

Winter 2019

**Abbeyfield**  
Making time for older people

# ABBEYFIELD GLOUCESTERSHIRE NEWS



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Registered Charity No 220611

## Meet our new Chairman, Andrew Ross



On December 31<sup>st</sup> Noel Brick will retire as Chairman and Trustee of Abbeyfield Gloucestershire. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, the residents and the wider Abbeyfield family I would like to thank Noel for his dedicated service to Abbeyfield over many years.

I will take over from Noel as Chairman on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020. The coming years are an exciting time in the Abbeyfield family. There is an increased awareness of the value of local member

Societies, such as Abbeyfield Gloucestershire, and the strong links that such societies build in the local community. I have only been a trustee in Abbeyfield for 18 months, but I have seen many excellent examples of the work that Abbeyfield does in its local communities. The Board of Abbeyfield Gloucestershire will seek to continue and build upon this work in the years ahead.

On a personal note, I have recently become a grandfather for the first time. You will see from the photograph that I have already started training my grandson, Ted, for his future role as an Abbeyfield trustee. In the coming year I hope to bring him around to each of the Abbeyfield Gloucestershire homes and introduce him to all of our residents.

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# Welcome to our new Board Members.....



## **Simon Large**

Simon is a Chartered Surveyor with forty years' experience working in the property industry on a range of construction projects in the public, commercial and charity sectors.

I have run my own business for the last 20 years in Cirencester. I have a keen interest in all things building and am especially interested in helping to make buildings work hard to meet the challenges and requirements of occupiers.

Like many people of my age I have first hand experience with helping my late parents and other aged relatives to lead comfortable lives in their latter years. I am keen to help Abbeyfield Gloucestershire secure its future and continue to provide its unique blend of stable, friendly, affordable family homes for the residents providing support combating loneliness in old age.

## **Mark Hourston**

Mark is a Project Manager with 10 years experience of working in Social Care and the Health Service.

I am self employed and have lived in Cirencester with my family for the past 20 years. I am passionate about helping Abbeyfield deliver its mission to deliver high quality care to older people in our community, providing them with safe and affordable housing and helping to combat social isolation.



# Welcome .....

## **Donna Rudd** **House Manager, Prestbury House**

Having worked in palliative care for over 12 years, I am looking forward to a very different role as House Manager at the Prestbury House and getting to know the Abbeyfield family. I enjoy cooking and getting creative in the kitchen. My belief is, it's not only flavour and quality of food that's important, but also how it's presented.

I enjoy hearing the stories our older generation have to tell and no doubt, will continue to learn a thing or two from their invaluable life experiences.



## **Antonella Scarpa-Isles** **Relief Cook, Cheltenham House**

As an artist I work mostly by myself, and that can feel very solitary and isolating. When I joined Abbeyfield in a relief capacity I particularly enjoyed the social aspect of it, interacting with the residents in all the different houses.

Now, I'm looking forward to being part of a team, as well as seeing the residents at the Cheltenham house on a regular basis. It goes without saying that I love cooking!!



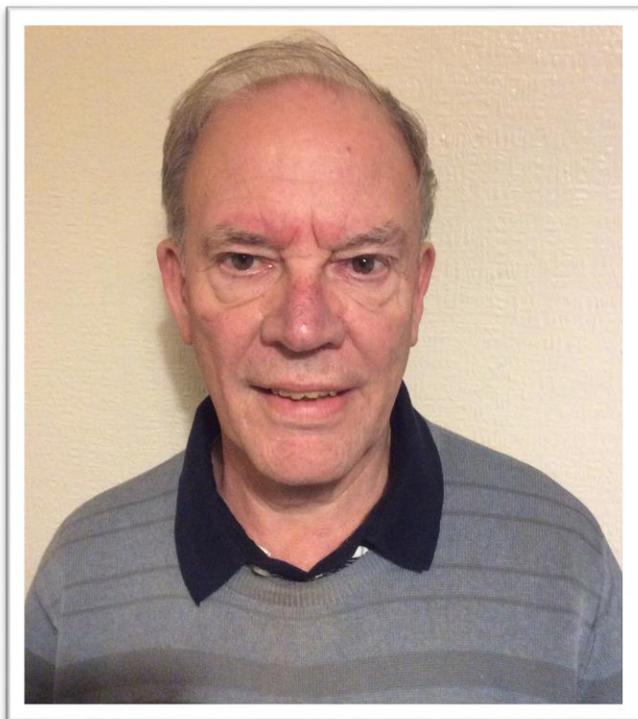
## **Ally Hook** **Relief Cook, Cheltenham House**

I love to cook and have been with Abbeyfield for nearly 6 years. I am big fan of gardening and after 12 years living overseas in Africa and the Middle East I was very happy to settle back into the UK In 2013 and enjoy the different seasons and changes in the garden that they bring.

I am looking forward to having more regular contact with the lovely residents at the Cheltenham house.



# And goodbye .....



## Noel Brick

16 or more years ago, Abbeyfield Prestbury was, when Noel took over as Chairman, a traditional Abbeyfield House, run by local volunteers. It was full and running a healthy surplus, so most of the early years of his tenure were taken up with improvements to the house and coping with some of the problems of ageing residents and staffing – all quite normal for an Abbeyfield Chairman. Prestbury then fell on hard times and we only just pulled through. Long standing volunteers were "retiring" and we realised that we had to make the group more formal – to merge with other houses in the area to form a more robust society.

As the group struggled with the merger process battling through red tape, Noel carried on as Chairman of the Prestbury Society until we actually merged on 5th January 2016. The Chairman of the new Abbeyfield Gloucestershire Society was Paul Purcell and Noel stepped up as Vice-Chairman. When Paul stood down for personal reasons, Noel, through his sense of responsibility, took on the chair and has seen through the strengthening of the Board with new blood, whilst still being committed to the Prestbury House, its residents and staff as it goes through a period of change.

Noel has a strong commitment to the community, through his involvement with Abbeyfield, the church, the GWSR and other charities in the area.



## Musical Moments

The smiles on our residents faces and the involvement from everyone was wonderful to see when Rosie from Musical Moments visited the Cirencester and Prestbury Houses in November.

Thank you Rosie and we look forward to seeing you again in January.

# A Toast to Peter

Residents from the Cirencester house along with staff and close friends of Peter Reeves enjoyed a lovely afternoon tea at The Greenway Hotel and Spa in October. Everyone raised a glass to Peter, who for many years worked at this hotel as a Head Waiter. Peter was one of our much-loved residents, who sadly passed away in July. He was a true gentleman, always well dressed and had a great passion for art. Thank you to the hotel for your great hospitality.



A lovely stone bird bath has been kindly donated to the Cirencester house by the friends of Peter Reeves. Thank you to all who have contributed.



# Festive Events

Christmas for us officially started in mid November with the decorating of a Christmas tree in Cirencester Parish Church. Thank you to Liz, a resident in our Cirencester house and to our Administrator, Nikki for your help. Our tree was amongst 40 stunningly decorated trees in the Church. It was a magical sight when all the Church lights were switched off, leaving only the tree lights glowing!



Residents from our Cheltenham house enjoyed an evening of Christmas Carols with Corinne and her friends.





In mid December residents and staff from our Cirencester house enjoyed some Christmas shopping and a lovely lunch at Dobbies Garden Centre in Cirencester.

It looks like a marvellous day and lots of fun!



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## **Colesbourne Snowdrop Teas**

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> February and Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020**

Sir Henry and Lady Caroline Elwes open their estate, Colesbourne Park for 4-5 weekends in February and March each year to show off their rare and famous snowdrop collection started by Sir Henry's grandmother.

Within the grounds of the estate is a lovely tea room and we have been given the opportunity to serve tea and cake to the public during the weekend of Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> February and Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March. The tea room is open from 1.00pm-4.30pm, so do please come along and support us.

We will need to ensure that we have plenty of cake to serve and helpers to make this event a success. Depending on the weather we may be looking at catering for up to 600 people each day!! If you would be willing to help with some baking of flapjacks, millionaire's shortbread, cup cakes or chocolate brownies or helping on one of the days, we would love to hear from you. For more information please contact Nikki Browning on 07710 818721 or email [nikki.browning@abbeyfieldglos.org.uk](mailto:nikki.browning@abbeyfieldglos.org.uk)

All monies raised will go towards providing more activities and trips for our residents in 2020.

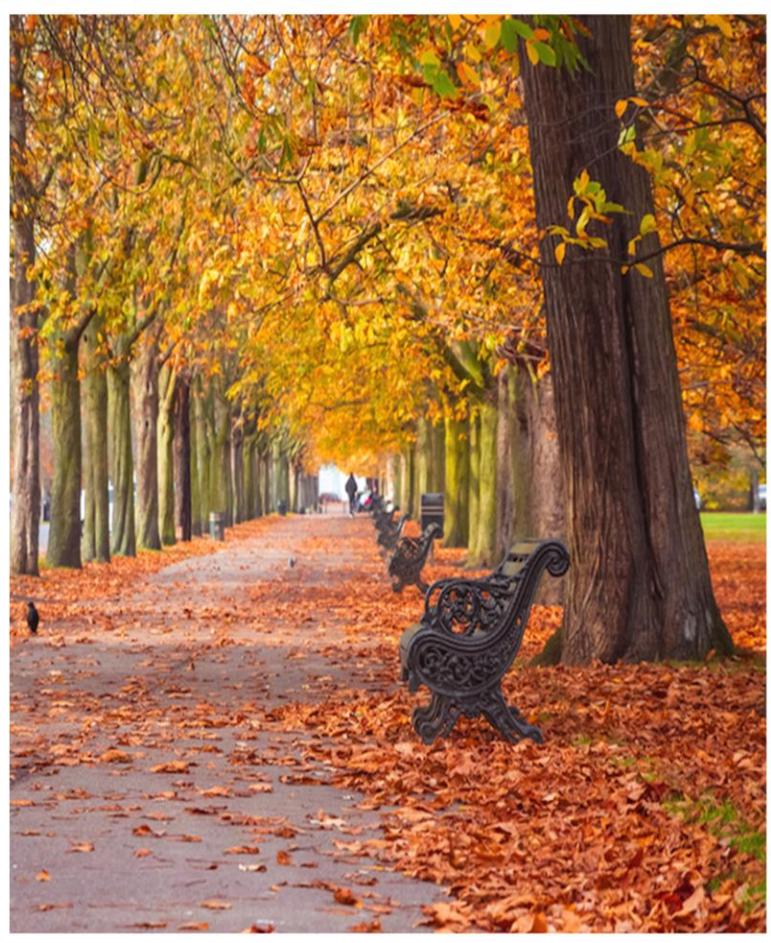




Many of our wonderful volunteers joined us at the Cheltenham house for an afternoon tea party in September, so we could say thank you for all their hard work and to celebrate the amazing contribution they make.

## Volunteers Thank You Tea Party

“We really value the time and effort that our volunteers put into improving the lives of older people in our houses, whether it’s chatting over a cup of tea, helping them to fill out forms or taking them on day trips” said Nikki Browning, Administrator.



### Autumn to Autumn

Autumn leaves are falling down,  
Yellow, red and golden brown,  
Swirling, twirling and falling fast,  
Autumn’s here and summer’s past,  
Soon will come the cold, dark night,  
With hail and snow a glittering white,  
Ice and wind and gales to chill,  
And heavy rain the ground to fill,  
After winter, Spring will come,  
With longer days and lots more sun,  
Bluebells, violets all so blue,  
Newborn lambs and catkins too,  
Summer with the grass so green,  
With warming breezes, so serene,  
Birds and flowers of every hue,  
Long hot days and skies so blue,  
After Summer Autumn’s here,  
The glorious end of another year.

By Liz Woodham, Cirencester resident



## Play today and support our cause!

- Make a difference to the community and support our cause
- Sign-up for only £1 a week!
- You get the chance to win cash prizes up to £25,000 every week!
- We get 50p from every £1 ticket and a further 10p goes to other good causes
- Join your community in making where we live an even better place

To start supporting, visit:

[www.CheltenhamLottery.co.uk](http://www.CheltenhamLottery.co.uk)

and search for: **Abbeyfield**



## Play the lottery, support Abbeyfield

Tickets for the lottery cost just £1 per week. Each ticket has a **1 in 50** chance to win a prize each week, with a top prize of £25,000! That's a better chance of winning than the National Lottery or the Health Lottery!

Each ticket will consist of 6 numbers and each number will be between 0 and 9. There will be a draw every Saturday night when a 6 digit winning combination will be picked. Prizes will be given to players with tickets that match the first or last 2-6 numbers from the winning combination. Match all 6 and you win the JACKPOT!

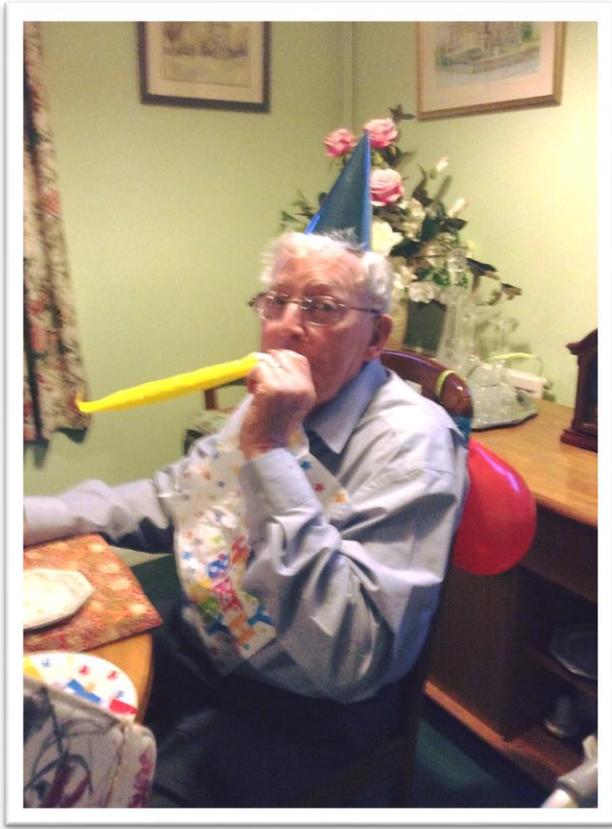
From every £1 ticket, if you nominate Abbeyfield as your cause, 50p will go to us. To put this in perspective when you play the National Lottery 25% goes to good causes and you can choose which cause the money goes to.

**Your continued support is much appreciated.**

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# Birthdays, birthdays .....

Birthdays are a big deal for us at Abbeyfield, and we always celebrate them in style!



Eric celebrating his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in style!



A big HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Bruce who recently celebrated his 97<sup>th</sup> birthday. Bruce loves to travel, having visited Cyprus, Rome and Portugal this year!

Congratulations to Jean who turned 90 in September!



# What's coming up .....

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January – Panto time to see Aladdin at The Roses Theatre

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January - New Year Lunch at Sherdon's Golf Centre

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January – Musical Moments with Rosie at the Prestbury House

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January – Musical Moments with Rosie at the Cirencester House

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January – Zoolab at the Prestbury house

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February - Zoolab at the Cirencester House

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> February and Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March – Colesbourne Snowdrop Weekend

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March – Reminiscence Session – 1950's-1960's at the Cheltenham House

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March - Reminiscence Session – 1950's-1960's at the Cirencester House



## Five Star!

Congratulations to House Manager, Elaine King and her team at the Cirencester House who have recently been awarded the top rating of 5 by the Food Standards Agency. Well done.

## We're Social .....

Please help us spread the word. You can follow and share tweets on our Twitter account [www.twitter.com/AbbeyfieldGlou1](http://www.twitter.com/AbbeyfieldGlou1) Like or share and follow our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/Abbeyfield.Glos](http://www.facebook.com/Abbeyfield.Glos)