



Meallmore Matters

Spring 2022

Update from Mary Preston

Spring has most definitely sprung; the nights are lighter, flowers are blooming, and Covid-19 restrictions are slowly, but surely, lifting. We welcome changes to the current restrictions, and we look forward to receiving further guidance from the Scottish Government to implement the new changes in the safest way possible.

We're all kicking off this spring with some new faces in our teams; we are always keen to attract the best people to join our homes, and we have still have some positions available across the company for all levels of experience. If you know someone seeking new opportunities in the care sector, don't forget our Refer a Friend Scheme.

So far, 2022 is proving to be a good year for staff training and development. We've received funding to introduce over 60 Kickstart scheme positions to help young people into work. And, for our hospitality staff, we have a fantastic training opportunity



with HIT (Hospitality Industry Trust) Scotland to learn key leadership skills.

We're also thrilled to announce the winner of Meallmore's Got Talent is Mary-Ellen from Belleaire with her rendition of Elvis Presley's Wonder of You. It's been one of the highlights of the year so far, and we were blown away by the standard of talent. Well done to all those who took part!

We are all working to remain positive across Meallmore in 2022 even though we continue to deal with all the impacts of Covid-19 and the associated challenge, and as always, we thank all our colleagues for your continued hard work and dedication to providing the very best care for our residents and support for each other.

**Welcome to
Meallmore,
Rick Murray!**

Our care homes in the Central East region have a new area manager. Rick Murray joined the Meallmore family just over a month ago and is settling into his new role covering seven homes across the region. With a background in social care, Rick brings first class experience as an area manager and will be covering the following homes: Airthrey Care Home, Forthland Lodge, Hilton Court Care Home, Ivybank House Care Home, Leven Beach Care Home, Parklands Care Home and Willow Lodge.

We've signed up to the Kickstart Scheme

We're delighted to announce 66 new positions as part of the Kickstart Scheme. Our commitment is a bid to help young people into work who are currently claiming Universal Credit.

The Kickstart Scheme is open to people aged 16-24 and this is a fantastic opportunity for over sixty young people to come and join us as 'Meallmore Future Stars'. For six months, successful applicants will gain invaluable work-based experience to get a taste for a variety of roles within our care homes and an introduction to the care sector. They will learn more about the highly rewarding careers available that they might not have considered before now, including catering, hospitality, administration and care.

Beyond the six months, we hope to retain every single one of our Kickstarters. We're committed to offering roles to anyone wishing



to join us permanently after three months who applies for a substantive post and is successful. This could be just the start of a career with Meallmore for many.

As you know, Meallmore has 35 years' experience of providing exceptional standards of quality care across Scotland, and we wouldn't have this reputation

without our fantastic members of staff. Our people really are at the heart of what we do.

We're excited about welcoming a new generation into the Meallmore family to develop their career in care. If you know anyone interested in learning more about the roles available, they can visit this link online: <https://lnkd.in/d5CdkET>

Happy Mother's Day!

Staff, residents and relatives across our homes had a wonderful time celebrating Mother's Day in March.

Mother's Day coincided with some beautiful Scottish weather, so many took advantage by spending time outside in the fresh March air. Delightful lunches and garden parties were enjoyed across the country, and some residents created beautiful flower arrangements to decorate the dining room.

Staff step up to charity walk

Huge congratulations to our team at Greenan Manor who took part in a sponsored walk in February in aid of The Brain Tumour Charity. The charity carries out vital work and is dedicated to funding research, raising awareness, reducing diagnosis times whilst providing support and information for people with brain tumours.

Elaine, Jennifer, Jaime and Ben the Dog walked a total of 5.5 miles around The Blue Bonnet Trails in Ayr. The team raised an incredible £470 for the charity which is a fantastic achievement. Well done!



Bayview shares the love on Valentine's Day

This year, Bayview resident love birds, Gordon (90) and Peggy (88) Turvey spent their 65th Valentine's Day together.

The pair were married on 16 March 1957 in Great Cornard in Sudbury, Suffolk and have been inseparable ever since. Peggy was a nurse for 40 years and Gordon was refrigerator engineer manager when he was not playing hockey. The pair have lived in Ellon for 30 years after making the move from England for their retirement.

The couple are still very much in love after all the years together, and Gordon's dedication was proven when Peggy moved into Bayview Care Home just before Christmas last year. Due to missing Peggy, Gordon initially moved in to spend the Christmas period with his wife, however he soon decided not to leave and quickly made Bayview his permanent home. Home is truly where the heart is.

Bayview is lucky to have three married couples currently living there. For Valentine's Day, our staff prepared a special Valentine's Day lunch and dance to celebrate. They also arranged for flowers to be delivered to the care home for the husbands to give to their wives.



Parties for St Patrick's Day!

On 17 March, everyone enjoyed a fantastic day filled with Irish-themed activities for St Patrick's Day. Residents at Leven Beach got creative painting leprechaun hats while Belleaire and Parklands dressed in green to mark the occasion. St Modans enjoyed a traditional Irish lunch and music and Bayview residents played St Patrick's Day games.

Hospitality scheme is a HIT

We're thrilled to announce that Hospitality Industry Trust (HIT) Scotland has awarded Meallmore with 13 scholarships on their Leadership, Management & Supervisory training programme.



Designed to motivate and develop the top talent in the industry, HIT Scotland is a charity for the hospitality sector encouraging the development of anyone working or studying in Scotland. We have participants from Kincaid, Auchtercrag, Grove, St Modans, Bayview, Culduthel, Greenan Manor, Alderwood and Forthlands taking part in six-eight weeks of training. What's more, our participants are the only representatives chosen from the care sector.

We wish our participants all the very best in their training programmes!



Sweet treats on National Chocolate Day

Last month, our residents at Auchtercrag celebrated National Chocolate Cake Day. From cupcakes to sponge cakes, the delectable day went down a treat with residents enjoying a variety of different sweet snacks. Yum!

Meallmore's Got Talent winner is announced

Recently, our residents and staff put their best foot forward for one of the most hotly anticipated events of the year, Meallmore's Got Talent. We asked everyone at Meallmore to show off their unique talents, whether that was singing, dancing, or even acting! We had an overwhelming response from all our homes across the country and we were blown away by the high calibre of this year's entries.

Out of 35 entries, it was resident Mary-Ellen at Belleaire who was crowned winner of this year's content, with her rendition of *Wonder of You* by Elvis Presley. Well done, Mary-Ellen!



Greenan Manor officially opened by Siobhian Brown MSP



Staff and residents at Greenan Manor enjoyed a fantastic day of celebrations as they welcomed local MSP, Siobhian Brown, to officially open the home.

Greenan Manor opened its doors to residents back in January 2021. With changes to Covid-19 restrictions, staff, residents and members of the local community were finally able to celebrate Greenan Manor's belated opening.

Ms Brown was greeted by manager, Elaine Hughes, and resident, Harriet 'Ettie' Archibald with a beautiful flower bouquet before being shown around the home. Guests enjoyed a fantastic afternoon of entertainment, including a string trio and a magical performance from a local magician. There was also a selection of homemade canapés and drinks all prepared by Greenan Manor's Head Chef, Emma Ferrante and the rest of the fantastic catering team.

Siobhian Brown MSP marked the special occasion by unveiling a commemorative plaque to officially open the care home. Ms Brown delivered a heartfelt speech thanking everyone at Greenan Manor for their hard work and dedication over the past year and providing residents with quality care. Gerry Hennessey also said a few words to reflect on the achievements, including receiving the Investors in People (IIP) Gold accreditation.

Head over hooves for Annie the Alpaca

Residents of Parklands fell head over hooves for a fluffy friend as the home welcomed Annie the Alpaca for a visit.

Annie, who visited from The Alpaca Trekking Centre in Stirling, met residents in the lounge and also visited others at their bedroom doors.

As well as being lots of fun, animal therapy is hugely important for our residents, and it can be really relaxing for them to meet animals like Annie. Everyone at Parklands was overjoyed to meet Annie and she brought lots of smiles to everyone's faces.

