare bathroom has been converted into a salon,

used by the hairdresser and chiropodist.



The outside of the house has not been forgotten; thanks to Annette and Gary our resident Ron's daughter and Son-in-Law the garden benches have been cleaning up and revarnishing. We had bespoke cushions made so they are more comfortable for the residents to sit on and watch the world go by.

Planning permission has finally been granted and contractors agreed for –

- New Gutters and water butts
- Replacement posts at front of house
- 4 x new external doors (Fire exits, back door, and garden store)

Activities and Events

We have had a full year of activities, events and trips, including music nights, quizzes, bingo, crafts, a visit to a local garden centre, afternoon tea's both here and at Missenden Abbey and we have been able to re-introduce a regular exercise class thanks to Caroline from Amersham Physios who keeps our residents 'on their toes'

Exercise Class



Afternoon Tea's



St Patricks Day – Burns Night – Chinese New Year



Quiz night - Knit & natter – Ice cream treat - Garden centre visit – Bingo – Garden centre trip and music night



Christmas 2023





All Creatures Great and Small

We have been very lucky over the past year to have had some lovely furry friends visit us, including donkeys, lambs and dogs, Mikey the labrador being a regular visitor, much to the delight of the residents.





A KINGS CORONATION



With the late queen having been on the throne for over 70 years, the opportunity to watch a coronation is a rare and special occasion, and one that we were not going to miss, so a special buffet lunch was prepared, chairs were arranged so everyone had a good view of the television, and we settled down to watch this historic event.



Charity Donations

We have held several fund-raising events over the last year in support of some very worthy charities including Breast Cancer research, MacMillan Cancer Support and the Poppy Appeal and have raised over £445. Thank you to everyone for your help and support at these events.



We continue to support the One Can Trust and with the donations received in the drop off box outside the home we have been able to make several large deliveries to them.



Also a big thank you from our staff member Kathrine and her dog Summer for the support and sponsorship for their 100k walk during April in aid of Bone Cancer Research.

200 Club Draw

The 200 Club was founded in 2002 and is called the 200 Club because it can have up to 200 members. Its purpose is to raise money for Abbeyfield Great Missenden and the money raised is split by 60% going to the home and 40% given in cash prizes at the quarterly draws.


If you are not already a member and would like to join the 200 club, please email manager@afgm.co.uk for more information and an application form.

The winners of the Christmas draw are as Follows:

200 Club Christmas Draw	
Winners.	Prize
Lola Meakin	£128.80
Neil Craggs	£103.04
Debbie Hudson	£103.04
Brian Parraman	£51.52
Mary O'Hare	£51.52
Andrew Blakesley	£25.76
Martin & Jeanette Green	£25.76
Peter Burrows	£25.76



We are delighted with our new Facebook page where we post regular updates on events and activities that are taking place within the home. It is a lovely way for the families and friends of our residents to see what they are getting up to. It is also a nice way for those thinking about Abbeyfield as an option for themselves or a close relative to see what life is like here.

If you haven't seen the page yet, click on the link below or type the following into the Facebook search box Abbeyfield House Great Missenden You can then help us to reach a wider audience by liking and following our page. 

VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to all the young volunteers who give their time to help us. Lucy, Seren and Henry, the Duke of Edinburgh students, Jack, Georgia and Charlie and the students from the Misbourne school, your help around the home and time spent chatting with the residents is greatly appreciated.

We would also like to say a big thank you to Jennie and Matt for your continued support. Jennie for helping to run various activities including, Knit and Natter, Bingo, and craft sessions to name but a few, and Matt and his handsome dog Mickey whose visits are enjoyed by many of the residents (and staff!!). We really do appreciate all you do for us and the residents.



We would also like to say a massive thankyou to the Missenden Walled Garden for their continued hard work in keeping the grounds looking fabulous, and for the raised vegetable beds they planted up last summer that produced an abundant crop for us to use, you have all done an amazing job.



If you have some spare time and would be interested in either volunteering or joining our board of trustees, please contact us on manager@afgm.co.uk.

We also have a vacancy for a part-time cook, so if you enjoy home cooking and would like to join our amazing team, please contact Carol on 01494 865026 or email carol@afgm.co.uk for more information and an application form.