



Royal Star & Garter

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Trip down memory lane as great-grandmother turns 100

A resident has celebrated her 100th birthday at Royal Star & Garter's Solihull Home on Wednesday 25 May, with a day packed full of treats and surprises.

Joyce has been a resident at Royal Star & Garter since 2018. The Home provides loving, compassionate care to veterans and their partners living with disability or dementia.



Birthday girl Joyce

Joyce was the eldest of nine brothers and sisters and was born in Birmingham. She met her husband Frank at a ballroom dance, and the couple married on 8 November 1941 at Hall Green Parish Church in Birmingham. Frank went on to serve in the King's Shropshire Light Infantry from 1943 to 1946, and saw frontline action in the Battle of Monte Cassino and Battle for the Gothic Line, both part of the

Italian Campaign. He was then stationed in Greece as part of the peacekeeping unit during the country's civil war. The couple went on to have two children.

During WWII, Joyce worked at Wrensons grocers in Warwick Road, Olton, Solihull. She would occasionally stay overnight and sleep above the shop as fire watch.

On her 100th birthday, Joyce's family joined her on the Royal Star & Garter minibus for a surprise drive around the Solihull and Sheldon areas, where she grew up. She visited Ninestiles, An Academy, which she attended as a child when it was named Hartfield Crescent. There, the current pupils sang 'Happy Birthday' to her.



Joyce, aged 18, in 1940, with Frank, before they married

The trip down memory lane also saw Joyce and her family visit old abodes and places of work.



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Afterwards, Joyce and her family returned to the Home in Tudor Coppice, where she was treated to her favourite lunch of roast lamb with mint sauce. In the afternoon, residents joined Joyce and her family for tea party with family and other residents, where they enjoyed cream tea and champagne, and live music.



Joyce on the Royal Star & Garter minibus, with family, before her trip down memory lane on her 100th birthday

The great grandmother said: "I had a lovely day. The drive in the morning was quite a surprise!"

Her son Graham said afterwards: "All the staff at the Home made Mum's day special from start to finish. We all want to give a heartfelt thanks for everything they have done to make the day exceptional."

For more information about Royal Star & Garter in Solihull, or to work at the Home, go to www.starandgarter.org/solihull

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Captions:



Joyce 1: Joyce, aged around 21



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Joyce 2: Aged 21



**Joyce 3: Joyce, aged 18, in 1940, with Frank,
before they married**



**Joyce 4: Joyce with husband Frank on their
wedding day on 8 November 1941**



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Joyce 5&6: Joyce on the Royal Star & Garter minibus, with family, before her trip down memory lane on her 100th birthday



Joyce 7-8: Joyce returned to the Home after her outing, where she enjoyed a tea party and live music, and opened her birthday card from The Queen



Joyce 9: Pupils at Joyce's Ninestiles, An Academy, seen here with Principal Alex Hughes, made a special banner for Joyce and sung Happy Birthday to her



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About Royal Star & Garter

Our charity provides loving, compassionate care to veterans and their partners living with disability or dementia.

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Royal Star & Garter
is a member of the
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