

About me: Alice, newly appointed Night Team Leader

I began working at Fairfield in early 2020 as a 20-year-old agency care worker, just before the chaos of the Covid-19 pandemic unfolded. The camaraderie and shared determination to create optimism and laughter during uncertain times drew me to Fairfield's close-knit community. This was my first experience in a residential home, and I found supporting residents to maintain their independence and achieve personal goals deeply rewarding.

I took a break to complete a first-class Psychology degree at the University of Liverpool, where I was also recognised with an award for my work on adult ageing. My studies gave me a deeper appreciation for the importance of positive later-life experiences, the complexities of the human brain, and the value of nurturing mental health—core principles of Fairfield's person-centred ethos. My dissertation on familial caregiving during the pandemic highlighted the strength and resilience of carers, offering invaluable insights for my role.

After graduating, I was eager to return to Fairfield and successfully applied for a permanent position. Over the past two years, I have been promoted twice, first to Senior Care Assistant and most recently to Night Team Leader. These roles have allowed me to develop my skills and lead a dynamic team, all while receiving fantastic support from colleagues and residents.

In addition to my night shifts, I have undertaken office hours, gaining insight into Fairfield's operations and facilitating seamless communication between day and night teams to ensure exceptional care. I am also working towards an NVQ Level 3 in Adult Social Care, building my knowledge in areas such as safeguarding, medication administration, and conditions affecting older adults.

Caregiving is truly a vocation for me, and one I approach with great pride and commitment.



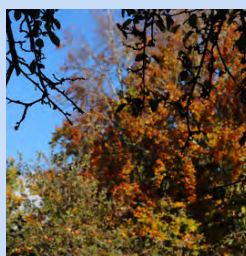
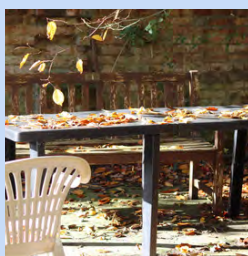
Alice, Night Team Leader

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Photography Club

As many of you may have noticed on the monthly planner, we now have a photography club, which meets every two weeks and is run by the Social Wellbeing Team. Kye, a member of the Social Wellbeing Team, has a passion for photography and has been sharing her skills by teaching residents how to use cameras. She has also been taking residents around the garden to capture some beautiful shots. Many of the photos have been displayed around the home for everyone to enjoy!



Murder Mystery Event:

We kicked off the spooky season with our first ever Murder Mystery Event! To make it extra special, we hired a professional company to perform a thrilling scenario for us. One of the actors was 'murdered,' and the cast then provided clues and background information to help us solve the mystery and identify the murderer. Everyone had a great time trying to figure out whodunit! Both residents and staff thoroughly enjoyed the experience and commented that it was fun and a memorable afternoon.



Museum Visit:

We had a lovely visit from the Oxford Museum. We were shown various types of pottery. There was a lot of discussion surrounding the various types and the history behind them. We have had many visits from Oxford Museum and we look forward to see what they bring in next!



Halloween Cocktails:

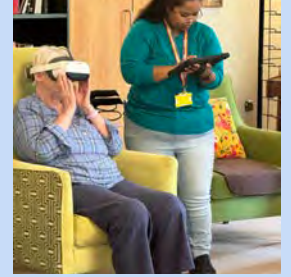
We also celebrated Halloween by having Halloween inspired cocktails, one of the cocktails was called 'Bucket of Blood' which was very popular. We made an afternoon of it, with Halloween inspired music, nibbles and fancy dress.



Virtual Reality At Fairfield

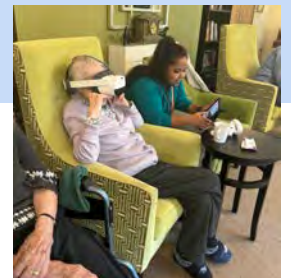
What is virtual reality ?

A virtual reality (VR) headset is a device you wear over your eyes that lets you experience 3D worlds, like games or simulations, as if you're really there. It has screens for each eye and tracks your head movements to make the world around you change as you look around. Some VR headsets also come with controllers so you can interact with the virtual world. VR headsets are used for gaming, learning, and other fun activities to make you feel like you're inside a computer-generated environment.



What does the future look like for virtual reality?

ROVR, now known as MOTIS in collaboration with Brookes University, is conducting ongoing research to explore how VR can enhance mobility and emotional wellbeing in residential settings. We are proud to have been part of this important research for several years, contributing to the understanding of how VR technology can improve the lives of residents.



A few of you taking part in the virtual reality study.

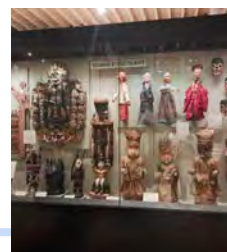
Social Wellbeing Update

As many of you may know, we've been interviewing for a fourth member to join the Social Wellbeing Team. After careful consideration, we're excited to announce that we've found the perfect fit! Our new team member will be bringing a wealth of skills and experience, and we can't wait for you to meet them. Keep an eye out in the next few weeks for the newest addition to the Social Wellbeing Team!



Recent Trips

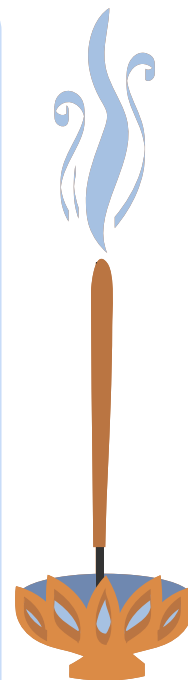
Many of you requested more trips to museums, and we have been focused on ensuring there are more opportunities to visit local museums. We have recently visited the Ashmolean Museum and the Pitt Rivers Museum, where we saw many artifacts from around the world. Many of you were fascinated by the dinosaur fossils and dolls. We are hoping that in the new year, we will be able to visit some exciting exhibitions. If you have any that you are particularly interested in, please let the Social Wellbeing Team know.



Religion And Spirituality At Fairfield

At Fairfield Residential Home, we respect and celebrate the diverse religious and spiritual beliefs of our residents. We recognize that faith plays an important role in the well-being of many, offering comfort, meaning, and connection. We strive to create an inclusive environment where all spiritual practices are honored. Whether you follow Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, or other beliefs, or practice no religion at all, we aim provide opportunities for you all to practice your faiths through services, quiet reflection, and spiritual discussions.

Our goal is to offer personalized support for each resident's spiritual needs, ensuring they feel valued and respected. By fostering an atmosphere of understanding and acceptance, we aim to enrich the lives of you all with compassion, comfort, and peace. If you would like us to provide any additional services or if we can do anything to facilitate your spiritual practice, please let a member of the Social Wellbeing Team know.



Casablanca Film Evening

We had our first outdoor cinema evening! We hired a large projector screen and projector, suitable for outdoor use. We asked many of you which film you'd like to watch "on the big screen," and the most requested film was Casablanca!

We invited family and friends to join us for the cinema evening and enjoyed a lovely supper inspired by the film which was Moroccan chicken and rice. The Social Wellbeing Team also served cocktails inspired by Casablanca, many of which were rum-based!

We then headed outside, where additional snacks inspired by the film such as olives, focaccia bread, popcorn, more cocktails, hot chocolates, and plenty of blankets were handed out. The film was enjoyed by all, and many of you requested another outdoor cinema night, which we are currently looking into.



←
A snapshot from our
Casablanca film evening.

O' My Luve's Like a Red

By Robert Burns

O my Luve's like a red, red rose,
That's newly sprung in June;
O my Luve's like the melodie
That's sweetly play'd in tune.
As fair are thou, my bonie lass,
So deep in luve am I;
And I will luve thee still, my Dear,
Till a' the seas gang dry.
Till a' the seas gang dry, my Dear,
And the rocks melt wi' the sun:
I will luve thee still, my dear,
While the sands o' life shall run.
And fare thee weel, my only Luve!
And fare thee weel, a while!
And I will come again, my Luve,
Tho' it were ten thousand mile!



Poem nominated by Bill and
Monica



Did you know:

Scotland's national poet Robert Burns is recognised around the world for his work focusing on universal themes of love and nature and he is widely regarded as the national poet of Scotland. Burns Night is celebrated on 25th January each year with traditional dishes of haggis, neeps and tatties along with whisky and recitals of his best-loved work.



Snow at Louveciennes by Alfred Sisley (1874)

Snow at Louveciennes painted by Alfred Sisley captures the silence and serenity of snowfall in a village. Alfred Sisley was a British impressionist painter who spent most of his time in France. Alfred Sisley, spent many winters in Louveciennes, in Marly-le-Roi or in Veneux-Nadon which inspired Alfred to paint many snow scenes such as this one.

Snow in Louveciennes by
Alfred Sisley (1874)





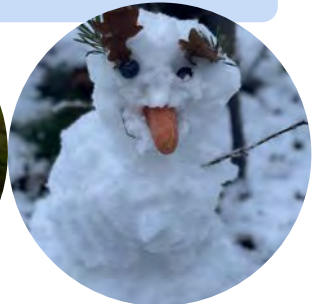
Did you know:

As the Christmas season approaches, the Social Wellbeing Team will be doing a wide range of Christmas crafts such as making baubles, penguin ornaments, nutcrackers stamps, cards and wreaths. This will happen every Saturday at 3pm during the next few weeks

Snowmen by Cameo and Gabi

Snow Snow Snow

We had our first glimpse of snow on 19th November! Last year, we didn't have any snow, so many of the staff and residents were very excited to see it this year. Gabi and Cameo really got into the spirit and built snowmen by the deer for everyone to enjoy! Fairfield truly looked beautiful in white and we're hoping for more this year!



Coffee With The Manager

What is Coffee with the Manager?

At Fairfield, we value your views and opinions about the home highly. To ensure everyone has the opportunity to connect and share feedback, we have introduced monthly coffee meetings with the Manager. These informal gatherings provide a welcoming space for open discussion, and we look forward to hearing from you.

What can we discuss at Coffee with the Manager?

This is your chance not only to get to know the Manager better, but also an opportunity for the Manager to get to know you better! Coffee with the Manager is a time for you all to have an open and informal discussion about your home, interests, things you would like to see happen, updates from around the home as well as a general chit chat with other residents. Often the sessions will have themes.

Upcoming dates:

- 10th December 2024 at 11.15am
- 14th January 2024 at 3.00pm
- 11th February 2024 at 3.00pm



SDC Building Project Updates

You may recall that many of you attended a talk by SDC a while ago, where they shared updates on the building projects, including the Nursery, which is scheduled for completion in early 2025.

After the talk, we were taken around the side of Fairfield to view the ongoing construction, and SDC explained the purpose of the new buildings. The structures to the right of Fairfield will accommodate up to 50 students per block. It was fascinating to see the progress and learn about the future plans for the project.

New Addition to Fairfield Garden;

You may have noticed a delightful new addition to the Fairfield Garden—a charming pig sculpture! Judith, one of our newer residents, brought it from her own home for everyone to enjoy—residents, staff, and visitors alike. It's quickly become a lovely feature in the garden, and some of our staff have even enjoyed taking photos of the pig for art projects!

We had the pleasure of speaking with Judith about the pig, and here's what she shared with us for the newsletter:

Judith has had the pig since 1984. It was a special gift from her husband's workplace when he retired, and she's been very fond of it ever since. Judith brought Ermintrude with her to Fairfield, saying, "Wherever I go, Ermintrude goes."



Ermintrude - Judith's Pig

Fairfield Choir



Following our Coffee with the Manager session, it was suggested that Fairfield start its own choir! As you'll see on your activity planner, choir practice takes place every other week. With the festive season approaching, the choir has decided to focus on learning a selection of Christmas carols to perform at our upcoming Christmas party.

Sue Moser has generously volunteered her piano skills, and we're also thrilled to have her daughter join us, offering her expertise as an experienced choir singer. Sue shared a few words about how the choir practices are going: "It's going really well! Everyone seems enthusiastic, and we're making great progress. We're learning some beautiful new carols to perform at the party."

If you'd like to join the Fairfield Choir, we would love to have you! Simply come along to one of the practice sessions—dates are listed on your activity planner.

Upcoming dates:

Saturday 14th December 2024
Christmas Party

Tuesday 24th December 2024:
Christmas Eve

Wednesday 25th December 2024:
Christmas Day

Thursday 26th December 2024:
Boxing Day

Tuesday 31st December 2024:
New Year's Eve

Wednesday 1st January 2024:
New Year's Day

Upcoming Newsletters

March 2025

June 2025

September 2025

Good to know



We engaged a maintenance company called Calber Ltd to look after the building a few months ago. Tony now visits three times a week instead of two, with helpdesk support for urgent needs and a wider specialist team for additional support.



As the weather changes, so does our wardrobe! If you purchase or receive any new clothing items this season, please ask a team member to label them.



If you have a family event or outing and need extra support, we offer an escort service with a dedicated staff member for your trip. Please inform the team as early as possible so we can make the necessary arrangements. This service is provided at additional cost.



Although the front driveway is open, with our normal allocation of 6 parking spots for visitors, part of the driveway will be narrower than usual while work is carried out on the small building to the north. Drivers are asked to please take extra care.