



Abbeyfield Bristol & Keynsham

is more than just a housing provider; we are a community-focused charity dedicated to enhancing the lives of older people.

While we are proud members of the global Abbeyfield movement, which has spent 70 years championing companionship, our heart is firmly in our local neighbourhoods.

We provide high-quality, affordable homes designed to strike the perfect balance between privacy and connection. Our vision is to support vibrant communities that celebrate the unique contributions of older people, ensuring they remain happily connected to those around them for longer. By offering compassionate, person-centred services, we empower our residents to live fulfilling, independent lives within a secure and nurturing environment.

A legacy of Local services

Our journey began in March 1966, founded by a group of Bristol businessmen inspired by the work of Richard Carr-Gomm.



We opened our first house at 5 Hughenden Road in 1968. By 1986, we had grown into the largest society in England and Wales, with 12 houses across the city.



In 2013, the Keynsham Society joined us to form Abbeyfield Bristol & Keynsham, further strengthening our local roots.



In 2014 we expanded our supported housing offer with the opening of Kift Lodge, in Hanham, in 2014, and 222 Redland Road in 2014. In 2015 our refurbished house in Keynsham opened its doors.

Living Our Values

Our daily work is guided by four pillars that define the Abbeyfield experience:

- **Independence:** Empowering you to live your own life with the specific support you need.
- **Community:** Building welcoming connections between our houses and the surrounding neighbourhoods.
- **Compassion:** A person-centred approach that nurtures a supportive environment where you can thrive.
- **Integrity:** Acting with honesty and respect in everything we do.

The Abbeyfield Movement

The Abbeyfield movement is a worldwide family of independent member societies dedicated to the belief that older people deserve companionship, dignity, and a place to belong.

The Vision of Richard Carr-Gomm

The movement began in 1956, ignited by the pioneering spirit of Richard Carr-Gomm. After serving in the army, Carr-Gomm discovered that loneliness was the greatest challenge facing older people. He used his own savings to buy a house in Bermondsey to live as a neighbour to those in need. His vision created supportive communities that alleviate loneliness through a "family-style" living model, ensuring residents remain part of their local community.

International Reach: The World Council

Today, Abbeyfield has grown into a vibrant network of over 450 houses worldwide, governed by the Abbeyfield World Council. While each member society operates independently, they are united by a "family-style" model designed to alleviate loneliness. This international reach includes 21 homes in Canada, 20 in South Africa (the first opening in Cape Town in 1987), 16 in New Zealand, and 15 in Australia. The movement also continues to flourish in Europe, with 12 houses in Belgium, alongside active member societies in Jersey and Poland.

Abbeyfield England: Uniting the Movement

Abbeyfield England serves as the national body for over 70 independent Member Societies across England and Wales. Its mission is to empower these societies to support older adults through high-quality, affordable homes. By providing strategic direction and fostering local community connections, Abbeyfield ensures residents live independent, well-supported lives. In 2026, the movement celebrates 70 years of dedicated service.