

**W**E HOPE, like us at Springdene, that you have been enjoying the sunnier weather this past week. The gardens are looking lovely, with the hyacinths and daffodils nodding in the sunshine, and spring is definitely in the air. (After all it's what gives our homes their name!) And everybody's in an expectant Easter mood.

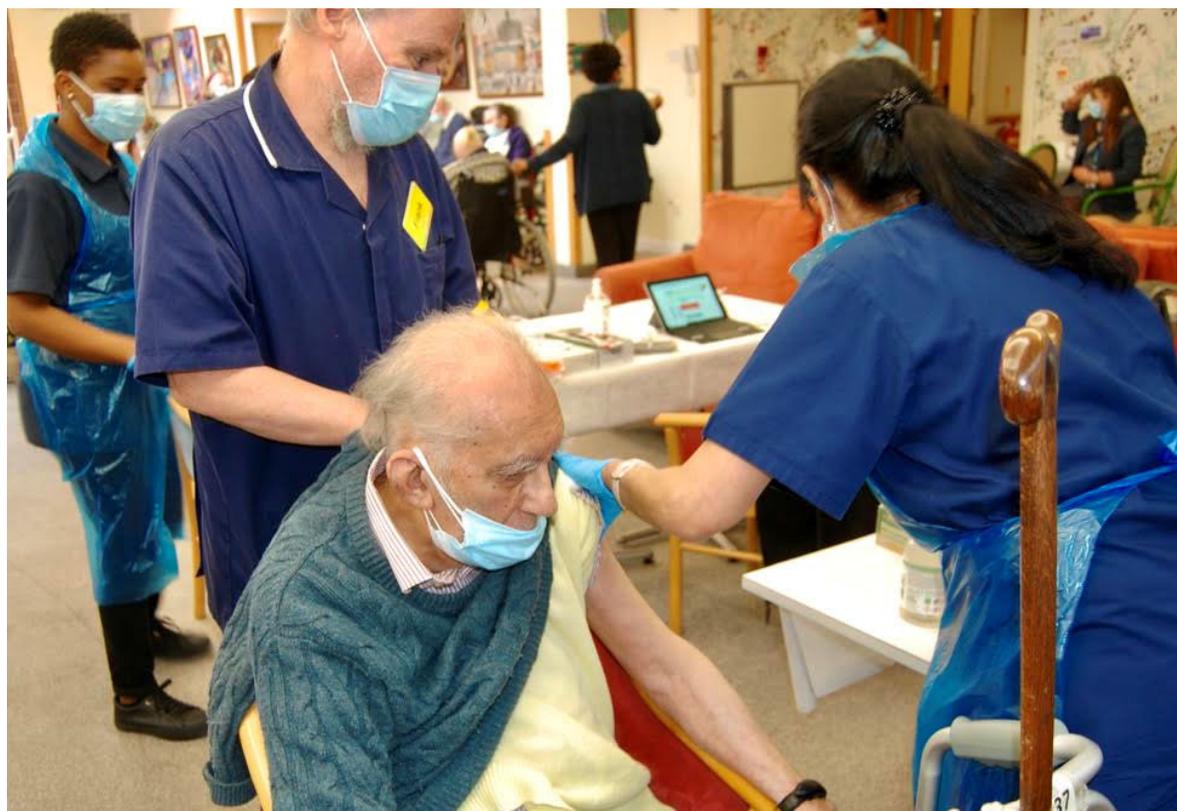


At Spring Grove, Dominic, our operations assistant, organised a jolly Easter Egg hunt, which was very competitive as residents puzzled over some fiendish clues. Meanwhile at Spring Lane and Springview busy hands have been decorating eggs, while on the big screen folk have been enjoying Judy Garland and Fred Astaire in that great classic *Easter Parade*.

All three homes got a visit from the Easter Bunny on Friday, which, everyone agreed, was magic. Who doesn't want to believe when there's the prospect of a scrumptious chocolate egg in prospect?

And, joy of joys, some residents have been able to get outside for a perambulation in the gardens. What a pleasure to feel a warm breeze on your cheeks after all these dark months of lockdown. We're pleased to say that the homes continue to remain Covid-free, thanks both to scrupulous infection control and the marvels of the vaccination programme.

With the second shots now being administered, we'd like to express our thanks to the delightful and efficient vaccination teams who have come to visit our homes. Their attitude and understanding have been brilliant, and they made things effortless and easy for everybody.



Pictured above is one of the teams hard at work in Spring Grove. By now a total of 92 per cent of residents at the home have received both their doses. With Springview at 95 per cent and Spring Lane soon to catch up, the whole programme is due to be completed before too long. Judging by comments we have had from the residents, everyone feels safer and more secure with their jabs.

In the last newsletter we asked your views on whether we should extend our visiting arrangements to make them available outside in the gardens. The present rules for indoor visiting allow for a single nominated visitor for each resident, who must be the same individual all the time, who will need to take a Covid test and wear PPE.

The system has been going well, and we are now proposing to extend visiting to the outdoor gazebos, as several of you have requested. Tests will not be necessary (except at Spring Grove, where the main building has to be accessed to get to the garden). Two people from the same household will be allowed for outdoor visits and social distancing will still apply. The new system will begin on Tuesday April 6 and we hope you will make the most of it. (But please don't bring food items!)

Like its TV equivalent, we're sure that many of you are by now addicted to the Great Springdene Bake Off, which in its latest round invited residents to bake some chocolate chip cookies for Passover, which was celebrated last weekend.

Eirlys, our group activities manager and chief judge, was especially complimentary about the presentation: "Everyone's really started to take things seriously. We've got carved swans, beautiful baskets and contrasting colours going on here! Each home added a little something extra to bring a hint of flavour to their cookies. One home added some hazelnuts, one added raspberries and one chocolate sprinkles for added texture and decoration!"

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Even Paul Hollywood and Prue Leith would have found it hard to adjudicate between the distinguished entries. In the end, after tucking into all three confections, it was an incredibly difficult choice. Spring Grove scored on taste, but Springview hit the spot with presentation. Finally, we gave the honours to Spring Grove, who swung it with their chunks of chocolate and hazelnuts. Well done, all bakers!

There's been nourishment for the spirits, too, with the latest in our series of live-streamed "Music with Love" concerts. This week residents enjoyed the Brahms Horn Trio, which was quite divine. Don't forget to join in from home next week on Wednesday April 7 at 2.30pm when you can savour David Waterman on cello and the eminent Romanian pianist Mihai Ritivoiu in a varied recital. The link is here <https://www.artistsandresidents.org/>

We've also been celebrating our delightful residents of the week. Marcelle Jay at Spring Grove is a doctor, who was born in Paris and plays the piano beautifully. She really enjoys partaking in a number of activities, but is especially good at crochet and finds it very relaxing.

She'd like chicken soup with kneidlach and vanilla ice cream as her treat. She doesn't like chocolates and doesn't want biscuits, but she loves red roses, so we're sending her a special bunch.

Sylvia Fersht at Springview is a charming lady, who always has something positive to say to everyone. She really enjoys music and singing the old songs and has chosen to watch some musicals as her treat. She wanted no special food this week but loves her flowers and chocolates.

At Spring Lane, Lana Cohen is a talented artist, and was an art teacher in her previous life. She has a wonderful marriage to her husband Mark, who visits regularly, and they will be celebrating their 61<sup>st</sup> anniversary in June, after meeting at an evening art class all those

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years ago. Lana tells us she is partial to prawns and a glass of wine – so her wish is our command!

We're most gratified to have received some lovely, warm messages from you this week. The family of the late Hanna Whitwell at Spring Grove sent £400 for the staff as thanks for the excellent care she received. Henny, Hanna's daughter, writes: "Thank you for everything you did for my Mum. You all do a wonderful, sometimes difficult, and brilliant job."

"Your care, kindness and support made her last few years very happy. She had lots of fun, laughter and loved doing her art. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. You are very special people."

Another appreciative note comes from Roz Langford, daughter of Paul Bradley, who says: "It was wonderful to see him on Wednesday and to hold his hand – and he looked so well. The whole procedure of testing and wearing PPE was very quickly and efficiently carried out. A lot of work for you all but very much appreciated."

Jennie Muskett, daughter of Michael Muskett, also at Spring Grove, writes: "It was really heart-warming to see how the atmosphere in the home has that happy bubble of activity again. And wonderful to see my Dad and even hold his hand – what a difference that makes."

And it's not just words of thanks. Over at Spring Lane, relative Chris Eracieous delivered a consignment of delicious pizza and fizzy drinks for all the staff. As manager Lori says: "He's always very generous!" Thank you, Chris!

We're glad, too, to hear that you are enjoying receiving these missives every fortnight. David Jays, son of Rita Jays at Spring Lane, writes: "Many thanks for the latest newsletter from Springdene. We have really appreciated reading these warm and helpful bulletins during the past year."

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We love to hear from all of you, too, and enjoy keeping our dialogue going. Do get in touch with your observations and comments at [mwilliams@springdene.co.uk](mailto:mwilliams@springdene.co.uk)

We're going to sign off with something that made us smile – a collage of Springview residents in silly hats for "Wear a Hat Day" (below), courtesy of manager Tamas. It's wonderful to see everyone having such a good time!

Happy Easter to all!

