





The Royal Star
& Garter Homes
Caring for the nation's military family since 1916

CENTENARY BOOK





Her Majesty The Queen
Patron



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

This year, the Royal Star & Garter Homes marks 100 years of caring for the nation's military family. During this time, the needs of its disabled residents have changed enormously. With foresight and energy the Charity has successfully adapted and developed in order to maintain its renowned quality of specialist care.

In this special centenary year, I send my congratulations and best wishes to all the Charity's residents, staff, volunteers and generous supporters.



Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra,
the Hon. Lady Ogilvy, KG, GCVO
President



It has been my great honour and privilege to be President of The Royal Star & Garter Homes since 1964. Even before this, I knew of the Charity's work through my grandmother, Queen Mary, its founder and first Patron.

As its President, I am delighted to share in the Charity's Centenary celebrations. This Centenary Book forms a part of those celebrations, commemorating the last 100 years of care, encapsulating the spirit of the Charity and paying tribute to all of the residents, families, staff, supporters and friends who have worked tirelessly to make The Royal Star & Garter Homes true homes in every sense of the word.

This Centennial year sees the development of the Charity's third new Home in High Wycombe, which will follow the Homes in Solihull and Surbiton in offering exceptional care to the veterans who have selflessly served our nation.

As the Charity extends its reach to care for more disabled ex-Service people and their partners, I hope that you will enjoy celebrating The Royal Star & Garter Homes' Centenary through this unique book and will continue to support the Charity's work in the future.

Alexandra
President



THE ROYAL STAR & GARTER HOMES
is most grateful to the
HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND
for funding this book and enabling the Charity to
share its rich heritage
with its supporters and with the public.



Dear Friends,

It is my great pleasure to share this Centenary Book with you as a record of 100 years of this proud military Charity.

We are grateful that our Patron, Her Majesty The Queen, was kind enough to recognise our Centenary with her letter. We thank our President, Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra, for her active support and for greeting this book so warmly.

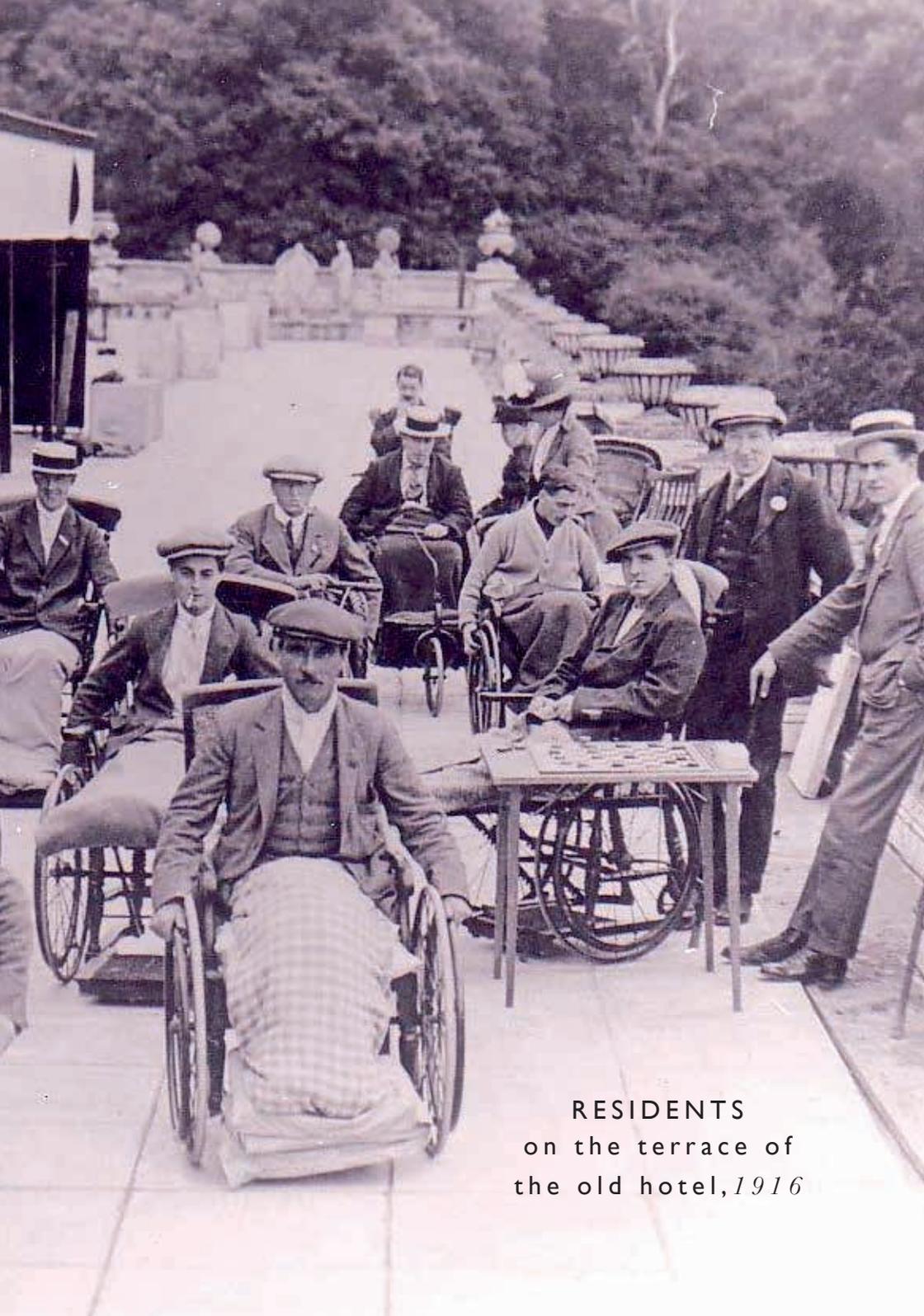
The Charity relies on funds, raised through the generosity of its supporters, to be able to offer high levels of specialist care to the disabled veterans, and their partners, who have served our nation so selflessly. This Centenary Book is a small token of our gratitude to those who support us through donations, charitable trusts, legacy pledges, fundraising and volunteering. It also records the passion, dedication and skill of our staff.

On behalf of the whole community of The Royal Star & Garter Homes, thank you for your support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Tim Tyler'.

Major General Tim Tyler CB
Chairman, Governing Body





RESIDENTS
on the terrace of
the old hotel, 1916



THE HAVEN

1916

The Haven' sketch appeared in Punch magazine in 1916, as part of a fundraising appeal to build a new Home on the site of Richmond's old Star & Garter Hotel. The hotel had been purchased as a Home for disabled Servicemen, in response to concerns raised by Queen Mary and the British Red Cross, but was deemed unfit for purpose. Consequently, when the Home opened its doors to the first ten residents on 14th January 1916, accommodation was temporarily provided in the pavilion annexe of the old building.



PRINCESS MARY

1917

Her Royal Highness Princess Mary of York visited the Home in July with her mother Queen Mary. Sir Frederick Treves, Surgeon to the Home, is shown introducing the Princess to the residents. It was Queen Mary's concern for injured Servicemen that had been the catalyst to establishing the Home. Both showed a keen interest in the welfare of disabled Servicemen. The Princess assisted in a project to send gifts to British soldiers and sailors, known as The Princess Mary Christmas Gift Fund.



PRIVATE RICHARDS

1918

Private Joseph W. Richards, wounded at the Battle of the Somme in 1916, lived at the Home until his death in 1953. Joe had a spinal injury and was paralysed. The Star & Garter Magazine described him as 'A permanent bed case... paints ... holding the brush between his teeth.' An interview reprinted in The Star & Garter Magazine in 1946 from The News Chronicle, quotes Joe as saying:



"I thought I might be able to paint, and I practised. But I didn't half use a lot of brushes. I kept biting them in two."



THE SEASIDE BRANCH

1919

In 1919, Enbrook House, an estate near Sandgate, Kent, was purchased to provide seaside respite for the veterans. It became known as 'The Seaside Branch' and 70 residents from the Richmond Home were temporarily accommodated there whilst the new building was being completed. The new Richmond Home finally welcomed residents back from Sandgate in 1924. Sandgate provided permanent accommodation to residents whose health benefitted from the sea air, as well as respite care, until it was closed in 1940 due to the threat of invasion.



THE NURSES

1920

A portrait of Nurses Duffett, Mitchell and Porter, staff nurses of the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service (QAIMNS). They were well educated and had completed a three-year training course in a hospital approved by the War Office. All nurses were deeply committed to their work and formed warm relationships with the residents, who showed their appreciation through letters and sketches to the nurses.



FUNDRAISING

1921

This fundraising certificate names Mrs Cyril Cameron as one of the women who funded the building of the new Star & Garter Home. Born Edith Lamb in 1893, she married Cyril Cameron in 1914. Cyril served in the Royal Horse Artillery from 1912 and was mentioned in Despatches. He was killed in 1915, aged 23, at the Battle of Neuve Chappelle. Edith was left as a widow, expecting their daughter. Cyril's death had a huge impact on her for the remainder of her life, motivating her fundraising activities.



WHEELCHAIRS

1922

Residents and supporters are shown here collecting funds for the Charity. The residents are in hand-propelled wheelchairs. Gradually, Whizzbangs, or motorised wheelchairs, became popular. They were so called because the backfiring exhaust sounded like shells (Whizzbangs) exploding in the trenches. This cartoon suggests the superiority of the Whizzbang over an unreliable motorcar.





SPORTS DAY

1923

The Sandgate Home held Sports Days involving residents and staff alike. Male and female staff competed against one another in games such as the Tug-of-War, as this example from a London hospital at the time, shows. The Sports Programme (inset) illustrates the – sometimes – black humour of the residents at the Home. The events listing featured quips such as: *'First Prize: A Nice Funeral. Second Prize: A Strait Waistcoat'*.



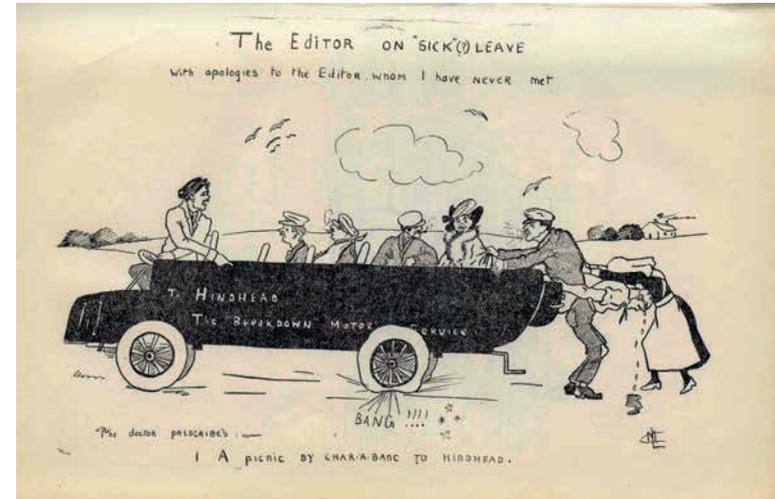
THE NEW HOME

1924

King George V and Queen Mary opened the new Richmond Home on 10th July 1924. Residents came back from Sandgate in October of that year. According to a description in *The Star & Garter Magazine 1945*: *'It was in October, 1924, that the patients, about 40 in number, left Sandgate for their palatial new home at Richmond.'* By the end of the year the number of residents at Richmond had risen to 100 and by the end of 1925 it was 175.



RESIDENTS
in a custom-made
charabanc, 1925



THE CHARABANC

1925

The residents riding in a custom-made charabanc. Used for trips to the country or seaside, the novelty of the car inspired a resident to illustrate his own interpretation of it for inclusion in *The Star & Garter Magazine*. The magazine's editors were always keen to amuse their readers by including comic sketches. Various 'autowheels' were devised by residents in the Home's workshops. Not all of them came to fruition!



THE CHAPEL

1926

The dedication of the Chapel took place on 16th July 1926. His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury visited the Home and conducted a special service of Dedication of the Memorial Chapel of St Mary in the basement of the building. The Chapel was a gift from the President of the Home, Viscountess Cowdray, in memory of her son, Captain Francis Pearson, who died of wounds received in France in 1914. The Chapel is now listed and cannot be altered.



WORKSHOPS

1927

The Shoemakers' Workshop at Sandgate, where residents were taught skills such as shoemaking or basketwork to motivate and occupy them, and to provide a means of earning money.



ROYAL VISITORS

1928

King George V visited the Home and can be seen enjoying the view from the terrace. The Duchess of York, later The Queen Mother, attended the Exhibition and Sale of Work in July, where residents sold the handicrafts they had made.



The Duchess of York



DONKEY POWER

1929

At Sandgate, residents used donkeys to pull their chairs up the steep hill. The inset shows a linocut silhouette of the feat produced by a resident for The Star & Garter Magazine, which was started at Sandgate.



Linocut of a donkey pulling a wheelchair



RESIDENTS' OUTING

1930

Here residents are going on an outing in an Army lorry, accompanied by two Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) orderlies. Independent movement was often limited for the young Servicemen by their injuries, so any opportunity for an outing was well received, no matter what mode of transport was provided.



WHIZZBANGS

1931

Residents used motorised chairs or 'Whizzbangs' to get around the Sandgate estate. The wheelchairs gave residents much-coveted independence and were an effective way of tackling the hills that both Richmond and Sandgate sat upon. Motor or no motor, speed was of the essence even in 1919, when Nurse Gladys Lang of the Richmond Home wrote in her diary on an outing with a resident: *'I took Whiting for a picnic in the park, or rather he took me as he went at a terrific rate in his chair right down to Kingston Gate and back!'*



THE MAGAZINE

1932

The Star & Garter Magazine was the brainchild of Walter Cartlidge, a Sandgate resident. It featured every aspect of life in the Homes and was published for over 70 years by the residents. *'I understand how it helps us to keep in touch with our many friends scattered about the earth's surface,'* wrote another Sandgate resident, Walter J. Ecob, in 1922. The cover for 1932 showed Petersham Meadow beneath the terrace of the Richmond Home. Later, it was considered unattractive and was replaced with a more impressive picture of the Home.

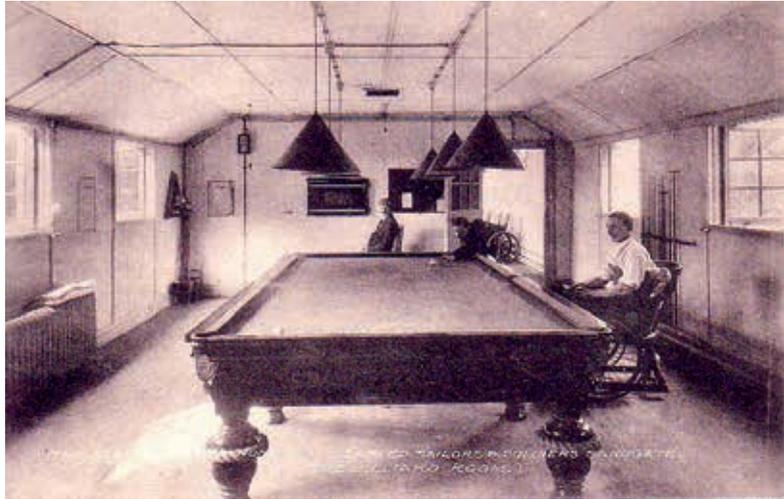


MATRON LAWRENCE

1933

Miss Ida Lawrence RRC, the first Matron of the Home, retired after 17 years in service. The British Red Cross Review said of her: *'She possessed that wonderful gift of being able to put herself in the position of patients, who had a real friend in whom they could place their confidence and look up to for health and comfort.'* Inset is Miss Lawrence's letter of appointment from the British Red Cross Society.





1934

RECREATIONAL SPACE

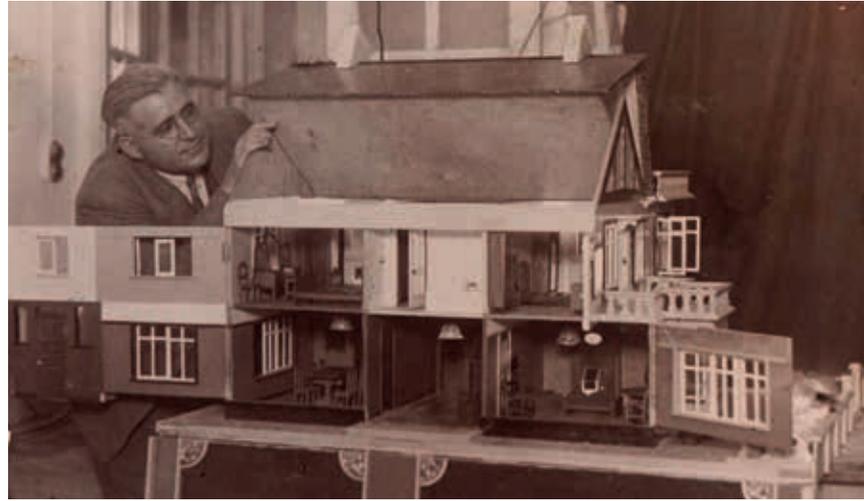
The Sandgate Home comprised several outbuildings and lodges in addition to the main house, providing ample recreational space. The Billiard Room at Sandgate provided residents with the chance to relax and participate in a game from their wheelchairs. The 1919 General Report states: *'Such a country home would be the greatest boon to these poor men who, by reason of their extreme disablement, feel very much the severe restrictions which ... they are compelled to face, in consequence of the limited area of the site at Richmond.'*



1935

FANCY DRESS BALL

A Fancy Dress Ball in the Queen's Room at the Richmond Home. Despite the physical hardships faced by many residents, the Charity maintains a long and lively history of partying in style.



DOLL'S HOUSE

1936

Resident Ben Johnson, a Navy veteran, designed and built a doll's house for six-year-old Princess Margaret. The gift was presented after it had been on display at the Home's Exhibition and Sale of Work. The doll's house was installed in the Music Room at Buckingham Palace and later moved to the Doll's House Collection at Windsor Castle.



FILM STAR VISIT

1937

Film star Jessie Matthews, star of the silver screen and classic musicals such as Evergreen, visited the Home. She was one in a long list of glamorous celebrities whose sympathies were piqued by the plight of the nation's injured Servicemen after the First World War.



THE FLYING SQUAD

1938

The Flying Squad' was a well-known sight around Richmond Hill from the end of the Thirties. Four friends, Bill Foster, 'Herb' Goodman, Frank Morse and John Watts, all veterans of the First World War and all paraplegic, managed the motorised chair workshop and even designed and built their own chairs. The Squad thought nothing of a run down to Brighton in their chairs and were regular visitors at Ascot Race Course and Brooklands Motor Racing Track.



ARMISTICE DAY

1939

The Armistice Day Service in the Queen's Room of the Richmond Home. Armistice Day 1939 was an especially poignant commemoration for the residents who had served in the First World War, as the world descended into another devastating conflict. Services are still held today at the Homes and, now as then, they provide veterans with the opportunity to remember comrades, to pray and to reminisce.





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CHARLES WHITTAKER

1940

Charles Whittaker (right) came to the Home on the day it opened. He was a Sergeant in the 1st Loyal North Lancashire Regiment. He was wounded at the Battle of Ypres in 1914, having been mentioned in Despatches for his conduct in the field. Charles' wounds left him as a paraplegic and it took some time to adjust to his disability. He became an accomplished leather-worker and a much-respected resident. After his leg was amputated in 1937, he used his motorised chair to get out and about. He died at the Home in April 1940.



THE WAR EFFORT

1941

Residents Corporal Ernest Donisthorpe, Sapper Harry Brooks, who lost both his legs serving with the Royal Engineers, and William Alexander, ex-RAF man, are shown knitting comforts for the troops. These men made 45 pairs of socks per week, which were distributed by the Women's Voluntary Services. The Richmond Home, surrounded by sandbags, had the windows blown out by a small blast. Her Majesty Queen Mary sent a message to the men: *'who have never flinched in the face of perils from enemy attacks.'*



VISITING THE LASS

1942

Much-loved local pub, The Lass, welcomed residents from the Home for a pint. The Star & Garter Magazine 1944 featured an article by a resident who had been at the Home for 25 years, reassuring new residents that many activities were available: *'Let any new spinal case who feels the bottom has dropped out of his world completely look back on this list (of activities) and take heart, for though he may seem to be hopelessly handicapped, there is still quite a lot of fun and adventure to be had in life ... I have had my share of both.'*



WALKING AGAIN

1943

Nurses helping a resident to walk on the terrace of the Richmond Home. From the very start, Major Dickie, Medical Superintendent in 1916, had stated in his Medical Report: *'Every patient... is regarded as a hopeful case and is submitted to persistent and continuous treatment. If nothing more can be done, it is at least possible to keep alive the spark of hope.'*



BILLIARDS

1944

Residents demonstrating how billiards was played from their wheelchairs. The Star & Garter Annual Report 1944 stated: *'Skilled medical and nursing attention must always be available to these men but every endeavour must be made, however, to keep his mind from himself, and to this end he shall be provided with congenial occupation and recreation.'*



DOUGLAS BADER

1945

Group Captain Douglas Bader DSO, DFC, the disabled flying ace, visited the Home. He was warmly welcomed by the residents, who admired his agility and bravado as he swung himself onto the parapet of the terrace. Afterwards, Bader made a BBC Radio appeal on behalf of the Charity: *"Surely there is none of us who will not be eager to give what he can to help alleviate the desperate plight of these gallant fellows to whom, with their dead comrades, we owe a debt that all the money in the world cannot repay."*



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HELEN KELLER

1946

The Home received a visit from Helen Keller, which was described in The Star & Garter Magazine 1947: *'On 6th November, we had a visit from one of the most remarkable people in the world, Miss Helen Keller... (herself blind and deaf) expressed a wish to visit the Star & Garter. She was accompanied by Miss Polly Thompson her companion and interpreter. She spoke to many of the patients and seemed to get a good idea of what they were like. She paced out the wards to get an idea of the size of the building ... and remarked what a wonderful place it was.'*

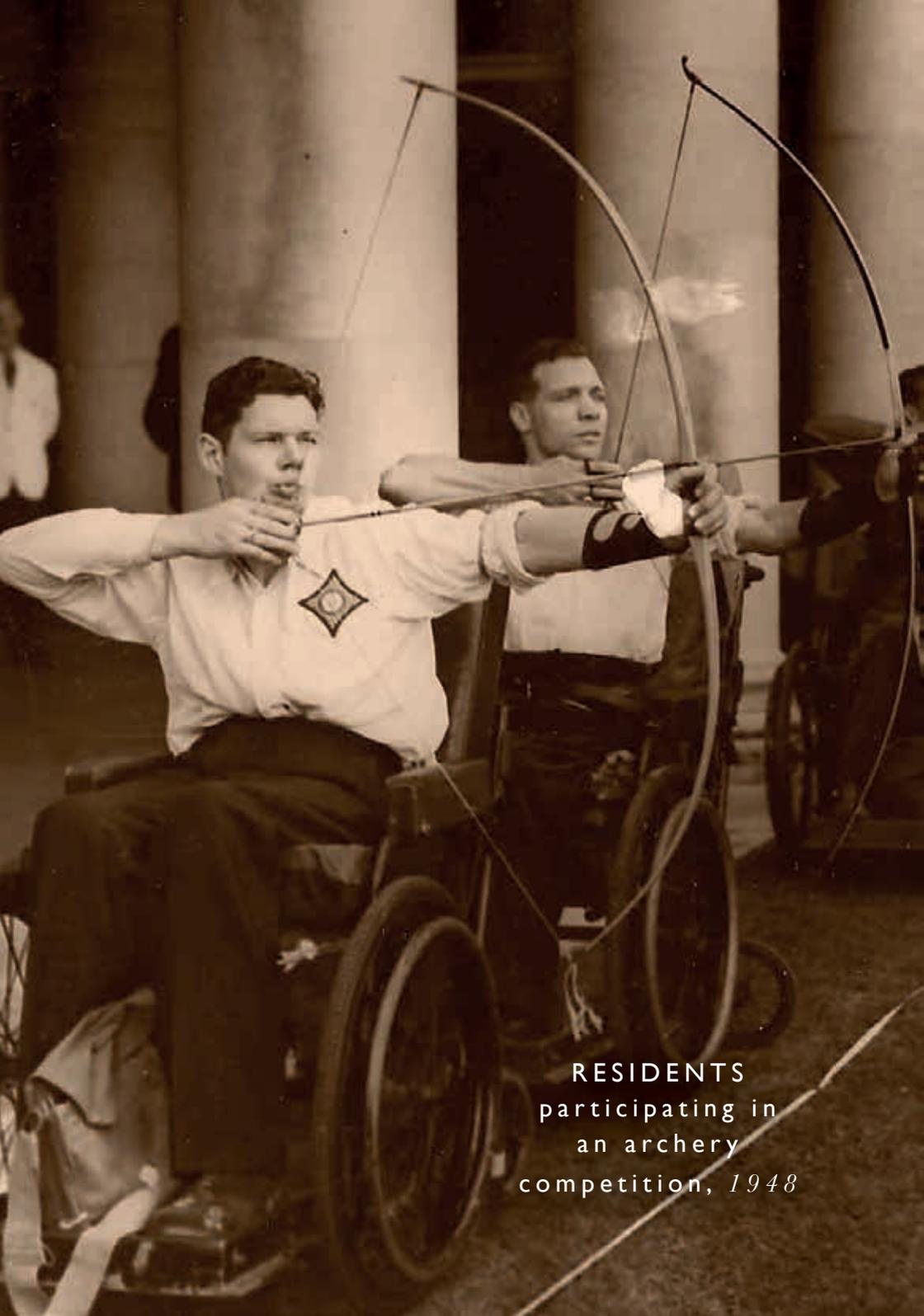


CLOCK - MAKING

1947

The Lord Roberts Memorial Workshops inaugurated a training centre in the Home for clock assembly and watch repairs in 1947. Under the tuition of Messrs Smith Ltd. Enfield Clock Company, 14 residents received instruction in this work. The workers received two shillings per clock and each clock retailed for 30 shillings.





RESIDENTS
participating in
an archery
competition, 1948



DR GUTTMANN

1948

In the late 1940s, a paraplegic ward was established by Dr Ludwig Guttman, founder of Stoke Mandeville Hospital. Guttman used pioneering techniques to get residents playing sport. Believing that sport was vital to their mental well-being, he introduced archery, which could be played from a wheelchair. In 1948 and 1949, Guttman held the Stoke Mandeville Games with an archery competition between Stoke Mandeville and the Star & Garter team, which the latter won twice. This was the forerunner to the Paralympic Games.



VISCOUNT ALANBROOKE

1949

Field Marshal the Viscount Alanbrooke of Brookeborough KG, GCB, visited the Home in 1949. He became President of the Charity in that year, remaining in post until his death in 1963. Princess Alexandra succeeded him as President and still holds the position today.



NUFFIELD WORKSHOPS

1950

In June, the Nuffield Workshops opened. Funded by a gift from Lord Nuffield, the purpose of the workshops was to provide training in productive skills, such as clock-making or shoe repair, as part of the residents' rehabilitation. The Star & Garter Magazine October 1947 reported: *'The object is to train as many patients as possible to become proficient in handicrafts so that a percentage will be able to return to their homes. Those who have to remain in the Star & Garter will be able to practice their handicraft in the Home workshops.'*



SCREEN HEROES

1951

Actress Anna Neagle was joined by ten residents from the Home to film *The Lady with the Lamp*, a film about Florence Nightingale, directed by Herbert Wilcox, also in the photo. The filming took place at British Lion Studios in Shepperton. The residents had to get up early to attend make-up in order to play wounded soldiers of the Crimean War. One resident said that his wig and beard made him look like Rasputin.



THE QUEEN MOTHER

1952

Her Royal Highness The Queen Mother visited the Nuffield Workshops in the 1950s. Leatherwork was one of the many complex and exacting skills at which the residents became proficient. Items would be sold at the annual Exhibition and Sale of Work, which was usually opened by a member of the Royal Family. In 1952, The Queen Mother, accompanied by Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret, opened the event.



© British Pathé



ARTIST DAVID JACKSON

1953

Pathé, the newsreel cinematographers, captured footage of artist and resident David Jackson. David had been a commercial artist before enlisting in the RAF. He came to the Home in 1952, after illness had left him paralysed, where he learned to paint with his mouth. He was discharged in 1955 on the occasion of his marriage.



DERBY DAY OUTING

1954

Residents enjoyed many outings, such as the one shown above, where they are off to Derby Day in the back of a removals van! This unusual mode of transport to the races was kindly provided for several years by the removals firm Bishops Move. Bishops transported the first residents to the Home in 1916.



RIVER TRIP

1955

Residents shown relaxing on a river trip organised by The Not Forgotten Association, which had provided leisure and recreation to veterans since 1920. Several river trips were provided by the organisation, including a steamer trip from Windsor, which was described by 'J.M.' in The Star & Garter Magazine 1952: *'After going up the river ... and turning round, the sight of Windsor Castle, which appeared to be carved of ivory in the rays of the sun, signified the nearing of the end of a perfect day.'*



ANNUAL EXHIBITION

1956

Her Royal Highness The Queen Mother inspected goods at the annual Exhibition and Sale of Work. The Exhibition was popular with the residents and the public as it attracted prestigious guests, such as members of the Royal Family, and provided a means by which the residents could earn money.



**BROMHEAD
MEMORIAL**
unveiling, 1957



1957

BROMHEAD MEMORIAL

The Bromhead Memorial in Richmond Cemetery was unveiled by Field Marshal the Viscount Alanbrooke of Brookeborough KG, GCB, on 25th October. The memorial, which was dedicated by the Bishop of Southwark, was a gift of Lieutenant Colonel A. C. Bromhead CBE, a long-serving Governor of the Charity, and was engraved with the names of all the residents who had died at the Home. The memorial stone was the work of sculptor Cecil Thomas. Commemorative Services are still held there.



HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

1958

In November 1958, Her Majesty The Queen made her first visit to the Home. The Queen became the Charity's Patron in 1953 following the death of her grandmother Queen Mary. The image shows Her Majesty with the Matron Miss Formby and resident Joe Williams. The young Queen was reported to have been impressed by the *'cheerfulness in adversity of the patients and by the devoted care given to them by members of staff.'*



ACTRESS ANNA NEAGLE

1959

Miss Anna Neagle CBE visited the Home on 16th April. Anna Neagle was a popular actress, singer and dancer of the 1940s and 1950s, bringing glamour and humour to post-war cinema-goers. She was a frequent visitor to the Home, along with Jessie Matthews whom she understudied. Anna Neagle acted alongside the residents in a film about Florence Nightingale, see 1951.



A ROYAL WEDDING

1960

In May, residents joined the crowds lining the London streets to cheer Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret on her wedding day. The Princess was a frequent visitor to the Home, accompanying The Queen Mother on official visits.



QUEEN'S PORTRAIT

1961

Her Majesty The Queen's portrait was unveiled at the Richmond Home. The portrait was painted by R. Stefanelli from the original by P. Annigoni painted in 1960. The only artistic licence Signor Annigoni would allow his student was the inclusion of a minute figure in a boat to the left of the subject. It was presented by Lieutenant Colonel A. C. Bromhead CBE, former Governor of the Charity.



ENJOYING THE VIEW

1962

Two ex-Grenadier Guardsmen enjoying the famous view over the river and Petersham Meadows from the terrace. Charles Tryhorn served in the Grenadier Guards in the First World War and was discharged due to a spinal injury. Tryhorn received repeated treatment at Stoke Mandeville. He was awarded the 1914/15 Star. The other resident, James King, came to the Home in 1934.



ARMISTICE SERVICE

1963

The Armistice Service and placing of a poppy wreath at the Bromhead Memorial in Richmond Cemetery. The first Armistice Day was held in 1919 following a proclamation by George V calling for a two-minute silence: *'All locomotion should cease, so that, in perfect stillness, the thoughts of everyone may be concentrated on reverent remembrance of the glorious dead.'*



PRINCESS ALEXANDRA
new President, 1964



PRINCESS ALEXANDRA

1964

Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra became President of the Charity in July 1964, following the death of Field Marshal the Viscount Alanbrooke of Brookeborough KG, GCB, in 1963.



GARDEN TRIBUTE

1965

The Star & Garter badge was recreated in flowers in the Terrace Gardens on Richmond Hill in the Sixties. It is symbolic of how embedded the Home on Richmond Hill and its residents were in the hearts of the local community.



GOLDEN JUBILEE

1966

The Charity celebrated its Golden Jubilee, welcoming neighbours, friends and supporters to a Service of Thanksgiving, a Royal Tournament and a Summer Ball. A fundraising appeal was also launched.



The Service of Thanksgiving



THE LIBRARY

1967

Librarians Mrs Nevill and Miss Rudd in the library at the Richmond Home, reaching books down for the residents. Many improvements were made to the Home in the Sixties, including a sound system to share music between the canteen and dining room, heated food trolleys for the wards, a telephone exchange and modernised kitchens.



THE HOME

1968

The front of the Richmond Home in the Sixties. Residents often sat outside the front of the Home, facing Richmond Park, to watch the world go by in the sunshine. The Star & Garter flag was only lowered and replaced on dates of national pride such as Armed Forces Day and Her Majesty The Queen's official and actual birthdays.



LORD MOUNTBATTEN

1969

The Exhibition and Sale of Work was opened by Lord Louis Mountbatten of Burma, pictured here in the centre of the photograph, inspecting the goods.



Basket-weaving at the Richmond Home



DAME VERA LYNN

1970

This year saw the 25th anniversary of Rotax concerts in the Home. Rotax, which later became British Aerospace, put on a celebratory concert at least twice a year. This event was all the more memorable because Dame Vera Lynn, who sang to the Forces during the Second World War, entertained the residents for over an hour, performing wartime classics.



HYDROTHERAPY

1971

Her Majesty The Queen opened the new Hydrotherapy pool at the Richmond Home in February. The pool had been funded by the RAF to commemorate its 50th anniversary in 1968. Charles Groves, who had been a resident since 1948, presented The Queen with a spring bouquet.



HRH PRINCE PHILIP

1972

His Royal Highness Prince Philip visited the Home on Exhibition Day 1972. The Prince was welcomed to the Home by Chairman of the Governors, Admiral of the Fleet, Sir Caspar John. His Royal Highness opened the Exhibition with great warmth and enthusiasm, creating a very happy atmosphere on a beautiful day.

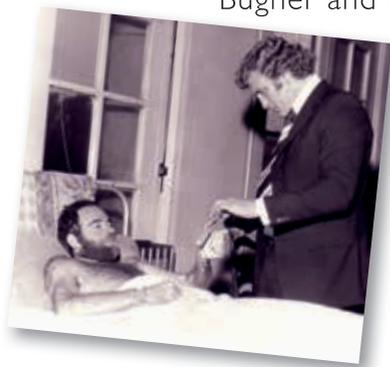


BOXING EVENING

1973

In May, the First Boxing Evening took place with a fight between British and European Heavyweight champion Joe Bugner and David Roden of Birmingham.

Bugner took time to chat to the residents, who commented on his warm and friendly personality. The action-packed event was funded by the London Taxi Drivers Benevolent Association.



NEW AMBULANCE

1974

Commander Leslie Maskell, General Secretary of the Royal Naval Association, launched an appeal to all branches of the RNA to buy an ambulance for the Home. The appeal raised over £8,000. Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra accepted the ambulance in her capacity as the Charity's President.



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

1975

Wally Barrett celebrated 50 years at the Home. The photo shows Wally with Chairman of the Governors, General Sir Charles Harington, Staff Nurse Downes, Matron Wadmore, and Wally's wife, Mrs Violet Barrett. Wally came to the Home in 1925, having served in The Cruisers and Destroyers in the First World War.



UPDATED ROOMS

1976

Wards and single rooms were refurbished and modernised in 1976, with the addition of modern essentials such as built-in wardrobes and electric razor sockets.



Resident's Room 1924



THE SILVER JUBILEE

1977

Her Majesty The Queen's Silver Jubilee was celebrated at the Home with great enthusiasm by residents and staff. Even the ambulance got a makeover! The banner on the front of the ambulance reads: *'Long Live our Patron Queen Elizabeth'*.



THE QUEEN'S VISIT

1978

Her Majesty The Queen visited the Home, took a tour and met many of the residents, to their great delight. Amongst them was Wally Barrett, (pictured with The Queen, above) who had been resident at the Home for over 50 years, see 1975.



DUCHESS OF KENT

1979

The Not Forgotten Association hosted its Annual Christmas Party at The Royal Riding School in Buckingham Palace. Residents from the Charity attended and it was the turn of the Home to present the bouquet to Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Kent, a privilege which fell to Charles Groves. In The Royal Star & Garter Magazine Spring 1980, Charles recalled the experience: *'The Duchess was very friendly and charming and even remembered having spoken to me when she opened our Annual Exhibition in 1968.'*



THE COLONNADE

1980

Residents relax in the colonnade of the old Richmond Home. After the colonnade was enclosed in 1969, residents could enjoy views of the garden from the shelter of the enclosed space. There was also a Bar, the entrance to which can be seen in the background. Members of staff were not permitted into the Bar unless invited by a resident, which usually meant that the member of staff had to buy a round for the residents!



RAF HELICOPTER

1981

The RAF brought a helicopter to the Home on 18th June, landing it with great precision on the terrace. The Charity has always maintained close military links to all of the Armed Forces. Having the opportunity to reminisce about their experiences with active members of the Armed Forces is important to the residents.



PRINCE CHARLES

1982

His Royal Highness Prince Charles, The Prince of Wales, visited the Home. The residents were delighted to meet him and share a chat and a joke. The Prince of Wales has served in all three Services and so was able to share memories of time in the Armed Forces with all of the veterans in the Home.



THE POPPY RUN

1983

The Poppy Run was a fundraising event. Here cyclists can be seen gathering outside the front of the Home on Richmond Hill, some wearing Star & Garter T-shirts. The Home's proximity to Richmond Park made it a popular place to gather for sporting events.



ANNUAL QUIZ

1984

The Home hosted an annual quiz, where residents competed against pupils from the local Grey Court School for The Star & Garter Challenge trophy. Local resident Bamber Gascoigne, then host of University Challenge, was the Quiz Master.



HOME CELEBRATIONS

1985

This image from the 1980s typifies the enthusiasm of the Home's residents and staff to entertain and celebrate life, whatever their difficulties. Every year the Homes hold Christmas Extravanzas, with pantomimes written and performed by the residents. Subsequent 'jollies' have included a beach party, Burns Nights with flaming haggis, a South Pacific party and several Star & Garter's Got Talent events.



Concert in the 1940s



CHARLIE HANKINS

1986

Resident Charlie Hankins, BEM, epitomised the spirit of the Charity. Whilst serving with the Black Watch in North Africa, he lost an eye, both legs and suffered chest injuries. In spite of this, Charlie remained an active man and undertook many wild fundraising events, such as parachuting and paddling up the Thames from County Hall to Richmond on his adapted tricycle. Charlie travelled from John O' Groats to Land's End in 1986 on his Second World War tricycle, reversing the journey in 1990.



JIMMY PAGE

1987

James 'Jimmy' Page served in The Royal Horse Artillery in the First World War and was a veteran of Gallipoli, commenting: *"Gallipoli was a disaster. We were badly generalled, badly officered and badly equipped."* Jimmy came to live at the Home in 1987. On the 75th Anniversary of Gallipoli, Jimmy met the Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and commented: *"I find it difficult, my dear, not to feel quite overcome."* Jimmy died in 1995, just before his 100th birthday. He was remembered as an articulate and intelligent man with a sharp sense of humour.



THE MAJESTIC HOME

1988

An aerial view of the back of the Richmond Home in colour and (inset) the first black-and-white aerial view, taken in 1924. Both show the scale and majesty of the building.



Aerial view, 1924



PRINCESS OF WALES
visited, 1991



DIANA VISITS

1991

Diana, Princess of Wales, visited the Richmond Home on 9th September. The Princess was greeted by the Mayor and Mayoress of Richmond and was presented with a posy by one of the staff nurses. Her official timetable was stretched as she visited each ward and ensured that she spoke to every resident. The photo above shows her with Charlie Hankins who served in The Black Watch. The Princess ended her visit in The Queen's Room, to warm applause.



SPRIT OF THE HOME

1992

Local artist Pilar Sibbick presented her painting of the old Richmond Home in 1992. The artist commented: *“The Royal Star & Garter Home is housed in a beautiful building. But I was also struck by its warmth and the dedication shown by everyone there... I hope I have captured the spirit of the Home.”* Ms Sibbick's painting was moved from The King's Room at the Richmond Home to the Surbiton Home in 2013.



HMS RICHMOND

1993

The Royal Navy Frigate, HMS Richmond, was launched in this year, having been built by the Swan Hunter Shipbuilders on the Tyne. The Captain and Crew became friends and supporters of the Charity, attending many events. The ship was rededicated in 2006, when this photo was taken.



MODERNISATION

1994

Refurbishment work began on some of the wards to convert them from the old-style Nightingale wards into single and twin rooms. The Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund and The Army Benevolent

Fund, long-standing supporters of the Charity, contributed towards the costs. Work was completed in 1995 and the ward was named 'The Princess Alexandra Ward'.



HORACE HAM

1995

Horace Ham, Army veteran, died at the Home, aged 99. Horace's regiment, the 16th Middlesex, fought at the Somme. Horace recalled: *"I joined up with four friends and we stuck together until the Somme. Then, within a few minutes two were dead and two of us injured. Only 100 men out of our 800-strong battalion made it back."* Horace returned to France in 1917 but was shot and disabled. He said: *"I only hope, just as the Home was here for me when I needed it, it will be here in years to come for brave Servicemen and women."*



Photos courtesy of the National Army Museum



BEVIS SHERGOLD

1996

Bevis Shergold came to the Richmond Home in 1996. Bevis was a member of the Intelligence Corps in the Second World War, one of the first women to be posted overseas to work in Interrogation Centres across Egypt, Algeria and Italy. There she met and married an MI6 Officer. Her athletic ability saw her compete in the 1948 London Olympics, throwing the discus and shot. Her medals were bequeathed to the Charity and are on display at the National Army Museum.



CHARLES GROVES

1997

Charles Groves, editor of The Star & Garter Magazine, died in this year. Charlie was called up in 1943. Having been injured in the D-Day Landings, Charlie returned to the Front Line in Holland. In 1945, his spine was smashed by a sniper's bullet and he never walked again. He came to the Home in 1948 and lived there for almost 50 years, enjoying archery, editing the magazine and driving a specially adapted Morris Minor. He said of the Home: *"I can't imagine what would have become of me if The Royal Star & Garter Home weren't here."*



ARMISTICE BALL

1998

Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra attended the Armistice Ball at the Richmond Home in November, to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Armistice.



ST MARY'S CHAPEL

1999

The Richmond Home's Chapel was rededicated by the Provost of Southwark, Colin Slee, whose father lived at the Home from 1981 to 1996. The Archbishop of Canterbury consecrated it in 1926. In the Second World War, it was used as an ARP Reception, then rededicated in 1946. From 1988, it was used as a Chapel of Rest, until renovations in 1999 put it back into regular use. The Chapel is now listed.



NORMAN JEWELL

2000

Norman Jewell, one of the most famous submarine commanders of the Second World War, came to live at the Richmond Home. Norman led his crew through depth-charge attacks and sank enemy craft, but his most famous exploit involved launching a corpse dressed as a Royal Marines Officer and carrying false invasion plans, on to the Spanish coast. This mission fooled the enemy and saved thousands of Allied lives. Norman had an accident later in life that left him disabled.



'OLD BILL'

2001

This original drawing of 'Old Bill' is by First World War cartoonist Captain Bruce Bairnsfather, Royal Warwickshire Regiment. He presented it to fellow members of 'Windy Corner Shell Hole, the Memorable Order of Tin Hats', at The George Hotel, their Reading HQ. It was presented by them for safe-keeping to The Royal Star & Garter Homes in August 2001. The dedication plaque reads: *'Old Bill has found a Better 'Ole' at long, long, last.'*





ODYSSEY TIMESHIP

2002

The Odyssey Timeship, an archive of contributions from residents and supporters of the Charity, was sealed and stored at the Imperial War Museum in London. Contributions from celebrities such as Dame Vera Lynn and residents Doug Roberts, a First World War veteran, and Charlie Hankins (seen on the right) were included in the archive, which is due to be opened in the year 2101.



NANCY WAKE

2003

Nancy Wake came to live at the Home in 2003. Nancy fought in the French Resistance in the Second World War, helping British soldiers to escape occupied France. She was nicknamed 'The White Mouse' by the Gestapo for her elusiveness. Back in England, she joined the Special Operations Executive and parachuted back into France in 1944 to fight with French Resistance Fighters against the Nazis. Nancy was one of the most decorated women of the Second World War.





DENIS HILLS

2004

Denis Hills lived at the Richmond Home from 2003 until his death in 2004. Serving with the King's Own Royal Regiment, Hills saw action in Iraq, Palestine and at Monte Cassino. In 1975, he was condemned to death by Ugandan dictator, Idi Amin, for condemning Amin's human rights record in his book *The White Pumpkin*. Only an intervention from The Queen and then Foreign Secretary James Callaghan saved him. In 1997, *The Spectator* described Denis as *'that Hero of our time'*.



VE DAY BALL

2005

The Richmond Home commemorated the 60th anniversary of VE Day with a VE Day Fundraising Ball. The sparkling event featured a model spitfire made from balloons, a Churchill lookalike and music from the 1st Battalion Black Watch Band. A resident at the time, Richard Martin, recalled his reaction on VE Day when he heard that the War had ended: *"We all went mad! We heard Churchill on the radio saying the War was over."*



90TH ANNIVERSARY

2006

The Charity celebrated its 90th anniversary in January. Guest-of-honour Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra and the Charity's former Chairman of the Body of Governors, Vice Admiral Sir John Dunt KCB, entered The Queen's Room to a fanfare by the Trumpeters of the Band of the Blues & Royals. Over 200 guests, residents, staff, supporters and volunteers enjoyed a concert, including music hall numbers, followed by a celebratory tea and a piece of 90th birthday cake.



SOLIHULL TOPPING OUT

2007

The new Solihull Home was topped out by the Charity's former Vice President, Falkland's veteran Simon Weston. Topping out is a traditional ceremony, which involves fixing a yew branch to the top of a building to bring luck to everyone who lives there. The artist's impression of the foyer shows how traditional motifs, such as the inlaid floor and columns, reminiscent of the Richmond Home, blend with a comfortable, modern interior.



SOLIHULL HOME
opened, 2008



SOLIHULL HOME OPENS

2008

Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra unveiled the plaque to officially open the Solihull Home. The grounds of the Home were vivid with colour and ceremonial spectacle, including two mounted troopers of the Household Cavalry, who greeted the many military and civilian guests. The Princess addressed the residents and staff, before unveiling the plaque. In 2009, the quality of the Home was recognised by Pinders Healthcare, when it was named winner of the Elderly Care (More than 60 Beds) category.



ARMED FORCES DAY

2009

Both Homes marked the first Armed Forces Day with a strawberry tea and the launch of 2000 balloons. Armed Forces Day replaced Veterans Day as an opportunity for the nation to show support for the Armed Forces. Each balloon carried a message from residents and supporters. Ex-Royal Marine Jason Grey and his son found one in Loughton, Essex. Its tag had a message from Mr Atkins of Coventry who was formerly a Royal Signals Despatch Rider in the Second World War. The Homes continue to honour veterans on this day annually.



GLASS PANEL

2010

This stained glass angel panel was made and presented by supporter Dr Gordon Jones in 2010. Dr Jones knew of the Home as a child, when his mother told him that it was a 'home for poorly soldiers'. The design is taken from the inset drawing by Eleanor Fortescue Brickdale (1871–1945), a Victorian Pre-Raphaelite artist and one of the women who rallied together to raise funds for the Home in 1916. This illustration has been adapted by the Charity many times.





PRINCESS ALEXANDRA

2011

Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra paid her penultimate visit to the Richmond Home. The Princess took a tour and was briefed on the Charity's purchase of the Surbiton site.

The Princess has been the Charity's President since 1964 but knew of the Home from many years ago because her grandmother, Queen Mary, was the Home's Founder and first Patron.



SURBITON TOPPING OUT

2012

The Charity welcomed Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra to the Surbiton Home for the topping out ceremony, when the building reaches the highest point in its construction. Vice Admiral Sir John Dunt KCB, former Chairman of the Body of Governors, welcomed the Princess, who anointed a yew branch attached to a roof beam as part of the ceremony. Following the Solihull Home's lead, the Surbiton Home went on to win the Pinders Healthcare Design Award 2014, in the 'Best Dementia Home – Small' category.

SURBITON HOME
opened, 2013



SURBITON HOME OPENS

2013

On a sunny August day, residents left the Richmond Home, through a balloon arch, for the last time and boarded the buses for their new Home in Surbiton. Each had a boarding pass with their new room number on it. Balloons, flowers, smiling staff and a welcome banner greeted the residents' arrival. As Jean Oliver, Editor of The Royal Star & Garter Home Magazine, commented in Winter 1992: *'Looking back over the magazine of the 1960s and 1970s makes one realise that nothing stands still in The Royal Star & Garter Homes.'*



50 YEARS AS PRESIDENT

2014

Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra celebrated her 50th Anniversary as President of the Charity with a visit to the Surbiton Home. Vice Admiral Sir John Dunt KCB, Chairman of the Body of Governors at the time, welcomed Princess Alexandra and introduced her to the residents. Her Royal Highness gave a speech, commenting that she felt very privileged to have been president of The Royal Star & Garter Homes for the last 50 years. The Princess received three cheers from the residents and staff for her dedication.



AWARD WINNERS

2015

The Charity won two awards at the 6th National Dementia Care Awards. The Solihull Home's Dementia Care Team won Best Dementia Team Award. Best Resident/Relative Contribution Award went to Rachel Christophers whose husband Theo (here in his beloved cricket hat) lives with dementia at the Solihull Home. Pauline Shaw, the Charity's Director of Care & Service Development, commented: *"The Dementia Care Awards pay tribute to everyone who works so hard to improve the lives of people living with dementia."*





CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

2016

On 14th January 1916, the Richmond Home opened its doors to care for the injured Servicemen returning from the battlefields of the First World War. A century later, residents and staff celebrated the Charity's Centenary with tea parties amid balloons and flowers, to the sound of military bands, as reflections were made on times past. Derek Banham, Navy veteran, said: *"It is a proud moment for me to share the Charity's Centenary. I think back to all the veterans who have been cared for and I'm grateful to be part of that family."*



Thank you for supporting
THE ROYAL STAR & GARTER HOMES



