

Summer
2024



Community Newsletter

Groundbreaking at Tunbridge Wells

We are delighted to announce the traditional ground breaking event took place onsite earlier this year – a key milestone in bringing *Thrive Living in Tunbridge Wells* to life!

The ceremonial 'breaking of ground' was attended by the Leader of the Council, ward councillors, the Chief Executive of Tunbridge Wells BID, partners at Trinity Theatre, McAleer & Rushe and our wider Thrive Living team.

This landmark event not only underlines the pace and commitment we are taking to get the £115m Thrive Living community up and running, but also marks another step in our aim of changing the perceptions about ageing – celebrating the older generation and engaging them fully within the local community.

Tim Seddon, Chief Executive Officer at Retirement Villages Group, said:

“Today represents a key milestone in breathing life back into the former ABC cinema which has laid derelict at the heart of Tunbridge Wells for the last 20 years. This new community will be a bustling place to live; with shops, restaurants and leisure facilities that are open to everyone to enjoy, bringing together people of all ages. It continues to build upon our Thrive Living collection which is focused on creating integrated communities that support the amazing lives of the elder generations.”

Thrive Living
by Retirement Villages

Meet the team



Meet Terry Unitt, our Senior Project Manager who's leading the Tunbridge Wells development.

Q: How long have you worked at RVG?

A: I've been here for 3.5 years. The "integrated retirement community" sector is still in its infancy but has enormous growth potential and the social impact it can create is really important. This role with RVG offered a great chance to establish the foundations for our Thrive Living development pipeline; the beginnings of our target of 5,000 retirement residences nationally.

Q: How would you describe your average day?

A: I tend to follow a simple but effective formula for juggling project management and fatherhood: plan ahead! I share the nursery drop off with my wife and I like to cycle into the office, but most days typically revolve around work meetings. In between, I like to visit my development projects and catch up on strategic thinking and planning.

Q: What was your dream job as a child?

A: Like most kids growing up in Victoria, Australia, I dreamt of playing professional Aussie Rules Football or Cricket for Australia. Those didn't work out, so I chased everyone's third choice of career, being a project manager!

Q: Which part of the development of TW are you most looking forward to and why?

A: I started my career working on site as a building contractor, so I enjoy getting into the technical detail and watching as the buildings take shape. Removing the external scaffolding and revealing the completed facades is always a highlight for me.



Thrive Living – part of a thriving wider community

Thrive Living is delighted to support the wider Tunbridge Wells community and has committed to two important local enterprises in recent weeks.

We are proud to support the "Love Where You Live" awards, which are back in 2024 in Tunbridge Wells, celebrating the people who make the borough of Tunbridge Wells a great place to live and work. We are sponsoring the Community Group of the Year category and look forward to sharing more with everyone as the awards get underway.

We have also continued as Trinity Theatre's community partner for the second year. And separately have established a new, separate partnership for the Trinity Theatre clocktower, which will open to the public for the first time later this year.

Visitors will be invited to 'climb back through time' up the historic clocktower, discovering local heritage along the way. At the summit, they will be rewarded with unparalleled panoramic views of the town from the clocktower rooftop, and a digital experience is also being developed for non-climbers too.

The arts provide such an important role in communities, providing culture, opportunity for shared interests and a sense of belonging for many people who use them and everyone at Thrive is thrilled to be offering our support in this way.

Trinity Youth Theatre's Beauty and The Beast is booking now for August



Cranes and excavation action.

Our Tunbridge Wells development has seen a lot of progression during the second quarter of 2024. Two large tower cranes are now hard at work on site, making good groundwork on what will soon become our newest Thrive Living community.

Excavators have been diligently preparing the site for the pouring of the reinforced concrete slabs that will form the community's foundations. Soon, work will begin on the ground floors of some of the initial buildings.

As summer progresses, the onsite excitement will only build as our team completes much of the foundational work and will begin more visible development activities. Watch this space!

Naming competition

Juliet's on the High Street - one of the businesses who contributed to the winner's hamper



Earlier this year, we invited you to help us choose a name for the completed Thrive Living community being developed in your town and tempted you with a prize for one lucky voter.

A mouth-watering hamper of delights from the amazing businesses of Tunbridge Wells, worth around £200, went to local resident Kate a few weeks ago. Like the several hundred of you that took part, she cast her vote between the options of Cascade Place, Lumiere Heights and Paramount Place, to help us decide upon a name for the new community under construction.

There was a clear winning name, which will remain under wraps while we conclude the necessary official process. We look forward to sharing it very soon. Until then, thank you to everyone that took part in the poll and to the businesses - many of whom contributed to our hamper in an amazing gesture of community togetherness. Kate - we hope you've enjoyed the contents of the hamper from some of the town's finest businesses: Juliet's, The Secret Cellar, Cook, Jeremy's Homestore, The Best Health Food Shop, Fuggles, Trinity Theatre, le petit jardin and Arte Bianca.

A pioneering new way to enjoy retirement

We have introduced a groundbreaking new way to enjoy retirement that is affordable, certain, and simple. As part of our mission to provide more accessible, high-quality homes, we have developed an innovative approach to buying and selling retirement properties. We call this **Enjoy now, pay later** and it runs alongside the open market purchase option, giving you the choice.

This 'Enjoy now, pay later' approach is designed to meet the needs and expectations of the growing population of over-65s.

- ✓ Lower weekly management fees
- ✓ Certainty of property price you'll receive at the end
- ✓ Simple, hassle free sales process
- ✓ No Management Fee (after 2 months' notice)
- ✓ No hidden costs or refurbishment obligations

"Our new Thrive Living collection aims to make the process of buying and selling a retirement home as simple and certain as possible. We do this so our residents can focus on the important things in life, feeling safe in the knowledge that they can afford bills, that their financial legacy is secure, and that they can continue to live life to the full."

Tim Seddon - CEO of Retirement Villages

For all enquiries, please visit
[www.retirementvillages.co.uk/
our-villages/tunbridge-wells](http://www.retirementvillages.co.uk/our-villages/tunbridge-wells)
call us on **01892 313 401**
or scan the QR code

