



Royal Star & Garter

Care with courage

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WWII Navy veteran celebrates 103rd birthday at Royal Star & Garter

A Navy veteran has celebrated her 103rd birthday.

Janet Patterson enjoyed a birthday lunch with her family at Royal Star & Garter in Solihull, where she now lives, on Saturday 21 February.

She was treated to a special lunch with her children Gill and David, granddaughter and other family on her birthday. They also brought birthday cakes for other residents and staff to enjoy.



Janet celebrating her 103rd birthday at Royal Star & Garter in Solihull with (l-r) daughter-in-law Frances, son David, granddaughter Emma and daughter Gill

The centenarian made headlines around the country when she received her War Medal 1939-45 in recognition of her service in the Women's Royal Naval Service (WRNS) during WWII. Her son and daughter had applied for it on her behalf, 80 years after the war ended, and 80 years after she left the Armed Forces. Her story was covered in national press and she received letters from as far afield as USA, thanking her for her service.

Royal Star & Garter is a charity which provides loving, compassionate care and support to residents and their families living with disability or dementia, from Homes in Solihull, Surbiton, High Wycombe and Worthing. It also provides services reaching out into the community, including Day Care, Lunch Club and a national Telephone Friendship Service.

Janet was born near Stratford-upon-Avon in 1923. She joined the WRNS in 1942, and was a film operator, working on projectors which showed key educational and instructional films to new Naval recruits as part of their training.



Royal Star & Garter

Care with courage

She met Dennis, who was also serving in the Navy, at HMS Glendower in Pwllheli, Wales, and the couple married in 1944. Janet demobbed the following year.

Now a great grandmother, she said: "Spending time with my family is the best way I can celebrate my birthday."

Janet has been a resident at Royal Star & Garter since 2023. Daughter Gill said: "We had a lovely time sharing Mum's birthday with her at Royal Star & Garter. The staff make such a fuss over Mum and all the residents there, it's a lovely Home."

Royal Star & Garter in Solihull is welcoming new residents. For more information on this, its other services or to work at the Home, go to www.starandgarter.org/solihull

[Ends]

For further information please contact:

Press Mailbox

press@starandgarter.org

Goolistan Cooper

Communications Officer

goolistan.cooper@starandgarter.org

07391 868796

Cally Madden

Marketing & Communications Manager

cally.madden@starandgarter.org

07881 017299



Janet served in the Women's Royal Naval Service during WWII



Royal Star & Garter

Care with courage

About Royal Star & Garter

Founded in 1916, Royal Star & Garter provides care, support and friendship for veterans and their families so that they can live well. The charity delivers nursing and dementia care through Homes in Solihull, Surbiton, High Wycombe, and now in Worthing, having recently merged with the military charity Care for Veterans. It also offers a range of services reaching into the community, including Lunch Clubs, Day Care and a national Telephone Friendship Service.

Bluesky: @royalstarandgarter.bsky.social

Facebook: @starandgarter

Instagram: @Starandgarter

LinkedIn: @Royal Star & Garter

Tik Tok: @starandgarter

Website: www.starandgarter.org



Royal Star & Garter
is a member of the
National Care Forum