

ACCREDITATIONS

THE VETERAN FRIENDLY FRAMEWORK



Spellman Care Expands Heartwarming 'Adopt a Grand-Friend' Scheme (continued)

...In a letter to the homes, Fran Sharp extended her congratulations, stating: "It is our pleasure to congratulate you on your continuous commitments to your VFF Status, as a Veteran Friendly Framework Care Home in July 2025. We thank you for continued commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant. This

accreditation recognises your continued work identifying and sharing best practice within your care home to enable the best standards of care for the Armed Forces community." She added that the national team will continue to support Spellman Care's veteran-aware activities and assist with establishing a program that delivers a lasting impact.

Chadwick concluded with a look to the future. "While we are delighted with this re-accreditation, our commitment to outstanding care for our veterans—and indeed, for all our residents—is a journey with no end. We are always looking for ways to expand and improve. We'd also like to extend a huge thank you to all the new contacts and partners we've made this year for their incredible support, including the Keighley Sea Cadets and Royal Marine Cadets and the members of the Ilkley Armed Forces Breakfast Club. The whole team is looking forward to growing our Veterans Cafes and building even more links within the veteran community. We will continue to work closely with the VFF for many years to come as we strive to provide the best possible care for everyone in our homes."

SPELLMAN SPOTLIGHT

1st September, 2025

Kindness | Dignity | Compassion



SPELLMAN CARE EXPANDS HEARTWARMING 'ADOPT A GRAND-FRIEND' SCHEME

www.spellmancare.co.uk

Following the resounding success of its pilot program, Spellman Care is delighted to announce the widespread re-launch and expansion of its beloved 'Adopt a Grand-Friend' scheme, now available across all Spellman Care homes. This initiative aims to bridge generations, creating meaningful... (continued on page 2)

hello@spellmancare.co.uk

[@spellmancare](https://www.instagram.com/spellmancare)

ACTIVITIES

PROJECTS



Spellman Care Expands Heartwarming 'Adopt a Grand-Friend' Scheme (continued)

...friendships and enriching the lives of both young people and residents within the community.

Originally piloted at Springbank Care Home, the 'Adopt a Grand-Friend' scheme has proven to be a powerful catalyst for positive connection. It provides a unique opportunity for young

individuals to forge bonds with Spellman Care residents, fostering a vibrant exchange of companionship, wisdom, and joy.

“We are incredibly proud to share the ‘Adopt a Grand-Friend’ scheme across all our Spellman Care homes,” says April Howie, Deputy Manager at Springbank Care Home. “The pilot demonstrated the immense value of these intergenerational connections. It’s truly heartwarming to witness the smiles, laughter, and genuine friendships that blossom when different generations come together.”

Intergenerational activities offer a wealth of advantages for all involved:

- For Young People: Engaging with the elderly can significantly enhance communication skills, promote positive social behaviour, and boost confidence and self-esteem. It provides a unique perspective on life, history, and personal growth, offering invaluable lessons beyond the classroom. Young people gain a deeper understanding of empathy, patience, and the richness of diverse life experiences.
- For Residents: For our residents, these friendships bring immense joy, reduce feelings of loneliness, and provide mental stimulation. Sharing stories, hobbies, and laughter with younger generations keeps spirits high and fosters a sense of...(continued on page 3)

ACCREDITATIONS

THE VETERAN FRIENDLY FRAMEWORK

Spellman Care Re-Accredited as Veteran Friendly, Celebrating Continued Commitment to the Armed Forces Community

Spellman Care, a leading local care home group, is proud to announce that all four of its homes have been re-accredited under the Veteran Friendly Framework. This achievement comes one year after the group became only the second care home group in the country to receive the initial accreditation.



Fran Sharp, Project Officer at the Veteran Friendly Framework, praised Spellman Care’s dedication and the team’s passion when delivering the news of their re-accreditation. She highlighted the amount of innovative and engaging projects the group has undertaken, which truly make a difference to the lives of veterans in their care.

A key part of Spellman Care’s efforts this past year has been the successful launch of the Spellman Care Veterans Cafes. These monthly gatherings circulate between the four homes, providing a dedicated space for veterans to connect and socialise.

Peter Chadwick, representing Spellman Care, shared his delight at the news. “The entire Spellman Care team is thrilled to receive our one-year re-accreditation. A lot of hard work has gone into this project, and this recognition is a testament to the whole team, especially our Activity Coordinators who have worked tirelessly to provide the very best person-centred care for our veterans. We were particularly proud this year to see our first resident become an Armed Forces Champion, which is a wonderful example of the impact our work is having.”...

(Continued on page 8)

ARTICLES

A DAY IN THE LIFE

A Day in the Life of the Spellman Express (continued)

...homes. The journey becomes a reunion in itself as residents greet old friends and make new ones.

The scent of home baking and coffee greets us as we arrive at 2 pm. The sounds of music draw us to Ghyll Royd's back garden, where the veterans' café is in full swing. The extensive lawns and tranquil setting amongst the trees make for a perfect afternoon. Our residents spot familiar faces from the Ilkley Armed Forces Breakfast Club, chat with young people from the local cadets, and even have the chance to meet the local MP. Head Chef Luke is on hand, serving slices of his freshly baked cake—a recipe provided by a former member of the army catering corps.

Conversation flows easily, with stories shared about military service and the joys of the veterans' café. We talk about past events, laughing as we remember the first event when a classic Rolls Royce visited and the time we met men in uniform from the Yorkshire Regiment and the Howarth Home Guard. It's a wonderful opportunity for our residents to feel seen and celebrated, to share their experiences, and to connect with others who understand their stories.

At 3.30 pm, it's time to say goodbye. The residents depart, but not before promising to see one another at the next veterans' café, which will be held at a different home next month. The afternoon is a reminder of the power of community and the importance of shared memories.

The day ends at 4.30 pm, back at Steeton Court. As the residents head inside for dinner and a friendly game of dominoes, Phil hoses down the minibus, washing away the dirt of the day and preparing it for its next adventure. The Spellman Express has completed another successful journey, leaving behind a trail of happy memories and strengthened friendships.

ACTIVITIES

PROJECTS

Spellman Care Expands Heartwarming 'Adopt a Grand-Friend' Scheme (continued)

- ...purpose and continued contribution to the community. The energy and fresh perspectives of young people can be incredibly invigorating.

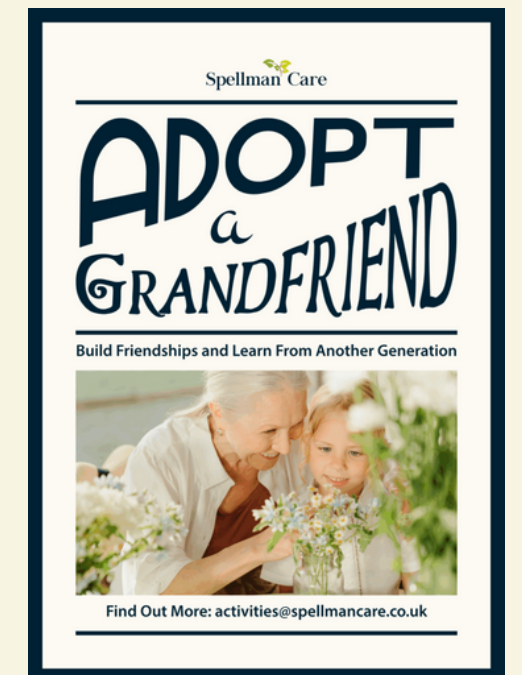
At its core, the 'Adopt a Grand-Friend' scheme celebrates the universal human need for connection. Friendships, regardless of age, provide support, companionship, and a sense of belonging. This initiative specifically highlights the benefits of friendship across generations, where young people can learn invaluable life lessons, hear captivating stories, and gain wisdom directly from their elders. These shared moments create lasting memories and a legacy of mutual respect and affection.

With the school holidays well underway, now is the perfect time for young people to embark on a new and rewarding friendship. A 'Grand-Friend' relationship can take many forms – whether it's through a traditional pen pal exchange, sharing letters and drawings, or enjoying in-person visits to our homes to take part in activities.

Spellman Care invites young people, families, and community groups interested in taking part in this rewarding scheme to connect with their local Spellman Care home. We will facilitate introductions, carefully buddying up young friends with residents who share similar interests, ensuring the foundation for a truly special bond.

We also warmly encourage local schools to get involved! If your school would like to participate or learn more about how the 'Adopt a Grand-Friend' scheme can benefit your students and our residents, please get in touch.

Please email activities@spellmancare.co.uk to get involved.



ARTICLES

A DAY IN THE LIFE



A Day in the Life of the Spellman Express

Every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the Spellman Express comes to life, ready to whisk residents from one of our four homes off on an adventure. Affectionately named by our residents, this minibus is more than just a vehicle; it's a portal to the community, a catalyst for connection, and a source of countless smiles.

The day for the Spellman Express, and its dedicated driver, Phil, begins promptly at 9.30 am. After a thorough sweep and a maintenance check, the bus sets off to its designated home for the day. Today, it's Steeton Court's turn. Phil arrives at 10 am, heading inside to join the activity coordinators. Over a welcoming cuppa in the lounge, residents gather, their chatter and laughter filling the room as they anticipate the day's outing.

Soon, everyone is settled aboard the bus, and the Spellman Express sets off. Our destination for the morning is a scenic countryside drive, culminating in a stop at Hamilton's by the river in Addingham. The gentle rocking of the bus and the stunning views provide a perfect start to the day.

At 10.35 am, we arrive at High Mill...(Continued on page 5)



ARTICLES

A DAY IN THE LIFE

A Day in the Life of the Spellman Express (continued)

...As we disembark and enjoy a peaceful stroll, it's wonderful to see our residents waving to dog walkers and greeting members of the public. This feeling of being a part of the local community is so important. We stop for a cuppa and a slice of cake at Hamilton's, enjoying the fresh riverside air. The morning is a lovely mix of good company,



delicious treats, and the simple pleasure of feeling connected to the world around us. By 11.30 am, everyone is back on the bus, full of smiles and chatter, and we return to Steeton Court just in time for lunch.

While the minibus typically heads out for another outing in the afternoon—perhaps for a spot of shopping at Boundary Mill or sightseeing in Ilkley—today is different. This afternoon is dedicated to



the Spellman Care Veterans Café, and it's being held at our beautiful sister home, Ghyll Royd Care Home. Once a month, veterans from our homes and the wider community come together for an afternoon of socialising, good food, and great camaraderie.

At 1 pm, our residents board the Spellman Express once more, heading to Ghyll Royd. We make a couple of stops along the way to pick up friends from the other two ... (Continued on page 6)