

BUCKLAND BUGLE

LATEST NEWS FROM AROUND THE GROUP

BUCKLAND IN BLOOM: SPRING IN ACTION ACROSS OUR HOMES

There has been a lovely buzz across Buckland Care homes as residents and teams have come together to take part in Buckland in Bloom. From gardens and planters to painted windows and floral displays, each home has embraced the season in its own way, with creativity and community spirit evident throughout.

At **Woodland Court**, residents made the most of the spring weather, spending time in the garden and enjoying being outdoors as everything began to bloom. Over at **Inglefield**, residents took part in flower arranging sessions, creating displays that brought colour into shared spaces.

Kingland House added a social element to the celebrations, with food, drinks, music and a quiz, turning the week into an opportunity for residents, families and the team to spend time together. At **Mulberry House**, residents got involved in planting, helping to enhance outdoor areas and create something everyone can continue to enjoy in the weeks ahead.



Betty in Bloom created by the talented residents and staff at West Bank.

The Firs used the occasion to build on local connections, welcoming schoolchildren into the home and bringing different generations together as part of the activities. Creativity was also on display at **The Orchards**, where residents made a flower pot man, adding a personal touch to the home's display.

At **West Bank**, a range of activities took place, including decorated windows, a sip and paint session, and the creation of "Blooming Betty", who became a talking point for residents and visitors.

What stood out across Buckland in Bloom was the way each home approached it differently. Whether through gardening, creative activities or social events, the week reflected a shared focus on connection and making the most of time together. It has been great to see residents, teams and local communities getting involved and contributing to the atmosphere across our homes this spring.



A resident at the Firs enjoying a planting session as part of the Buckland in Bloom activities

A WEEKEND OF EASTER FUN AT BUCKLAND CARE

Easter brought a wonderful wave of smiles across our Buckland Care homes.

From residents at Willow Bank getting into the spirit with bunny ears, to a lovely pony visit at Brunswick House, there were so many moments to enjoy. Inglefield was full of Easter cheer, while residents at The Firs tucked into some well-deserved treats.

Across all of our homes, staff went above and beyond to create a truly festive atmosphere, from colourful decorations to engaging activities that brought everyone together. Whether it was sharing stories, enjoying sweet treats, or simply spending time with one another, these moments helped make Easter a time of connection and happiness for residents and teams alike.

At The Orchards, a thoughtful gesture from local veterans made the day even more meaningful, and at West Bank, a visit from the Easter Bunny brought plenty of laughter and joy.

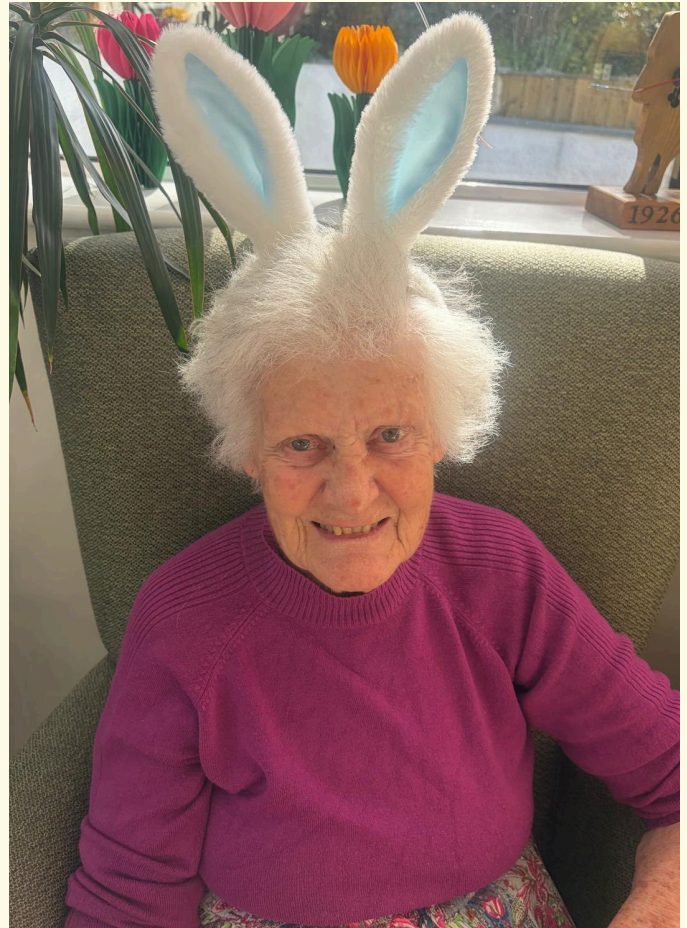
It was a joyful weekend filled with fun, kindness, and those little moments that mean so much.



Spreading Easter cheer with thoughtful treats at The Firs



Getting into the Easter spirit with handmade hats and plenty of laughter



A visit from the Easter Bunny brought lots of smiles at West Bank

MOTHER'S DAY MOMENTS SHARED ACROSS OUR HOMES



Families joined residents for a Mother's Day afternoon tea at Hartwell Lodge.

Across Buckland Care, Mother's Day was celebrated in lovely and meaningful ways at Kingland House, The Firs, Hartwell Lodge and West Bank.

At Hartwell Lodge, families came together for a special afternoon tea, enjoying homemade cakes, bubbles and precious time with loved ones in a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

At Kingland House and The Firs, residents looked back on their own experiences of motherhood and shared advice for new mums, with their words bringing comfort, wisdom and the occasional smile.

West Bank also marked the occasion with special moments for residents and families, helping make the day feel personal and full of love. Together, the celebrations were a simple but powerful reminder of how much family, connection and shared memories mean within our homes.



The Firs resident, Diana, 88, sharing her words of wisdom for mothers everywhere



Phyllis, 89, at The Firs reflecting on motherhood and sharing her advice

A DAY OUT AT HIGHFIELDS GARDEN CENTRE FOR BRUNSWICK HOUSE

A small group of residents from Brunswick House recently enjoyed a relaxed and enjoyable trip to Highfields Garden Centre.

The visit offered a chance to take in the colourful displays of plants and flowers, with residents exploring at their own pace and stopping to admire their favourites along the way. The outing sparked plenty of conversation, with many sharing their knowledge and memories, recognising familiar plants and confidently naming them before even checking the labels.

A couple of residents chose to purchase plants to bring back to the home, adding a lasting reminder of the day and something to continue enjoying together at Brunswick House.

There was a real sense of engagement throughout the visit, as residents connected not only with the surroundings but also with one another, exchanging stories and experiences linked to gardening and the outdoors.



A resident enjoying a gentle stroll through the colourful displays at Highfields Garden Centre.



A resident proudly holding her chosen plant, ready to bring a touch of spring back to Brunswick House.

The trip concluded with a leisurely lunch, giving everyone the opportunity to sit together, reflect on the morning and enjoy each other's company.

Outings like this provide valuable opportunities to stay connected to the local community, enjoy new environments and continue meaningful social interaction beyond the home.



Admiring the bright plants and flowers on display

SPECIAL VISITORS BRING SMILES TO RESIDENTS AT MULBERRY HOUSE



A gentle moment as a resident reaches out to stroke one of the visiting alpacas.

Residents at Mulberry House recently welcomed some unusual guests, as a group of alpacas from Lakemoor Alpacas visited the home.

The visit created a real buzz, with residents gathering in the lounge to meet the animals up close. Many took the opportunity to stroke their fleece, and there was plenty of conversation as the alpacas calmly interacted with everyone.

Animal visits like these can support wellbeing by encouraging interaction and providing a shared experience. For some residents, the visit also brought back memories of time spent with animals earlier in life.

The atmosphere was relaxed, with residents clearly engaged in the experience. Staff were on hand to support and join in, helping everything run smoothly.

Helen, the home manager at Mulberry House said: "It was such a special afternoon for everyone here. Hagrid and Thunderball were incredibly calm and friendly, and the residents absolutely loved meeting them. Visits like this create wonderful moments and memories for our residents, and we're very grateful to Sam and Mark from Lakemoor Alpacas for bringing them along."

Experiences like this form an important part of life at Mulberry House, where meaningful activities are regularly organised for residents.

A thank you to Lakemoor Alpacas for taking the time to visit and spend time with residents.



Smiles all round as residents spend time getting to know their four-legged visitors.

INDUSTRY AWARDS

BUCKLAND CARE NAMED ONE OF THE UK'S TOP 20 CARE HOME GROUPS FOR THE THIRD YEAR RUNNING

We are incredibly proud to share that Buckland Care has once again been recognised as one of the Top 20 Mid-Size Care Home Groups in the UK for 2026 by carehome.co.uk — marking our third consecutive year receiving this prestigious award.

Achieving this recognition year after year is a fantastic accomplishment and reflects the continued dedication, compassion, and high standards of care across all of our homes.

The carehome.co.uk Top 20 Awards are based entirely on independent reviews from residents, their families, and friends, making this achievement especially meaningful. Their feedback shines a light on the everyday moments, relationships, and support that make our homes so special.



Celebrating excellence: The West Bank team with their award.

Liana Birkett, Director of Buckland Care, shared: “To be recognised in the Top 20 for a third consecutive year is something we are incredibly proud of. It reflects the consistency, passion, and teamwork across all of our homes. What makes this award so meaningful is that it comes directly from the people who matter most — our residents and their families. Their trust and feedback inspire us to keep striving for excellence every single day.”

This continued recognition is a proud moment for everyone across Buckland Care. Thank you to all our teams for the care, commitment, and heart you bring to your roles every day — this achievement belongs to you.



Smiles all around as Mulberry House is named among the UK's top care homes



Hartwell Lodge celebrates being named one of the UK's best care homes.

INDUSTRY AWARDS

THE FIRS NAMED TOP 20 CARE HOME IN THE SOUTH WEST FOR 2026

Following the Group’s continued success, we’re also delighted to share that The Firs has been named one of the Top 20 Care Homes in the South West of England for 2026 by carehome.co.uk.

This is a fantastic achievement and especially meaningful as the awards are based entirely on reviews from residents and their families—highlighting the real experiences of those who know the home best.

The Registered Manager at The Firs shared, “I can’t quite put into words how proud I feel sharing this. When we found out, I genuinely had to read it twice. What makes this award so special is that it comes directly from our residents and their families. Their feedback means everything to us. I am incredibly proud of our team.

This recognition belongs to every single member of staff who brings compassion, patience and commitment to their work each day.



It’s the care, the conversations, the laughter in the lounges and the reassurance during the difficult moments that have led us here.”

One recent five-star review shared: “The team at The Firs are so kind and caring. They work extremely hard to make sure their residents are looked after and there are plenty of activities for everyone to get involved in. Nothing is too much trouble and there is always a warm welcome. Everybody is treated as an individual, not just a number – they are brilliant!”

A huge congratulations to the whole team at The Firs on this well-deserved recognition.

SPRING WORD SEARCH



L	A	D	Y	B	U	G	I	P	P
Q	T	U	L	I	P	X	P	Y	B
G	B	B	J	S	Y	M	A	P	E
A	E	O	G	A	N	Y	S	B	E
R	R	F	L	O	W	E	R	I	S
D	A	X	M	E	R	S	J	R	X
E	I	P	L	A	N	T	N	D	S
N	N	X	L	Z	S	Z	F	S	E
L	H	S	U	N	S	H	I	N	E
D	A	G	Z	P	L	N	G	Q	D

Word list:

- BEES
- BIRDS
- FLOWER
- GARDEN
- LADYBUG
- PLANT
- RAIN
- SEED
- SUNSHINE
- TULIP



FUNDRAISING**THE ORCHARDS TEAM TAKE PART IN BIG TOMMY SLEEP OUT TO SUPPORT VETERANS**

Some of the team members at The Orchards stepped outside their usual routines on 20th March to take part in the nationwide Big Tommy Sleep Out.

The Great Tommy Sleep Out is a UK-wide fundraising campaign organised by RBLI (Royal British Legion Industries), which challenges participants to spend a night sleeping outdoors to raise awareness and funds for veterans experiencing homelessness. The event highlights the reality faced by many former service personnel who struggle to find safe and secure accommodation after leaving the armed forces.

As part of the challenge, the team swapped their beds for sleeping bags and spent the night outdoors, raising awareness and funds for veterans experiencing homelessness.

Despite the cold conditions, the team approached the experience with determination, using it as an opportunity to better understand some of the challenges faced by those who have served their country. Donations from colleagues, friends and the local community helped raise over £200, with contributions continuing to come in.



The evening was supported by the local community, including the loan of tents and provisions to help the team through the night. These contributions helped ensure the challenge could go ahead safely while still reflecting the purpose behind the event.

Della Patterson from The Orchards said: "We knew it would be a chilly night, but it felt important to take part in something that highlights the challenges some veterans face. We're very grateful to everyone who supported us."

The initiative brought the team together while supporting a national cause, and reflects the ongoing commitment across Buckland Care homes to engage with and contribute to the wider community.

MIDWEEK ENERGY BOOST AT INGLEFIELD

At Inglefield, a midweek wellbeing session brought a welcome burst of energy and plenty of smiles.

Residents came together with coach Andy, whose enthusiasm quickly filled the room. Gentle stretching and coordination games got everyone moving, while laughter and conversation flowed just as easily. Some focused on mobility, others enjoyed the activities, but everyone shared in the sense of togetherness.

Andy has a special way of making fitness feel engaging and inclusive. Sessions like these help build confidence, encourage connection, and create a strong sense of community.

By the end, the room was full of positive energy and residents were already looking forward to the next session.



Resident keeping active with a fun balloon game during the session.

INDUSTRY ACCREDITATION

WILLOW BANK ACHIEVES TWO STAR GOLD DEMENTIA ACCREDITATION

Willow Bank has been awarded Two Star Gold Accreditation by the National Dementia Care Accreditation Scheme, recognising the team's continued focus on high-quality, person-centred dementia care.

The accreditation reflects developments across the home, including a structured seven-day activity programme, enhanced dementia training, and environmental improvements to better support residents. Initiatives such as daily exercise, Cognitive Stimulation Therapy (CST), and dedicated one-to-one time ("Bell Time") have been introduced to strengthen engagement and wellbeing.

Carole, Home Manager at Willow Bank, said: "We are incredibly proud of our team. This accreditation reflects the care, dedication and attention to detail they bring every single day. Supporting people living with dementia requires skill, patience and heart – and our team demonstrate that consistently."



Liana Birkett, Director at Buckland Care, added: "Achieving Two Star Gold is a significant accomplishment and a testament to the leadership and teamwork at Willow Bank. Most importantly, it recognises the positive impact this work has on residents and their families."

SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS

INGLEFIELD CELEBRATES BETTY'S 102ND BIRTHDAY

There was a very special celebration at Inglefield as resident Betty marked her 102nd birthday, surrounded by smiles, warmth and family.

The team came together to make sure the day felt truly special. Betty spent the afternoon celebrating with her daughter, enjoying some lovely quality time together and marking the occasion in a relaxed and happy atmosphere.

Reaching 102 is an incredible milestone, and it was a privilege for the team to be part of such an important moment. Celebrations like this are a reminder of how meaningful it is to honour each resident's life, their stories and the relationships that matter most to them.

Charlotte, Home Manager at Inglefield, shared: "It was such a joy to celebrate Betty's 102nd birthday with her. It's a wonderful milestone, and it was lovely to see her enjoying such a special afternoon with her daughter. We all wish Betty a very happy birthday."



102 years young! Betty enjoyed a very special birthday celebration at Inglefield. Pictured here with her daughter.

EASTER ON CANVAS: CREATIVITY IN FULL BLOOM AT THE FIRS



Residents working side by side, sharing ideas, smiles and techniques during the Easter painting session.

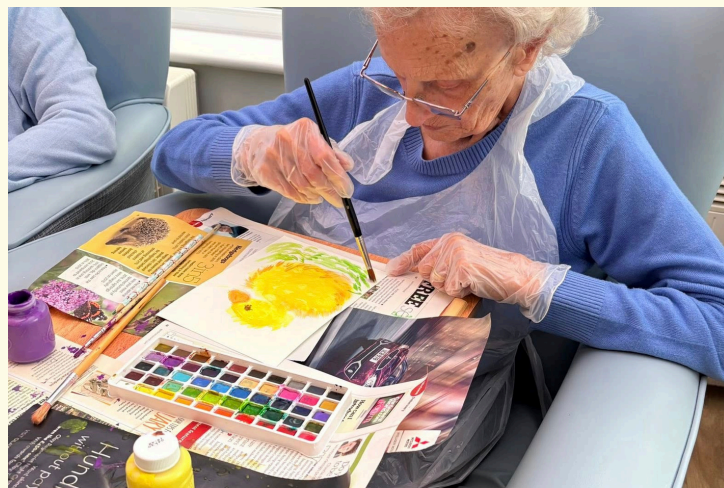
Residents at The Firs recently enjoyed a relaxed and engaging afternoon of arts and crafts, with a variety of activities designed to suit different interests and abilities. From watercolour painting to decorating stones, there was plenty of opportunity for everyone to get involved and try something new.

Tables were set up with paints, brushes and inspiration, and residents worked at their own pace, creating everything from bright spring flowers to charming duckling scenes. The session also offered a chance to chat, share ideas and admire each other's work as it took shape.

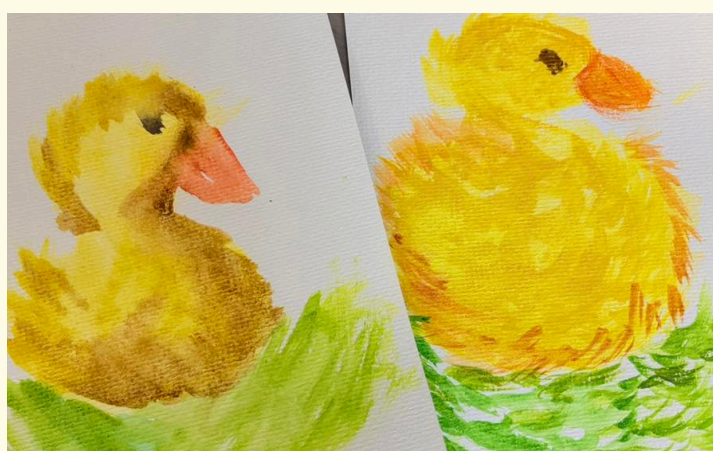
Activities like these play an important role in daily life at The Firs. Creative sessions encourage focus, support fine motor skills and provide a natural way for residents to connect with one another. They also offer a sense of purpose, with finished pieces proudly displayed on the home's gallery wall for all to see.

The latest additions are a colourful reminder of the talent and individuality within the home—and a great talking point for residents, visitors and staff alike.

"Activities like this are a valuable part of life at The Firs," said the Registered Manager. "They give residents the opportunity to express themselves, stay active and spend meaningful time together. It's always a pleasure to see everyone so engaged and to celebrate the individuality that comes through in each piece of work."



The ducklings begin to take shape, with colour and character developing with each brushstroke.



Two playful duckling paintings, each with its own unique character and style.

WORLD BOOK DAY AT WESTBANK CARE HOME



Pupils from St Joseph's RC Primary School and Nursery visit Westbank Care Home in costume to mark World Book Day.

Westbank Care Home welcomed pupils from St Joseph's RC Primary School and Nursery to mark World Book Day.

The children arrived in a range of costumes, creating a lively atmosphere for residents and staff. During the visit, residents spent time listening to the children read their favourite stories, which encouraged conversation and engagement throughout the home.

The visit highlighted the value of intergenerational activities. Residents had the opportunity to revisit familiar stories, while the children shared their enthusiasm for reading and spent time with residents in a relaxed setting.

As part of the day, the children brought cakes from their World Book Day Bake Off, which were shared with residents and staff.

Two residents, Sheila and Pat, who both previously worked as teachers, presented the school with a £100 book voucher on behalf of Westbank to support reading.

The visit was well received by everyone involved and contributed to a positive and engaging environment across the home.



A resident enjoys time with a visiting pupil in costume during the World Book Day celebrations at Westbank.

KINGLAND HOUSE WELCOMES CREATURE TEACHERS FOR ANIMAL VISIT

Residents at Kingland House took part in an interactive session with Creature Teachers, bringing a range of animals into the home.

The visit included an owl, which residents were able to see up close while learning more about its habitat and behaviour. The session encouraged questions and discussion, with plenty of interest from residents throughout.

Animal visits continue to be a popular activity at the home, offering a different type of engagement and prompting conversation among residents. The opportunity to interact with wildlife in a familiar setting supports both interest and participation. Tracy said:

“It was great to see how much residents engaged with the session. Experiences like this encourage conversation and give everyone something different to get involved in.”

Kingland House, like all of the Buckland Care homes, continues to organise a varied programme of activities and visits, with a focus on keeping residents engaged and offering new experiences within the home.



Residents at Kingland House had the opportunity to get up close with a barn owl during the Creature Teachers visit.

WILLOW BANK RECEIVES VALENTINE'S CARD FROM EVESHAM & DISTRICT MEETING CENTRE

The team at Willow Bank marked Valentine's Day with a delivery from Evesham & District Meeting Centre. Members of the centre created and sent an oversized handmade Valentine's card, which was presented to Dementia Lead, Paul Chambers. The card included a range of personal messages and contributions from those involved. The project was supported by the Meeting Centre team, who worked with members to design and complete the card.

Paul said: “We were completely overwhelmed by the kindness and creativity that went into this card. It's gestures like this that remind us how strong our community connections are.”

Willow Bank continues to work closely with local organisations, including groups supporting people living with dementia and their families, helping to maintain strong links with the wider community



Residents at Willow Bank enjoying their Valentine's Day surprise.

INGLEFIELD RESIDENTS TAKE PART IN BOXING-INSPIRED FITNESS SESSION

Residents at Inglefield took part in a boxing-inspired fitness session, bringing a different type of activity into the home.

The lounge was set up as a training space, with music and guidance from the team supporting residents as they tried a range of movements, including seated punches and upper body exercises. The session was adapted to suit individual abilities, ensuring everyone could take part.

The activity focused on building strength, coordination and balance, while also encouraging participation and interaction across the group. Residents supported each other throughout, with plenty of encouragement as the session progressed, creating a positive and energetic atmosphere.



Gloved up at Inglefield as residents got involved in the boxing-inspired session



Gloved up at Inglefield as residents got involved in the boxing-inspired session

For many, the session also sparked conversation, with residents sharing memories of sports and activities they had enjoyed in the past, adding another layer of engagement to the experience.

Charlotte, Registered Manager, said: "It was great to see residents getting involved and trying something different. The session was about building confidence and showing that there are always new activities to explore."

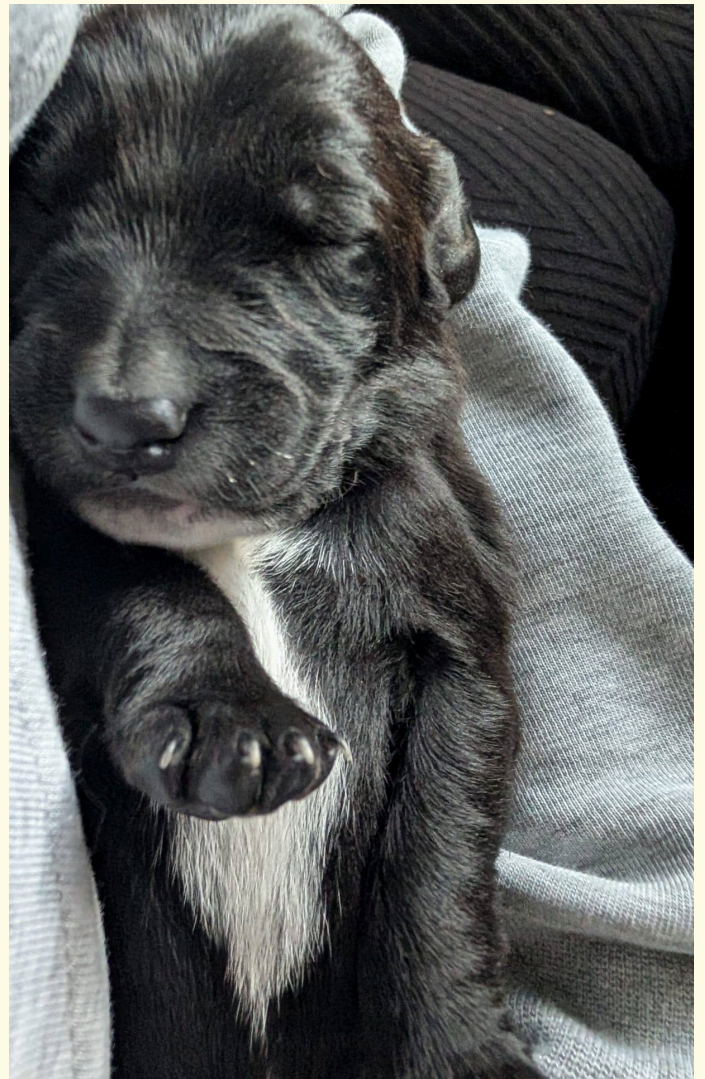
Activities at Inglefield continue to focus on supporting both physical and social wellbeing, with a varied programme designed to keep residents active and engaged.

PIPPA THE RESIDENT DOG WELCOMES EIGHT PUPPIES AT WOODLAND COURT

The team and residents at Woodland Court had a notable start to the year as resident dog Pippa gave birth to eight puppies on 15th January.

Pippa, who is well known across the home, was cared for on-site throughout her pregnancy. Both she and the puppies are doing well, with the team continuing to support their progress.

Residents have been able to follow the journey, spending time with Pippa and checking in on the puppies as they grow. The arrival of the litter has prompted plenty of conversation, with many residents sharing their own experiences of pets and animals.



Newborn to exploring – one of Pippa's puppies in the early days and now.

As the puppies have grown, they have started to become more active and curious, giving residents even more opportunities to engage with them as part of daily life.

Animals remain an important part of daily life at Woodland Court, supporting interaction and providing familiar points of connection for residents. Pippa has long been a regular presence in the home, and her puppies have quickly become a new focus for activity and engagement.

Pippa and the puppies remain a popular part of daily life at Woodland Court

RECIPES OF THE SEASON

CARROT CAKE CUP CAKES

FROM THE ORCHARDS

INGREDIENTS

- 375g plain flour
- 450g soft brown sugar
- 50g granulated sugar
- 6 medium eggs
- 450 g grated carrots
- 270ml vegetable oil
- 3 tbsp baking powder
- 1 tsp bicarb of Soda
- 3 tsp cinnamon
- 2 tsp ginger
- 1 tsp nutmeg
- Pinch of salt
- 1 tbsp vanilla essence

INGREDIENTS

STEP 1: Combine all the dry ingredients in a bowl.

STEP 2: In a separate bowl mix the oil, eggs, and vanilla essence.

STEP 3: Mix the wet ingredients into the dry and stir well, add the carrots.

STEP 4: Use an ice cream scoop to portion the mixture into cup cake trays.

STEP 5: Bake in the oven at 170°C for 12 to 15 minutes.

STEP 6: Cool cupcakes on a wire rack.

STEP 7: Once cooled decorated with cream cheese topping and add an iced carrot.



WELCOMING NEW MANAGERS AT THE ORCHARDS, THE FIRS & HARTWELL LODGE

We're delighted to welcome new leadership across several of our homes, with experienced managers bringing fresh energy, dedication and a shared passion for high-quality care.

At The Orchards, we are pleased to introduce Amanda Timms as Registered Manager. Amanda joined The Orchards in January 2026 and is passionate about delivering person-centred activities that enrich the lives of residents and support their wellbeing. Amanda began her career in care as a Care Assistant working night shifts in a nursing home, balancing her work with caring for her young daughter. She quickly progressed by completing her Level 2 and Level 3 qualifications and was promoted to Deputy Manager. Later, she relocated to Swindon to take on a Management role, where she achieved her Level 5 qualification in Leadership and Management. Outside of work, family is incredibly important to Amanda, and she enjoys spending quality time with her two grandsons.

At The Firs, we warmly welcome Emma Breslan as Registered Manager. Emma is a highly experienced care professional with over 25 years in the sector and joined The Firs in March 2026. She has a strong track record of leadership, most recently working as a turnaround manager supporting homes to achieve significant improvements in quality and performance. Emma has achieved Outstanding CQC ratings and has been recognised as part of a team awarded a place in the UK's Top 20 Care Homes. Known for her dedication to delivering the highest standards of care, she builds compassionate, motivated teams. Living locally in Lympstone, she has strong ties to the community and, coming from a proud military family, values connection and support. In her spare time, she enjoys spending quality time with her grandchildren and family.



Stacey Parkhill
Hartwell Lodge



Amanda Timms
The Orchards



Emma Breslan
The Firs

We also warmly welcome Stacey Parkhill as Home Manager at Hartwell Lodge. Stacey has worked in the care sector since 2004 and brings a wealth of experience to her role. She began her career as a Care Assistant and spent 19 years at her previous home, progressing through several roles and developing her knowledge and skills along the way.

Stacey achieved her Level 3 qualification in Health and Social Care and later completed her Level 5 in Leadership for Health and Social Care in 2018, supporting her progression to Registered Manager. She is passionate about maintaining high standards of care and supporting both residents and staff, and is looking forward to getting to know everyone at Hartwell Lodge while continuing to build a warm, supportive and well-led home.

Together, Amanda, Emma and Stacey bring a wealth of experience, leadership and compassion to their roles. Their commitment to high-quality, person-centred care reflects the very best of Buckland Care, and we're excited to see the positive impact they will continue to make in their homes. Please join us in giving them all a very warm welcome