
NEW INITIATIVES

AIREDALE SENIORS COLLECTIVE

New Community Initiative Launched to Support Seniors and Carers Across the Airedale Valley (Continued)

...“Loneliness can be a significant challenge, and we wanted to provide a consistent, inclusive, and dementia-friendly space where carers, older people, and their loved ones can simply show up, feel safe, have a chat, enjoy some wonderful entertainment, and know there is further support available if they need it. With an RMN leading the project and links to other local services, we are also committed to signposting, supporting, and advocating for older people across our communities. We have seen such a fantastic response already, and we cannot wait to welcome everyone to Sutton Village Hall for our Welcome & Introductions Coffee Morning, which we hope will be the first of many memorable afternoons.”

The Airedale Seniors Collective encourages friends, family members, and neighbours to spread the word to anyone who might benefit from a friendly, social afternoon. Following this launch event, the collective plans to rotate gatherings across various local venues to remain fully accessible to as many residents across our local towns as possible.

For more information about the launch event or to get involved with the collective, please visit www.airedaleseniors.co.uk.



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‘MOMENTS THAT MATTER’ INITIATIVE MAKES WEDDING DREAMS A REALITY

Springbank Care Home is proud to celebrate another success of its ‘Moments That Matter’ project, which recently helped a local resident achieve a long-held dream. On Saturday, the initiative enabled resident Ivan to travel into Skipton to witness his son, Nicolas Minto, marry his partner, Justine,.... (continued on page 2)

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MOMENTS THAT MATTER

PERSON LED ACTIVITIES



'Moments That Matter' Initiative Makes Wedding Dreams a Reality (continued)

...ensuring he didn't miss one of the most important days of his family's life.

The ceremony, held at the Skipton Registry Office, was a heartfelt family affair. Despite a morning of drizzle, the rain cleared just as guests arrived, allowing for a spectacular

confetti tunnel in the square as the newlyweds emerged. The day was filled with personal touches, with family members taking on key roles; Ivan's relative, Archie, served as ring bearer, while the groom's sister, Michelle, captured the day's special moments behind the lens.

The proceedings even included a moment of light-hearted drama that gave guests a good giggle. At the point where the registrar asked if anyone knows of any reason the couple should not be wed, a face appeared at the door at the back of the room. The impeccable timing required officials to double-check if there was an objection, much to the amusement of the wedding party and a smiling Ivan.

Following the ceremony and photographs, Ivan returned to Springbank Care Home, where the hospitality team had prepared a beautiful wedding-themed lunch to ensure his dream of celebrating with his family continued in style.

This project follows a series of similar 'Person-Led' successes across the Spellman Care group. These initiatives represent a fundamental commitment to truly listening to residents... (continued on page 3)

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...Furthermore, to mark Dementia Action Week, the organisation has pledged that every single member of staff involved will become a certified Dementia Friend.

In a unique move to ensure the collective is truly community-driven, the location of the inaugural event was decided entirely by a public vote.

Following an enthusiastic response from local residents, Sutton-in-Craven Village Hall was triumphantly chosen to host the very first gathering, aptly named the 'Welcome & Introductions Coffee Morning'.

The grand launch event will take place on 26th June 2026 from 2pm to 4pm, marking the first of many regular get-togethers planned for the region. The afternoon promises a spectacular, warm atmosphere, featuring a red-carpet welcome, music from saxophonist Philip Benson, and a live performance from Shane Hamill, who will be singing classic hits. Attendees will also enjoy a variety of activities and complimentary homemade refreshments. The venue is fully wheelchair accessible, a standard that the collective pledges to uphold for all future meeting spaces.

The event is completely free to attend and is open to all local seniors and carers alike, whether attending independently or together.

Philippa Young, Project Lead for the Airedale Seniors Collective, commented:

"We are absolutely delighted to finally bring the Airedale Seniors Collective to life. Listening to feedback from local people, the team at Spellman Care saw a clear opportunity to establish a separate, independent group that directly supports the wider community. Our goal was to create something that belongs entirely to local residents, which is why it was so important for us to let our members choose where we held our very first meeting..." (Continued Page 8)

NEW INITIATIVES

AIREDALE SENIORS COLLECTIVE



New Community Initiative Launched to Support Seniors and Carers Across the Airedale Valley

A vital new community-led initiative, the Airedale Seniors Collective, has officially launched this week, aiming to foster meaningful social connections and drastically reduce isolation for older people and carers across the region.

Designed as a dynamic,

supportive, and dementia-friendly mobile social hub, the collective provides local seniors, carers, and their loved ones with a dedicated safe space to meet, share experiences, enjoy live entertainment, and engage in regular community events.

The initiative was sparked after local care provider, Spellman Care, attended a local council meeting and recognised a distinct lack of social infrastructure for the elderly population—a need later reinforced by widespread community feedback. Wanting to create a lasting legacy for the region, Spellman Care facilitated the launch of the project so it can operate as an entirely autonomous community group, dedicated solely to supporting the local area independently from their care homes.

To support the launch, a brand-new dedicated website has been unveiled—www.airedaleseniors.co.uk—where members can view upcoming events, contact the organisers directly, and subscribe to email updates for future gatherings.

Positioning itself as a professional pillar of support, the project is led by a Registered Mental Health Nurse (RMN) and boasts strong links with other local services. This allows the collective to actively advocate for older people, signpost families to further professional support, and ensure attendees can easily access the help they need... (Continued on page 7)

MOMENTS THAT MATTER

PERSON LED ACTIVITIES

'Moments That Matter' Initiative Makes Wedding Dreams a Reality (continued)

...including those who may struggle to communicate through speech but express their deepest wishes through movement and gestures—and then working tirelessly to make those dreams a reality.

By championing this approach, Spellman Care is leading the way in the care sector, becoming one of the first providers to truly embed Person-Led Care into the fabric of daily life. Recent successes have seen a resident and their loved one revisit a cherished old date spot at the Cow and Calf in Ilkley, while another resident was supported in fulfilling a final wish to have his and his brother's ashes scattered on the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway.

Other meaningful moments include facilitating a trip to Pontefract for a resident to visit a loved one they otherwise would not have been able to see, and a memorable journey to Filey, where a resident visited a pub they own for a long-awaited pint.

April Howie (Deputy Manager) and Jenny Newiss (Senior Care Lead), who both had the pleasure of attending the service with Ivan, shared: "It was a true honour to be by Ivan's side and help make this dream come true for him. Seeing the joy on his face and the warmth from his family, who commented on how well he looked, was incredibly moving."

Lisa Pickles, Home Manager at Springbank Care Home, added: "We believe that a person's world should not shrink when they move into care. This is why Person-Led Care and truly listening to our residents is at the heart of everything we do. Whether it is through speech, movement, or gestures, we are committed to understanding what matters most to our residents and making those dreams happen."

Ivan's family expressed their gratitude following the wedding, saying: "Thank you so much for Saturday. Dad really enjoyed the wedding and it was also nice for him to see our relatives."

MOMENTS THAT MATTER

PERSON LED ACTIVITIES



How a Silsden Care Home Used Person-Led Care to Bring Past Memories to Life for Former Nurse 'H'

A resident living with dementia at a Silsden care home received a heartwarming surprise to mark International Nurses Day earlier this month, proving that person-led care can unlock deeply personal memories.

While International Nurses Day

is typically celebrated across clinical settings, Spellman Care's Springbank Care Home ensured the day did not pass without a very special celebration for resident 'H', a former nurse. The surprise afternoon activity was organised as part of the home's 'Moments That Matter' initiative, which focuses on creating bespoke experiences that enrich the lives of residents.

Losing touch with past identity is a profound challenge for individuals living with dementia, but Springbank Care Home's transition to a dedicated Person-Led Care model is actively helping residents reconnect with their lifelong passions.

The idea for the afternoon came about after the care team discovered a family poetry book spanning three generations, co-published by 'H' and her son, Mike. Recognising how deeply rooted nursing was in 'H's' identity, Springbank Care Home Manager, Lisa Pickles, reached out to the group's executive team to arrange a fitting celebration.

Lisa Pickles explained: "After discovering the wonderful book written by 'H', we knew we wanted to do something unique for her for International Nurses Day. (Continued on Page 5)..."

MOMENTS THAT MATTER

PERSON LED ACTIVITIES

How a Silsden Care Home Used Person-Led Care to Bring Past Memories to Life for Former Nurse 'H' (continued)

...We got in touch with Philippa to invite her down to the home for the afternoon, and it was incredible to see how our Person-Led Care approach could unlock such a beautiful, tangible connection to 'H's' past."

To honour 'H's' professional legacy, the group's most senior nurse and Group Operations Manager, Philippa Young, made the dedicated visit to Springbank Care Home. Philippa, a Registered Mental Health Nurse (RMN), donned her traditional nurse's uniform and belt to sit down with 'H' and read one of the most poignant pieces in the collection, titled "Matron's Daily Ward Round '50s Style," which was penned by 'H' herself.

The reading sparked an immediate bond, allowing the two women to connect nurse-to-nurse over the familiar routines and remarks captured in the verses. It proved to be a deeply emotional experience, with 'H' remembering the real-life moments and professional memories behind the words she wrote decades ago.

Reflecting on what the experience meant to the family, 'H's' son, Mike, said: "It's hard to put into words what this meant to us. Growing up, mum was always a very busy nurse, and nursing was her life from such a young age, it really was a big part of who she was. Losing so much of her through dementia has been hard for her and hard for us, so to see her involved in such a caring way in something like this, especially through her poetry which she used to love writing, was really touching and very special to us all."

Philippa Young added: "It was an absolute privilege to spend International Nurses Day with 'H' as part of our 'Moments That Matter' initiative. Connecting over our shared profession and seeing the joy it brought her to reminisce about her nursing days is exactly what Person-Led Care is all about."