

SUMMER 2026 NEWSLETTER

News from Elizabeth Finn Homes



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Hello from our CEO

Summer always seems to bring out the very best in our homes.

Longer days encourage us outside and our homes become even busier places, filled with family visits, community events and opportunities to spend time together. Looking through the pages of this newsletter, what strikes me most is the extraordinary sense of community that runs through every story.

I've been fortunate to spend time in many of our homes recently. Whether at The Cotswold Home's Summer BBQ, celebrating National Carers Week at Halliwell, enjoying a competitive word of the day game at Rush Court, or attending the Lodge's new Residents' Committee, I've been reminded again that our homes are at their very best when residents, families and colleagues shape them together. Seeing residents take such an active role in influencing the future of their home was genuinely inspiring.

It's also been a busy few months beyond our homes. I was proud to help launch Care England's The Overlooked Majority report, highlighting the contribution of women in social care leadership, and to speak about compassionate leadership at both the Leading Women in Care Awards and

Care Show London. We were also delighted that the BBC approached Elizabeth Finn Homes to contribute to its recent feature on what it takes to run an outstanding care home.

Back in our homes, you'll read about friendships formed across generations, meet colleagues whose work often happens behind the scenes, celebrate fundraising across our homes, and discover the beautiful gardens and outdoor spaces residents have been enjoying this summer.

I'm also delighted that Grove Court continues to receive recognition for its exceptional work. Awards are never the reason we do what we do, but they are a wonderful reflection of the commitment, professionalism and compassion shown every day by our colleagues.

Speaking of outstanding leadership, this summer we bid a heartfelt farewell to Deborah Skinner, Home Manager of The Lodge in Exeter, who leaves us after an extraordinary 20 years at the helm.

I hope you enjoy this edition and wish you a wonderful rest of the summer.

Olivia Curno,
Chief Executive



5 minutes with... Carolann Hinson, Head of Lifestyle

Carolann has over 30 years of experience in the care sector, starting her career as an activity organiser before moving on to become a student nurse.

Over the years her work has focused increasingly on lifestyle and hospitality, working to create meaningful strategies that enhance the day-to-day experience of residents living in a care home environment.

Why did you choose care as a sector to work in?

My decision to work in care was inspired by my uncle. Following an incident when he was 17, he required rehabilitation. Had he received the right intervention at the time, back in the 1970s, he would likely have made a full recovery. That experience stayed with me and inspired me to be part of a profession that has the power to change lives, through compassionate, person-centred care.

As my career progressed, I realised that it's often the smallest acts of kindness that have the greatest impact. Care gives me the opportunity to make a meaningful difference not only to residents but also to the colleagues who support them. More than 30 years on, I still love that every day brings a new opportunity to improve someone's quality of life.

What are you most proud of in your career to date?

Helping to change cultures rather than simply changing processes. Creating environments where residents feel valued, colleagues feel empowered and families feel confident is incredibly rewarding. If I pinpointed my proudest moments, it's when I have empowered and supported colleagues to meet their full potential.

What has been your biggest challenge?

One of the biggest challenges has been balancing operational demands whilst ensuring we never lose sight of the person at the centre of care. The sector has faced enormous pressures over recent years, but maintaining compassion and quality, even during difficult times, is what truly matters.



What would you say to someone wanting to start a career in a care setting?

Go for it. Care isn't just a job it's an opportunity to make a genuine difference every single day. No two days are the same, you'll meet incredible people, and you'll learn as much from residents as they do from you. If you have kindness, empathy and a willingness to learn, the rest can be taught.

What is the biggest issue currently affecting the care sector?

Recruitment and retention continue to be significant challenges, but I also believe the sector deserves greater recognition. Social care transforms lives every day, and I would love to see it celebrated for the skilled, compassionate profession that it truly is.

What is your favourite place to visit?

Italy. I love the culture, art, music and amazing food. It's a place that inspires me every time I visit and somewhere I can truly relax and recharge.

What would we most likely find you doing when not at work?

In my art studio. I'm also a live wedding painter and illustrator, so if I'm not at work, you'll usually find me with a paintbrush in my hand and some jazz playing in the background. I'm also a children's author and have written and illustrated my own book series, designed to help adults start difficult conversations with children through storytelling.

Do you have a life philosophy?

Leave people better than you found them. Whether it's through a conversation, an act of kindness or simply making someone smile, we all have the ability to positively influence another person's day.

Who do you most admire?

My children. They have grown into kind, compassionate and resilient young adults, and watching them become the people they are today has been one of the greatest privileges of my life. They inspire me every day to keep learning, growing and striving to be the best version of myself.

If you could do any one thing in your life, what would that be?

I'd love to help change the way society views ageing and dementia and also teach the power of kindness by combining my experience in care with storytelling and creativity.

If I can leave behind a legacy that helps people understand, connect and show more compassion, I'd consider that a life well lived.

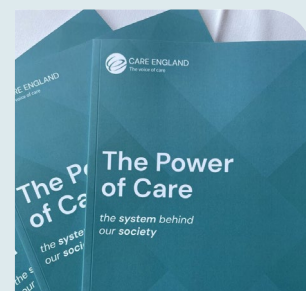
Our CEO out and about



Spreading the word: Speaking at the Women Leaders in Care Awards and at The Care Show London. Collaborating on the Overlooked Majority from Care England.



National Carers Week at Halliwell



Visit to the House of Lords for the launch of the Care England and PLMR Power of Care Report



Cotswold Home BBQ

Celebrating being outstanding

Our Grove Court home in Woodbridge is certainly raising the bar, achieving three of the highest accolades achievable in the care sector.

The home gained a perfect 10 on Carehome.co.uk in May, the highest achievable review

score. In the same month it retained its Outstanding status with the Care Quality Commission, CQC.

Very few care homes in the UK hold both of these top accolades simultaneously. The home also received

accreditation for its outstanding standards of end of life care.



Our residents have had another action-packed few months, with so many activities and events to enjoy. And the warmer weather has meant more time enjoying life outdoors in our beautiful gardens and out in the local community.

Enjoying lots of outdoor activities in the sunshine

Sketching outdoors at Grove Court.



The Lodge held their own Olympics and got busy with some gardening



Summer BBQ at the Cotswold Home.

Merlewood Garden Party.



Secret Garden Picnic lunch and Caribbean Afternoon at Rashwood.

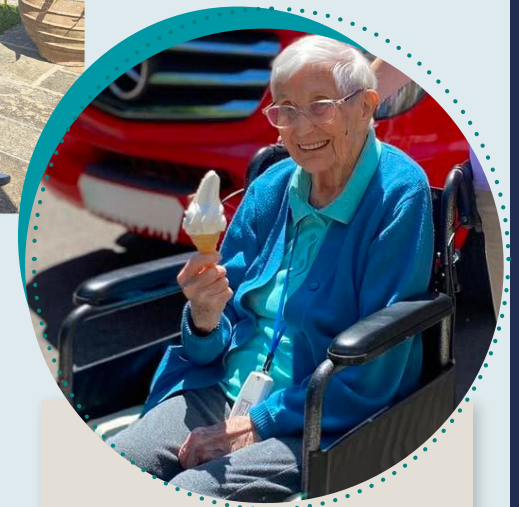


Halliwell residents out on the river.



Rush Court residents enjoyed a bluebell outing and Morris dancing

Residents from the Cotswold Home visit Farmoor Reservoir.



And it wouldn't be summer without ice cream! Eversfield.

Celebrating Founders Day

On May 5th we celebrated our second Founders Day at our flagship home Merlewood to honour the life and legacy of Elizabeth Finn. Staff and residents at the home celebrated in a variety of ways with Victorian-style attire and some good old-fashioned baking.



All things stars and stripes

Grove Court celebrated Independence Day in style.



Football fever

Getting into the World Cup spirit at Rashwood and The Lodge



The importance of intergenerational connections

We know how important it is to spend time with people from other generations and our teams work hard to ensure residents have enjoyable and regular contact with a range of age groups.

Working in conjunction with the local community, our homes offer safe and comfortable spaces for use by schools, nurseries, clubs and other groups allowing generations to mix and enjoy each other's company.

Activities like these help boost mental and physical wellbeing as well as providing a new sense of purpose and an insight into the world at large.

Our residents enjoy engaging with younger people, allowing them a different perspective on

everyday living, an opportunity to learn new things and to also teach and inform from their own experiences. These opportunities help reduce depression and loneliness and encourage shared interests.

During the summer our Grove Court Home hosts Wild Tots, an initiative run by Suffolk Wildlife Trust where local children visit during the holidays, make bug houses, enjoy gardening, nature trails and being outdoors. Our residents love their company and get involved in the activities where they can

The home also works in partnership with St Elizabeth's Hospice and the Compassionate Garden Group providing a calming environment and a change of scenery for group

members who create garden beds for our residents to enjoy.

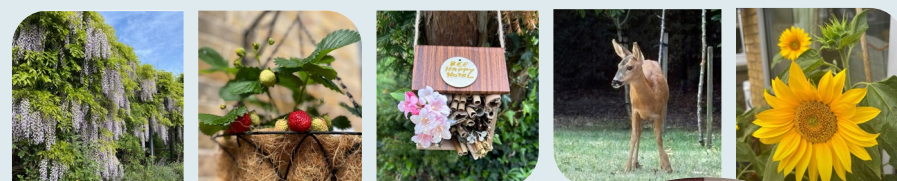
All our homes invite local people in to engage in activities and to entertain. All represent different age groups and new conversational opportunities. Such integration provides opportunity for social mixing and acceptance. It promotes understanding and a broadening of minds, breaking down societal prejudices and creating a more inclusive environment.

We have much to learn from the older members of our communities, and by forging positive connections through our homes, we hope to enrich the lives of everyone involved.

Summer in our gardens

We are very proud of our gardens and outdoor spaces. And rightly so. We are lucky to have some amazing green spaces that offer a haven for our residents, staff and local wildlife. Our fabulous maintenance teams keep the gardens at the best; safe, comfortable and accessible spaces, all year round.

This summer with the warmer, drier weather we have been able to enjoy these spaces even more and we have definitely made the most of getting outside. Here is a snapshot of some of the amazing sights in our gardens.



Our new Zen Garden at Halliwell has been an enormous hit with residents and visitors alike. Inspired by 92 year old resident Drummond, the 25ftsq Zen Garden, or Japanese Dry Garden, is a place for quiet reflection, complete with water feature and a Japanese Acer tree.



Raising money for charity

Steve Paris a staff member at Rush Court cycled 430 miles to raise money for Turn2us. While Tony Howard, Hotel Services Manager at The Lodge, completed the 100mile Nello to raise funds for Force Cancer Charity. Well done to both!



Supporting our Blue Light workers



The Cotswold Home in Burford and Eversfield in Reigate have recently launched Blue Light Breakfast Clubs, inviting local blue light service personnel to drop in for coffee, connection and refreshments.

The rationale of the breakfast clubs is to 'Nourish the heroes who nurture our community', with residents, families and staff all coming together to warmly welcome those working across the local support sector and to thank them for their dedication and invaluable support.



International Nurses Day

We celebrated International Nurses Day on 12th May across all our homes with special gifts for all nurses, past and present.

Celebrated around the world on Florence Nightingale's birthday, this special day acknowledges the contribution nurses make to society.

Members of the senior management team visited each home with cards and gift hampers to say thank you to the nurses for their dedication; this also included the former nurses amongst the home's current residents

Our Volunteers

We're so excited be working with Bloomsbury Publishing Plc on their new volunteering scheme, now underway. So many of our residents are life-long, passionate and talented readers, writers, poets and we can't wait to welcome these volunteer readers into our homes.



Thank you to everyone involved in this amazing project.

A warm welcome to our three new Home Managers

Mary Maughan, new Home Manager at Eversfield. Robin Khokhar, new Home Manager at Rush Court. Anelli Chatfield joins us this August at The Lodge.



Mary



Robin



Anelli

Celebrating Carers Week

In June we celebrated our amazing carers, as part of Carers Week. Led by Carers UK in partnership with other major charities, the annual awareness campaign highlights the vital contributions of the UK's unpaid carers.



Our carers form the backbone of our staff teams with day-to-day roles that are both challenging and rewarding. Not only do they provide support with care and daily living but also build genuine and loving relationships with our residents helping them to live independent lives to the full.

A fond farewell

It is with enormous sadness that we say a fond farewell to Deborah Skinner, our Home Manager at The Lodge.

Deborah is retiring this summer after 20 years of outstanding commitment to the home, the residents, staff and the local community. Her love for the home is evident in everything she has built over the years and in the enduring legacy she leaves including a talented team of staff



that have benefitted from her encouragement and guidance and a culture that has made The Lodge into such a special place.

Debs has been Home Manager at The Lodge since 2006. Alongside a range of sector awards, Deborah successfully guided the home through its most recent CQC inspections in 2020 and 2021, both of which achieved Outstanding ratings, a reflection not only of excellent care and leadership, but also of the wonderful feedback we continue to receive from residents and relatives about the kindness, professionalism and community spirit within the home.

We were delighted to celebrate Debs' 20-year anniversary recently at The Lodge Summer Party and there will be other smaller celebrations closer to her final working day, August 7th.

Thank you Debs from all of us at Elizabeth Finn Homes for your phenomenal commitment. Your impact on residents, families and colleagues over the years is enormous, and so deeply appreciated.

We will miss you.



A wholly-owned subsidiary of the charity Turn2us

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