

News from Cunningham House, Pirbright.

Independence, good food and companionship – all under one roof
Winter Newsletter 2021-2022

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY VERA KINGSHOTT



We celebrated with our resident Vera Kingshott who had her 100th Birthday in October. Vera moved here from Petersfield in 2016. She was reluctant to give up her home but wanted to be nearer to her family. She is a shining example of how you don't need to give up your independence to come to Cunningham House. She walked the paths of Pirbright for 4 years, meeting new people and blackberry picking for the House, until she fell whilst watering her raised bed and broke her hip. Back on her feet but confidence knocked, she gets her exercise walking circuits of the garden now (her son has named her our security guard!). She does all her chores herself, although has admitted defeat in bed changing, and has been banned from ironing due to her 'cardboard tunnel' (as Vera calls it!)..affecting her grip. Vera was able to put her feet up and enjoy her big day with her 100th birthday party in the village hall with family and friends and a tipple of Baileys.

A Day at Cunningham House

Poem by Resident Sheila Lawrence

This independent living, it isn't 'arf a lark,
Walking round the garden's like strolling in the park.
At half past ten we socialise, with maybe a guest or three,
And have a cup of coffee, or p'haps a cup of tea.
At half past twelve we sally forth because it's time for lunch,
Nutritious and delicious, oh we're such a hungry bunch!
Afternoons are for hobbies; painting, reading or TV,
The afternoon just whizzes by until it's time for tea.
After tea we all relax, we're all in bed by ten.
Then we get up in the morning and do it all again!



*Special thanks to Alex Freeman for providing professional photography free of charge to capture Vera's special memories;
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Worplesdon Golf Club Charity Golf Tournament

Despite leaden skies and steady rain on September 14th, 18 teams of golfers arrived at Worplesdon Golf Club (WGC) to begin the charity golf day for Cunningham House. By 9.00 the clubhouse was buzzing as the guests picked up their joining instructions and bought raffle tickets. Happily for all, by tee off time weather conditions had improved, and for the next 5 hours the golfers enjoyed this beautiful heathland course.

The day ended with a delicious lunch and prize giving, and the results of the raffle and silent auction were announced. The generosity of so many at WGC meant that Cunningham House was able to raise over £25,000 on the day! This is the main fundraising activity at WGC for Cunningham House as the official charity of the year, and the money raised has already been put to good use to begin a major capital development project to improve and renew our home.

We are eternally grateful to WGC Captains Nicola Barker and Ian Parker, and to all those who gave of their time, money, and expertise to make this day so very successful.



Garden Centre Trip

The residents and volunteer drivers enjoyed their first outing for many months on November 25th to do a spot of Christmas shopping and enjoy a delicious lunch. We hope this is the first of many such occasions as we move into 2022.



New Resident En-Suite Showers

The success of the golf day has meant the en-suite shower room project is under way well before the 2022 start originally planned. We should have one en-suite completed, as well as a refurbished bathroom and wet-room by the end of this year, with work starting on phase two of the en-suite showers in the New Year.

Work in Progress!!



Cunningham House is the operating name of The Abbeyfield Pirbright and District Society Limited, a registered society under the Co-Operative and Community Benefits Societies Act 2014, registration number 22478R