

Friends of Welwyn Care Homes AGM June 2026 Chair's Report to Members

This year we have made more than 50 visits to our 4 care homes, St Andrews, Heath Lodge, Autumn Vale and Anson Court. Each visit involving from 4 to 15 residents. We have had coffee mornings, one to one visits and various activities. We seem to be well received. So well done everyone!

Sadly, in February *Helen Eames*, our committee member for development died. Her health had been deteriorating for some while and she died from complications after a heart operation. She was activities lead at St Andrews Care home in 2011 and eagerly welcomed the very first Friends of Welwyn Care Homes Team. When she retired , she joined the committee and we benefited from her experience, enthusiasm and encouragement to develop. We miss her a lot.

Anne Keller, who also joined the committee as Anson Court Team leader when she retired from being Deputy manager and then day centre manager at Hyde Valley, then Anson Court, has now retired from us. Her calm good sense and advice and her support with orientation sessions was very valuable and we are very grateful to her.

Winifred Blackburn was one of our very first volunteer visitors to Autumn Vale and has now decided that it is time to retire from that team. We are very grateful to her for her fidelity over so many years.

We have been very pleased to welcome several new volunteer visitors:

Melissa Williams and *Marsela Nazari* who have joined the Anson Court team

Kristof Peto who has joined the Heath Lodge team and has brought his young son along.

Helen Beckett who has joined the St Andrews team

And we have two other potential volunteers trying us out.

But as always we need more

We benefited from donations made at tea party in December, held here, which was organised by our treasurer Rizza, for which we thank her. A similar one is planned for this December, on Saturday 5th.

Thank you all for your self-giving as Friends of Welwyn Care Homes