

LOOKING BACK

ON 2025



35 Year Service Celebrations



Handbag Appeal



Remembrance Commemorations

Spellman Care Celebrates Year of Award-Winning Success and Community Impact (Continued)

...In October, the 'Adopt a Grandfriend' intergenerational scheme took centre stage, with a major sign-up event featured on BBC Radio Leeds. The month was also dedicated to community support, including hosting sessions on care home finances and making a donation to Airedale Hospital's Oncology Department.

The 35th-anniversary year drew to a close with a series of celebrations. In November, Springbank Head Chef Eve Kelk was "Highly Commended" at the Great British Care Awards, while staff across the group participated in the Skipton Santa Fun Run. Finally, in December, Steeton Court took home the trophy at the annual Christmas Cake Competition, and the group celebrated the fifth anniversary of its annual Christmas Appeal, continuing its tradition of supporting the wider community during the festive season.

From its founding in 1990 to the award-winning group it is today, 2025 has been a year that honours Spellman Care's rich history while looking firmly toward a compassionate future.

SPELLMAN SPOTLIGHT

2nd February, 2026

Kindness | Dignity | Compassion



STEETON COURT HITS THE RIGHT NOTE WITH 'PLAYLIST FOR LIFE'

www.spellmancare.co.uk

Steeton Court Nursing Home is proud to announce its enrolment in 'Playlist for Life', a pioneering music and dementia project designed to harness the power of personal soundtracks to improve the wellbeing of its residents.

The initiative was introduced to Steeton Court via the Bradford Care... (Continued on page 2)

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INITIATIVES

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY



Kirstie Beard, Activity Coordinator Quoted

Steeton Court Hits the Right Note with 'Playlist for Life' (Continued)

...Association. The Association's regular activity coordinator meetings serve as a vital hub for local homes, providing a platform to share innovative practices that enhance the quality of life for residents across the region.

Playlist for Life is a UK-based music and dementia charity.

Their work is built on decades of research showing that personal music—the specific songs that form the soundtrack of a person's life—can reduce anxiety, improve mood, and make daily tasks more manageable. For those living with dementia, these familiar melodies can evoke deep-seated memories, providing a unique breakthrough that helps families and carers connect with their loved ones.

As part of the programme, Steeton Court has received a comprehensive resource pack. Residents are currently being supported to complete specialist questionnaires designed to unearth their 'musical triggers'. These prompts encourage residents to recall songs that remind them of their youth, their favourite holidays, or the sounds of their home towns.

Once these musical histories are captured, the home will ensure that every resident has their own dedicated digital music collection, making their personal soundtrack easily accessible at any time through the home's media equipment.

Kirstie Beard, Activity Coordinator at Steeton Court, said: "Music is a powerful tool for anyone, but for those living with dementia, it can be a vital lifeline to their past" ... (Continued on page 3)

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Spellman Care Celebrates Year of Award-Winning Success and Community Impact (Continued)

...on a national level, serving as a judge for the National Great British Care Awards.

As spring arrived, March saw Ghyll Royd Care Home announced as the headline sponsor for the 2025 Guiseley Carnival, reinforcing the group's deep local ties. In April, the group announced a new partnership with Dementia Friendly Keighley to provide essential educational talks for families and businesses. These sessions were held in May, offering vital support and guidance to the community. This month also brought a particularly poignant milestone: the 35th anniversary of Rachael Houldsworth at Steeton Court. Rachael joined the team as a secretary in 1990 before the home had even officially opened its doors, and her journey beautifully parallels the 35-year history of the group itself. May also saw the launch of a new 'Relative Support Hub' and moving VE Day tributes across the homes.

The summer months and early autumn focused on enhancing resident life and charitable giving. In June, a new Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle (WAV) was added to the fleet at Springbank to improve local outings. Throughout July, August, and September, the homes opened their doors for the 2025 Summer Fêtes, bringing together residents and neighbours to raise nearly £2,000 for local charities, alongside a successful collection for the Love Grace Appeal.

The group's specialist expertise was further validated in August and September. Spellman Care achieved re-accreditation under the Veteran Friendly Framework, while both Springbank and Ghyll Royd received Gold Standards Framework (GSF) accreditations for excellence in end-of-life care. These professional accolades were matched by local recognition, with the group being shortlisted for the Social Care Leadership Awards and the Keighley and Airedale Business Awards... (Continued on Page 8)

LOOKING BACK

ON 2025



Photo from the first Veterans' Cafe

modern identity remains firmly rooted in its core principles of kindness, dignity, and compassion. This landmark year has been defined by award recognition, heartwarming celebrations of dedication, and a deep-seated commitment to the regions it serves.

The year began in January with a look back at the group's 2024 successes in the local press, quickly followed by a significant community launch: the monthly Veterans' Cafes. Hosted across all four homes, Craven Nursing Home, Ghyll Royd Care Home, Springbank Care Home, and Steeton Court Nursing Home, the cafes were designed to provide a vital social hub and combat isolation for local heroes. The initiative garnered significant attention from BBC Radio Leeds and has proved so popular that dates have already been announced for the entirety of 2026.

In February, the group's dedication to high-quality care was recognised when Spellman Care was crowned the "Connected Care Champion" at the 2025 Champions of Care Awards. This award highlighted the group's innovative use of digital care planning to enhance resident wellbeing and safety. During the same month, Group Operations Manager Philippa Young shared her expertise... (Continued on Page 7)

INITIATIVES

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY

Steeton Court Hits the Right Note with 'Playlist for Life' (Continued)

...“While it can sometimes be difficult to recall a specific memory on the spot, hearing a certain melody can unlock doors that have been closed for years. We have seen a wonderful response already; the project has brought back memories of dancing at local venues, parents performing in the Steeton Male Voice Choir, and the evocative songs of the post-war era and VE Day. It is incredibly moving to see a resident light up when they hear a song their grandparents sang to them as a child. While music-based activities are always popular here, this project feels deeply personal and especially meaningful for our residents and their families.”

The impact of the project is already being felt within the home. One resident, while listening to Frank Sinatra, remarked: “This is a lyric that relates to me so much,” as the singer performed the iconic line, “I’ve lived a life that’s full.”

By integrating Playlist for Life into its daily care, Steeton Court continues to prioritise person-centred support, ensuring that every resident’s unique history and identity are celebrated through the universal language of music.

For more information about the project, visit www.playlistforlife.org.uk.

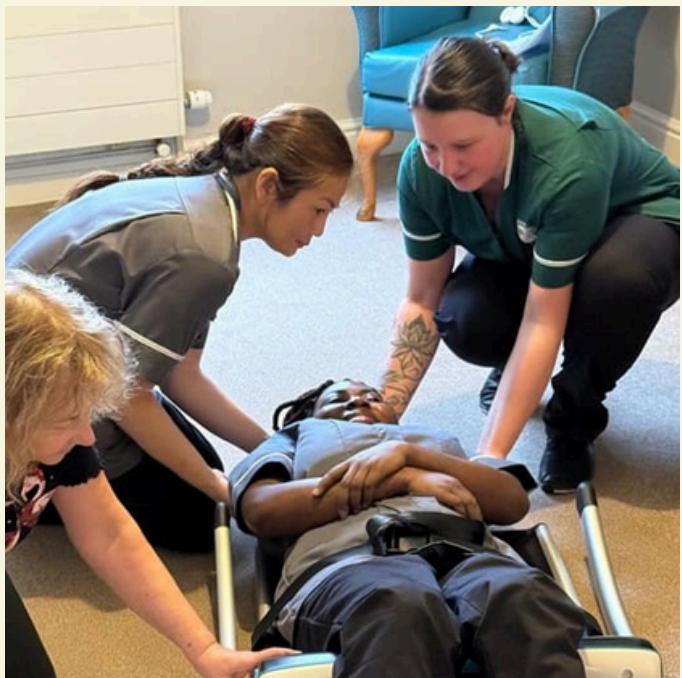
Christmas Came Early for Ghyll Royd Care Home: Kärcher Partnership & New Care Technology

Residents and staff at Ghyll Royd Care Home celebrated an early Christmas gift this year, as the home announces two cutting-edge projects designed to revolutionise resident safety and... (Continued on Page 4)



INITIATIVES

NEW TECHNOLOGY



Christmas Came Early for Ghyll Royd Care Home: Kärcher Partnership & New Care Technology (Continued)

...environmental hygiene. Through a prestigious local authority grant and a unique partnership with global giant Kärcher, Ghyll Royd is starting the new year at the forefront of care technology.

A Pioneering Partnership with Kärcher

Ghyll Royd has been hand-picked by multi-national brand Kärcher for an exclusive three-month trial of their Care Home range as they expand into this area.

The partnership is the result of a close collaboration between Mike Burden at Kärcher, Philippa Young, Spellman Care's Operations Manager, and Deb Gawthrop, Ghyll Royd's Head Housekeeper. By combining Mike's technical expertise with Philippa's frontline healthcare experience, they have ensured this equipment meets the rigorous and unique demands of a modern care home environment.

The comprehensive suite of equipment arrived at Ghyll Royd 23rd December. The trial includes a wide range of industry-leading tools, from fully kitted-out, COSH-compliant mobile workstations to specialised steam and suction technology for floors and upholstery. This professional-grade kit has been designed to be more efficient and ergonomic, allowing the team to maintain the highest standards of cleanliness with ease.

.. (Continued on Page 5)

INITIATIVES

NEW TECHNOLOGY

Christmas Came Early for Ghyll Royd Care Home: Kärcher Partnership & New Care Technology (Continued)

....Philippa Young, Operations Manager at Spellman Care, commented: "We are thrilled that Ghyll Royd is working alongside a brand as prestigious as Kärcher. Working with Mike Burden has been a fantastic experience; by sharing our frontline perspective as care providers, we've helped shape equipment that isn't just powerful, but truly fit for purpose. Between the new Kärcher suite and the Raizer chair, the Ghyll Royd team is better equipped than ever to provide a safe, pristine, and comfortable environment for our residents."

Mike Burden, Head of Region for Kärcher said... "It is a pleasure to work with the wonderful team at Ghyll Royd Care Home and to meet some of the lovely residents. The Ghyll Royd Team and Kärcher have worked closely to identify the requirements, so it was a pleasure to provide training today for our comprehensive range of products."

The Ghyll Royd Team added: "Christmas really has come early for us. The new equipment and the lifting chair are fantastic additions to the home. We can't wait to put everything into full use as we head into the new year."

Lifting Safety to New Heights

As part of a specialised funding scheme operated by the homes local council, Ghyll Royd has also been granted a Raizer Lifting Chair, a state-of-the-art device.

Designed to support residents who have experienced a fall, the Raizer chair is a triumph of ergonomic engineering. The device consists of several identical pieces—designed specifically to ensure they cannot be assembled incorrectly—which are built around the resident. Once assembled, a simple button press smoothly transforms the device from a flat, stretcher-like board into an upright chair, allowing the resident to be lifted safely and with dignity back to their feet.