

Winter 2024



Community Newsletter

Naming update

The wait is finally over to find out the name of Tunbridge Wells' new integrated retirement community. The votes are in, and your chosen name is Paramount Place!

Thank you to everyone who helped us select the name and to the wonderful Le Petit Jardin, The Secret Cellar Wine Merchant, Best Health Food Shop Tunbridge Wells High Street, COOK, Fuggles Bottle Shop, Jeremy's Home Store, Juliets, Arte Bianca and Trinity Theatre. All these wonderful businesses contributed to a hamper full of locally sourced goodies that went to our lucky naming competition winner, local resident Kate.

Paramount Place represents more than just a name; it's a nod to the vibrant central location of our new community at the top of Mount Pleasant Road in the heart of Tunbridge Wells which, in our opinion, is the best place to be.

Stay tuned for more updates as we continue making progress on this thriving new community. Here's to building a bright future with Paramount Place.

Thrive Living
by Retirement Villages



**Merry
Christmas**
from the team at
Thrive Living

Meet the team



Alastair Strauss, Senior Marketing Manager at Thrive Living, part of Retirement Villages Group

Q: How long have you worked at Thrive Living?

A: I started on the last day of September 2021, so just over 3 years ago.

Q: What do you enjoy most about your job?

A: Each day brings something different and new opportunities. The whole team has a hand in shaping the future of the business. I am incredibly proud of the work we do. We are building communities that will put our residents' choice, independence, and well-being first.

Q: What was your dream job as a child?

A: I genuinely can't remember! I did want to be a psychologist for quite a few years. And arguably, marketing draws a lot from psychology.

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

A: The courtyard and outside community space. I can't wait to see the first Christmas market or outdoor performance from Trinity. It's going to be amazing!

Thrive Living connecting with the wider community

At Thrive Living, we are dedicated to engaging with the surrounding community in the areas we call home. As part of this commitment, we held our first 'Community Liaison Group' back in July.

We hope that, with the help of this group and via our wider approach, we can forge a strong long-term connection between Paramount Place and the wider Tunbridge Wells community. We are dedicated to ensuring Tunbridge Wells town centre can really benefit from this investment and our future residents can enjoy a fulfilled and engaged retirement participating in all the town has to offer.

It was wonderful to have representatives from Tunbridge Wells Access Group, RTW Together, Tunbridge Wells U3A, Trinity Theatre and elected representatives present. We enjoyed a fruitful discussion around how we can improve our community links, share opportunities for use of our shared facilities, provide construction updates and support efforts to improve the wider neighbourhood.

We look forward to hosting our next Community Liaison Group in the early new year. We warmly encourage any local community groups interested in working with us now or in the future to contact the team at retirementvillagestunbridgewells@redwoodconsulting.co.uk.

Climbing back through time at Trinity Theatre's Clocktower Launch



We were thrilled to attend the grand opening of Trinity Theatre's clocktower in September. Having supported efforts to restore the historic tower as their community partner, it was an incredibly exciting moment to see the ribbon cut and the clocktower officially open to visitors.

Up until 30th October, visitors had the chance to climb the clocktower and explore Trinity and Tunbridge Wells' rich local heritage and take in the unparalleled panoramic views from the rooftop. While the 118-step climb is not possible throughout the winter, it will re-open in the Spring. In the meantime, visitors can still enjoy the clocktower experience, with an interactive kiosk available on the ground floor of the

theatre, and online – allowing everyone to marvel at Trinity's impressive history year-round.

Alice Couchman, Development Manager at Thrive Living said: *"We are incredibly proud to have supported efforts to restore Trinity Theatre's historic clocktower. Trinity has been a cultural hub for Tunbridge Wells for nearly 40 years and has always put the local community at its heart, which is a value we share. As Trinity's Community Partner, we are excited to see visitors come to the tower and explore over 200 years of Trinity's rich history. With our integrated retirement community opening in 2026, we look forward to our thriving community enjoying all that Trinity and Tunbridge Wells has to offer right on our doorstep"*.

Love Where We Live Awards

This year we sponsored the 'Community Group of the Year award' at the 2024 Love Where We Live Awards to say thank you to all the wonderful people and groups that make Tunbridge Wells so special.

Thrive Living's very own Duncan Matthews was honoured to be part of the judging panel and award the Royal Tunbridge Wells Parkrun with the Community Group of the Year Award 2024. Royal Tunbridge Wells Parkrun is run by volunteers, offering locals a free, fun, and friendly 5k community event every Saturday morning in Tunbridge Wells. For more information about the amazing RTW Parkrun, please visit <https://www.parkrun.org.uk/royaltunbridgewells/>



Local Spotlight

Welcome to Thrive Living's 'Local Spotlight' series, where we celebrate local people, businesses and organisations. To mark the start of the series, we spoke to Thrive Living's resident photographer, David Bartholomew.

Q. How long have you lived in Tunbridge Wells and what's your favourite thing about the town?

A. I am proud to have lived in Tunbridge Wells my entire life. I've always admired the mix of architecture across the town from the 1930s art deco of the Town Hall to the historic Pantiles and Decimus Burton's influence. Buildings are fascinating; what they represent and the fact that many have stood for generations – if only walls could speak!

Q. What is the Tunbridge Wells Project?

A. I started The Tunbridge Wells Project back in 2010 to document the architecture that comes and goes in the town and allow the local community to see more than just the facades and public areas of buildings. My first project was the Town Hall, I told the Council that I wanted to record it all; from the roof to the vaults below! After documenting many buildings in the town, I was granted permission in 2014 to photograph the derelict former ABC Cinema building just before its demolition. In the past year or so, it's been a pleasure capturing its transformation into something new.

Q. The Cinema site has been derelict for decades, what impact do you think the new development will have on the town?

A. At last it will fill the huge void that has been in the centre of the town for so long. I think the new retirement community will help retail, which has really struggled in the heart of the town in recent years. I'm certain its new residents will really appreciate the vibrant central location with two theatres just a stone's throw away and plenty of restaurants - it's a great place for that generation to live and be part of the wider community.



Site update

With groundworks concluding smoothly and on schedule, many people will have begun to see the buildings that will form Paramount Place, beginning to rise above the hoarding line, offering a taster of the view to come with a new development on this long vacant site.

The concrete frame of many of the buildings is up, and scaffolding is being erected to allow safe access to the higher storeys. Façade works are also beginning this month, creating the faces of the buildings fronting the street.

A revised pedestrian route will be introduced in the early new year on the pavement of Church Road as a necessity for safety. It has been timed to avoid disruption during the important festive trading period.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the site team:

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To find out more about the Tunbridge Wells project, scan the QR code.



For more information call on **01892 313 401**
or visit **tunbridge-wells.retirementvillages.co.uk**